



SLS Parent Newsletter

Summer 2 2025

Here are some of the exciting, local events for children and young people coming up during the summer holidays. All activities are FREE unless stated otherwise.

Summer Reading Challenge 2025 - Ready, Set, Read



This year's Summer Reading Challenge 'Story Garden' has now launched in all Portsmouth public libraries.

Children need to read as many library books over the summer as they choose. They will receive special rewards each time they finish a book.

Completers of the Summer Reading Challenge will be invited to Southsea Castle in September to collect their certificate and medal, there will be all sorts of activities such as face painting and special guests at the event too.

<https://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk/>

Public Libraries



Check out your local library for some **free** activities going on in the summer. All activities are free and drop-in unless specified otherwise. Please keep an eye on social media or on the website for updated events at all libraries throughout the summer!

Alderman Lacey Library

All events free and drop-in

- Thursday 24 July, 2pm: Ladybird Craft Activity
- Thursday 31 July, 2pm: Snail Craft Activity
- Thursday 7 August, 2pm: Bird Craft Activity
- Thursday 14 August, 2pm: Tree Craft Activity
- Thursday 21 August, 2pm: Worm Craft Activity
- Thursday 28 August, 2pm: Butterfly Craft Activity

Beddow Library

All events must be booked in advance at Beddow Library.

- Friday 25 July, 10.30 - 11.30am: Build a Rocking Snail. Free
- Friday 1 July, 10.30 - 11.30am: Build a Mushroom House. Free
- Friday 8 August, 10.30 - 11.30am: Create and Garden. £3 in cash only
- Friday 15 August, 1.30 - 2.30pm: Alpacas in the Garden. £1 per person in cash only
- Friday 22 August, 11.00 - 11.55am: Zoolab. £3.00 per child in cash only
- Friday 29 August, 10.30 - 11.30am: Create a Garden Decoration. Free

Carnegie Library

Free and drop-in

- Wednesday 30 July, 10 - 12pm: That's not my fairy story time and craft
- Wednesday 30 July, 2 - 4pm: Make a fairy house
- Friday 1 August, 10 - 12pm: Teddy bears picnic - bring a teddy and a snack
- Wednesday 6 August, 10 - 12pm: Supertato story time and craft
- Friday 8 August, 2 - 4pm: Unicorns and dragons
- Wednesday 13 August, 10 - 12pm: Very hungry caterpillar and Arabella's caterpillar stories

- Friday 15 August, 2 - 4pm: Make a windsock
- Wednesday 20 August, 10 - 12pm: Very busy spider story time and craft
- Friday 22 August, 2 - 4pm: Get creative with collage
- Wednesday 27 August, 10 - 12pm: Tiny seed story time and seed growing activity
- Friday 29 August, 10 - 12pm: Mini beast rhyme time and craft

Central Library

Free and drop-in

- Every Tuesday, 11am - 12pm from 29 July to 26 August: Story time followed by a nature related craft activity.

North End

Free and drop-in

- Tuesday 29 July, 11am: Moving caterpillar on a leaf and recycled CD suncatcher
- Tuesday 12 August, 11am: Stone painting and moving ladybird
- Tuesday 19 August, 11am: Egg box garden and 3D snail
- Also TBC drawing workshop for SEND children every Wednesday during school holidays, 1 - 3pm

Paulsgrove library

Craft activities, free and all-day drop-ins:

- Monday 28 July: Happy Hedgehogs
- Monday 4 August: Smiling Sunflowers
- Monday 11 August: Create Your Own Story Garden Collage
- Friday 15 August: Wobbly Ladybirds
- Monday 18 August: Floating Bugs Over a Flower Circle
- Friday 22 August: Folded Butterflies
- Friday 29 August: Colourful Garden Snails

Portsea Library

Free and drop-in

- Every Thursday, 11am - 11.30am from 24 July to 28 August: Story time and songs with a nature related drop-in craft activity that runs until 3.30pm.

Online Library

Enjoy **free** access to lots of brilliant eBooks, Audiobooks, Music, Newspapers and Magazines with a Portsmouth Library account. These fantastic offers are available 24/7 and can be accessed anywhere with an internet/wifi connection.

Don't have a Portsmouth Library account? You can join free online! Use a search engine to find 'Portsmouth Library and Archive Service' website and follow the links to 'Public library' and 'Join the library' - you'll be issued with an account number and password which you can use to start accessing the e-services straight away.

Portsmouth Natural History Museum



PORTSMOUTH
NATURAL HISTORY
MUSEUM



Bug Hunts

Wednesday 6, Wednesday 27
August

Cost: Free, drop-in.

Join us in the garden and help us to
record insects and other minibeasts
living among the plants and trees

Wildlife Wednesday

Wednesday 13 and 20 August,
10.30am - 3pm

Cost: Free, drop-in.

Join the Hampshire and Isle of Wight
Wildlife Trust and Bird Aware Solent in
the garden for hands-on activities.

Swans on the Lake

Sunday 17 August, 10am - 3pm

Cost: Free, drop-in.

Join us in the museum garden for a
day all about swans. Follow the swan
trail, become a swan champion, and
make your own swan creations to
take home.

portsmouthnaturalhistory.co.uk

Portsmouth Natural History Museum, Cumberland House, Eastern Parade, Portsmouth, PO4 9RF

The museum is open Tuesday to Sunday, 10am-5pm. Last admission is
4.30pm to the museum and 4pm to the Butterfly House.

On Fridays, the museum will be open 10am to 11am for visitors who would
prefer a more relaxed experience or those with additional needs. This must
be pre-booked by 4pm on the previous day (book in person at the museum
or by calling 02392 815276).

For more events, visit portsmouthnaturalhistory.co.uk

Fort Nelson

ROYAL ARMOURIES



An action-packed summer of fun awaits visitors to Fort Nelson with the return of the ever-popular assault course to the Victorian fort.

Little adventurers will love playing on the assault course with its obstacles and challenges. The activity is suitable for ages 4-10 years and tickets cost £3.50 on the door.

The assault course will be open daily from Tuesday 22 July to Tuesday 2 September from 10.30am to 4.30pm.

It will also be open on two weekends just before the summer holidays (5 & 6, 11 & 13 July).

There will also be a free museum trail available throughout the summer. Children can search for and learn about heroic animals that were awarded special medals for their service in conflicts and war.

As a national museum admission to Fort Nelson is free but visitors are asked to pre-book their tickets online in advance at <https://bit.ly/440Vesi> as the site has capacity limits in place, and the school summer holidays are always a busy time at the Fort.

Families can spend a fun day out at the Victorian fort, exploring its tunnel, ramparts, and outdoor space, as well as a museum of treasures to discover.

- Free museum admission
- Car parking £3
- Open daily from 10am to 5pm
- Advance booking is advised during school holidays

- www.royalarmouries.org

Port Solent Kids Club No tickets needed



Get ready to dance, laugh, and have a blast at our free Children's Disco events this July!
Thursday 31st July – Disco sessions at: 11am, 1pm, and 3pm.



Ahoy There! Join us for Pirate Day at Port Solent on Saturday 2nd August, 11am – 4pm.



Bring the little ones along for our Bubble show on Thursday 7th August with performances at 11am, 12.30pm and 2pm



Join the crazy Professor Strange for his loud and lively interactive shows offering a colourful mix of magic, circus and illusion on Thursday 14th August with performances at 11am, 12.30pm, 2pm and 3pm



Join us this August for the Mill Cottage Farm Experience – coming to Port Solent! Thursday 21st August, 11am – 4pm.



Thursday 28th August – Silly Scott sessions at: 11am, 12.30pm, and 2pm. The Creation Station will also be here with craft activities for our little visitors between 11am – 4pm.

Have a wonderful summer everyone and don't forget to read!

