



SLS Parent Newsletter

Autumn 2 2025

Here are some of the exciting local events for children coming up during December.

Children's activities in Portsmouth Public Libraries



Join us for lots of festive fun this Christmas. Libraries will be offering seasonal storytelling and crafts, plus a visit from a very special guest! All activities are free and drop-in unless stated otherwise. Keep checking back as we will be adding to the programme throughout December.

<https://librariesandarchives.portsmouth.gov.uk/public-library-service/whats-on/events/>

All activities are free and drop-in unless specified otherwise.

Alderman Lacey Library

- Thursday 18 December, 10am: Christmas story time
- Friday 19 December, 10am: Christmas rhyme time – with a special visitor
- Saturday 20 December: Christmas scavenger hunt begins and runs through holiday – find all the Christmas trees hidden in the children's library and get a sweet!
- Tuesday 23 December, 2pm: Christmas craft activity
- Thursday 30 December, 2pm: New Year craft activity

Beddow Library

- Friday 12 and 19 December, 10am: Christmas Story time
- Monday 15 to 23 December: Drop-in Hunt the bauble activity PLUS Make a Star activity pack – Pop in to pick up instructions to make a star decoration for the tree

- Friday 19 December, 2.30pm – 4.30pm: Visit Father Christmas in his grotto. £1 per child to be paid in advance (cash only) at Beddow Library
- Monday 22 December, 2.30pm – 3.30 pm: Make Stained glass angels. Free but booking essential at Beddow Library

Carnegie Library

The story time is free and drop in but please book for the craft activities at Carnegie Library on 023 9282 2581 / carnegie.library@portsmouthcc.gov.uk

- Monday 22 December, 10.30-11.00am: Christmas story time” We wish you a veggie Christmas ” Super Tato and his friends return to Carnegie Library in an action-packed Christmas adventure story
- Monday 22 December, 11-12pm: Make a Festive tree tabletop decoration. For age 3+
- Monday 29 December, 11-12pm: Winter Penguin collage – use our collage materials to make a winter collage picture with a penguin theme. For age 3+

Central Library

- Tuesday 23 December, 11am-12pm: Christmas story time and festive craft activity. For ages 3+ but all welcome
- Tuesday 30 December, 11am-12pm: Winter story time and seasonal craft activity. For ages 3+ but all welcome

North End Library

- Monday 22 December, 11am: Christmas rhyme time and Santa Claus visit
- Tuesday 23 December: Christmas craft drop-in all day

Portsea Library

- Monday 22 December, 11am-3pm: Christmas arts and crafts drop-in. For 5+ but pre-school welcome with an adult to help
- Monday 29 December, 11am-3pm: Winter arts and crafts drop-in. For 5+ but pre-school welcome with an adult to help

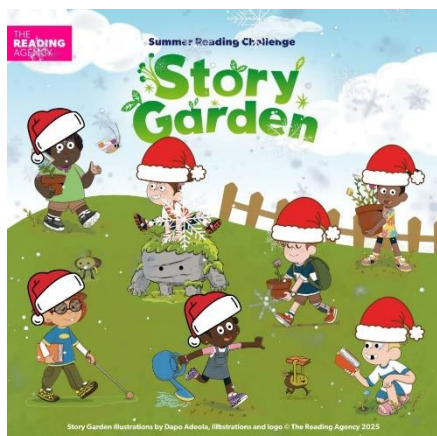
Paulsgrove Library

- Monday 8 December, 11am: Christmas rhyme time and Santa Claus visit
- Monday 22 December: Christmas craft all-day drop in

Southsea Library

- Friday 12 December, 10am: Christmas story time and Christmas grotto with Santa (10.30am-4pm tickets on sale from 1 December)
- Saturday 13 December, 10.30am: Christmas rhyme time and Christmas grotto with Santa (11am-3pm tickets on sale from 1 December)
- Monday 22 December, 10.30-2pm: Young musicians Christmas concert
- Tuesday 23 December, 11am: Christmas story time followed by Christmas Wreath/card craft at 11.30am
- Tuesday 30 December, 11am: Story time followed by a 'Have a Wicked' New Year craft inspired by the new movie Wicked for Good, where there will be a hat and wand making craft at 11.30 am

Winter Mini Challenge



For those who aren't familiar, the Winter Mini Challenge encourages children to keep up their reading habits over the winter holidays. To take part, children simply read three or more books and add them to their Challenge website profile with a short book review. Reaching their online reading goal will unlock a limited-edition virtual badge and a special Winter Mini Challenge certificate to print off and keep.

The Challenge will run from **1st December 2025** until **20th February 2026**.

There are a range of new downloadable and printable resources available in the next few weeks.

These include:

- Certificate
- A3 Promotional Poster
- Reading Record – with an activity page and space for children to record their books
- Activity Sheet – 2-3 pages of puzzles and other fun stuff

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

Portsmouth Museum



Make this Christmas one to remember and bring the little ones to visit Father Christmas in his magical grotto in the magnificent surroundings of Portsmouth Museum and Art Gallery.

Each child will receive a gift from Santa himself.

Places are limited. Book early to avoid disappointment by calling 023 92 834 779

The Christmas Grotto will be open on selected dates:

Saturday 13 December.
Sunday 14 December.
Friday 19 December
Saturday 20 December.
Sunday 21 December.

Cost: £10 per child and £5 per additional child booked onto the same slot. No more than 4 children and 2 adults per slot.

Christmas Trail

As well as appearances from Santa in his Grotto there will be a Christmas Trail for youngsters to follow around the museum.

For dates and details call the museum on 023 9283 4779.

Cost: £2 (or 50p with Leisure Card)

Public Libraries

Portsmouth public libraries are asking residents to help shape the future of the service, with a consultation that will close 11 January.

Residents can take part online: [Libraries consultation Survey](#), ask for paper copies in libraries, or over the phone via the City Helpdesk: 023 9261 6708

Any help with this would be greatly received, thank you.

Portsmouth
CITY COUNCIL

It's your library service

What should it offer?

We're developing a new libraries strategy and mission for how we deliver services.

Tell us what's important to you!

- Activities for children
- Social groups to connect with others
- A wide range of books, e-books and e-audio books
- A warm and welcome space
- Computers and wifi, music and newspaper downloads

A survey is running until 9 January (closes midnight)

Complete it online at https://www.research.net/r/PCCLibraries_qr

Complete it over the phone **023 9261 6708**

Ask for a paper survey

portsmouth.gov.uk

Merry Christmas and a happy new year from Portsmouth School Library Service.

