



SLS Parent Newsletter

Summer 2 2026

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 2026 - Read to the Beat



This year's Summer Reading Challenge 'Read to the Beat' 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 on 27th 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/>

Also, do look out this year for the Adult Summer Reading Challenge!

Summer Reading Challenge online

It's also possible to register to do the challenge [online](#). This challenge runs **separately** to the one run in libraries so the rewards and incentives are all digital. However children who complete the challenge online are still welcome to attend the Celebration Event. We will email all online completers in September to send them an invite, only if you **click the option to allow data to be shared with us** when enrolling your child in the online challenge.

Victorious 2026



Roar About Reading Live!



Get ready to Roar About Reading Live!
at Victorious.



Hosted by Portsmouth School Library Service, this exciting festival space brings together brilliant authors, illustrators and families for live readings, draw-alongs, and hands-on activities. Whether you love reading, drawing, writing or creating, come and celebrate the National Year of Reading in a fun, festival atmosphere.

Meet some amazing authors and have the opportunity to purchase signed copies of their books, brought to you by The Hayling Island Bookshop.

Read it. Draw it. Roar about it!

Public Libraries



The summer holidays are on the way, and we have loads of fun activities for families to enjoy throughout July and August. All events 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 Lacey events are free but **booking essential** at Alderman Lacey by phone, email or in person

- Thursday 23 July, 2pm-3pm: Make a Portsmouth Lion Picture – collage and craft your own 2D lion picture and get inspired to visit the lion sculpture trail
- Thursday 30 July, 2pm: Paddington Bear craft activity. One of the Portsmouth 100 books.
- Thursday 6 August, 2pm: Charlie and the Chocolate Factory craft activity

- Thursday 13 August, 2pm-3pm: Make a secret Treasure Map – inspired by the story Swallows and Amazons, one of the Portsmouth 100 books
- Thursday 20 August, 2pm: Baby shark craft activity
- Thursday 27 August, 2pm-3pm: Mary Poppins bunting – Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious! – make a letter bunting piece to hang in the library to celebrate this famous song. The Mary Poppins film was released in 1964 – same year Lacey library was opened, and the book is one of the Portsmouth 100 books

Beddow Library

All Beddow events must be **booked in advance** by phone, email or in person

- Friday 31 July, 11-12pm: Decorate your own musical block. £1.50 per child
- Friday 7 August, 11-12pm: Zoolab interactive animal workshop. £3 per child
- Friday 14 August, 11-12.00pm: Make Your Festival Accessories
- Friday 21 August, 2-3.30pm: Magic show and balloon modelling. £3 per child
- Wednesday 26 August, 10.30-11.30am: 101 Dalmatian craft activity to celebrate the Portsmouth 100 book list. Make and colour your own 3D paper Dalmatian and headband, decorate with gems and stickers
- Friday 28 August, 11-12.00pm: Unleash Your Creativity. Make boomboxes and maracas

Carnegie Library

- Friday 24 July, 11am-12pm: Dinosaur Sounds- Dinosaur themed session with rhythm and rhyme. Dinosaur stories, raps poetry and craft. Age 3+
- Friday 31 July, 11am-12pm: Crocodile castanets: Fun craft session making some snappy crocodile castanets from recycled materials. Age 4+. **Reserve a place with Carnegie Library**
- Friday 7 August, 11-12pm: Shiver me timbers! Bring your pirate costumes for sea shanties, pirate songs and pirate themed craft. Fun for all the family!
- Friday 21 August, 11-12pm: Colour the music! Delve back into decades gone by and make your very own hanging colourful “retro” decoration or simply colour! **Reserve a place with Carnegie Library**
- Friday 28 August, 11-12pm: Make and take musical instruments. Learn how to make musical instruments from recycled materials around your home. Age 4+

Central Library

- Thursday 23 July, 2-3pm: Jungle Beats: Come along to this interactive fun session which explores how to find the rhythm and rhyme in stories and poetry. Make a 2D Lion picture. Age 4+

- Thursday 30 July, 2-3pm: Shiver me timbers! Bring your pirate costumes for some sea shanties, pirate songs and pirate themed craft. Fun for all the family
- Thursday 6 August, 2-3pm: Crocodile castanets. Fun craft session making crocodile castanets from recycled materials. **Booking at Central library essential**
- Thursday 13 August, 2-3pm: Make and take musical instruments. Learn how to make musical instruments from recycled materials around your home. Age 4+
- Thursday 20 August, 2-3pm: Colour the music! Delve back into decades gone by and make your very own hanging colourful “retro” decoration or simply colour. **Booking at Central library essential**
- Thursday 27 August, 2-3pm: The Singing Mermaid storytime by Julia Donaldson followed by Mermaid and Circus themed craft

Cosham Library

- Tuesday 28 July, 11-12pm: Make your own rocking paper submarine.
- Monday 10 August, 11-12pm: Grow a beanstalk activity
- Thursday 27 August, 11-12pm: Craft activity

North End Library

All North End events must be **booked in advance** by phone, email or in person

- Tuesday 28 July, 11-12pm: Summer themed crafts, with a musical twist
- Tuesday 11 August, 11-12pm: Summer themed crafts, with a musical twist
- Tuesday 25 August, 11-12pm: Summer themed crafts, with a musical twist

Paulsgrove Library

All Paulsgrove's events are free and drop-in throughout the day

- Monday 27 July: Bubble Wrap Puffer Fish
- Monday 3 August: Paper Chain Snake
- Monday 10 August: Rainbow Paper Flowers
- Friday 7 August: Decorate a Guitar
- Friday 14 August: Make a Kazoo
- Friday 21 August: Make a Spin Drum
- Friday 28 August: Paper Plate Cymbals

Southsea Library

- Friday 24 July, 11-12.30pm: Amazing rainforest creatures creative writing workshop. For children aged 7-12. Come and share your knowledge about rainforests and write/ illustrate stories and poems about some of the most amazing creatures on Planet Earth. All materials provided. £5 per child, **booking essential** at Southsea Library. This workshop is led by Lynne Stretch, a retired teacher and local author
- Wednesday 29 July, from 10am: Southsea Library birthday craft plus Marvel and Disney themed crafts
- Thursday 6 August, from 11am: Paddington Bear craft activity
- Thursday 13 August, from 11am: Pokemon Day craft activity
- Thursday 20 August, from 11am: Rock Star craft activity
- Thursday 27 August, from 11am: "KidTorious" craft activity

Louno Space STEM sessions

In these science workshops, delivered by Louno Space, children aged 5 to 11 can build their own science models to take away!

Southsea Library, Tuesday 28 July, 2pm to 3pm: Build your own rocket. Children will craft and paint their rockets and launch them into the air!

North End Library, Tuesday 4 August, 2pm to 3pm: Build your own solar system. Children will craft and paint all the planets, moons and rings.

The cost of each workshop is £8 per child and spaces can be booked at <https://pth.louno.space/>

The Pride of Portsmouth Lion Trail



13th July-13th September

Lions have arrived across Portsmouth, each one uniquely designed and painted by artist and sponsored by local businesses. Follow the trail to discover these colourful sculptures, learn their stories and see how many you can find. Download the app or pick up a map and explore the city on an unforgettable adventure for all ages.

<https://prideofportsmouth.co.uk/app/>

Portsmouth Natural History Museum

Moth morning and Bug Hunts



Join us in the museum garden to discover which moth species came to our light traps during the night. The moths will be carefully released after identifying and recording them.

Then, take part in bug hunts throughout the day and help us build up a record of insects and other minibeasts found in the garden.

We'll also have trays of insects from the collections for you to explore. Try out our rubbing posts to create pictures of insects and see how many minibeasts you can tick off on our list.

Join us in celebrating 100Habitats as 2026 sees Portsmouth mark its 100th anniversary as a city.

Location: Portsmouth Natural History Museum

When: Wednesday 12 and 26 August, 9.30am – 3pm.

Swans on the Lake



Join us in the museum garden for a family fun day all about swans.

Swan Support and RSPB Portsmouth will be on hand to answer questions about these majestic birds, plus Red Sauce Theatre will be presenting their 'Ugly Duckling' puppet show, followed by a puppetry bird workshop.

Follow the swan trail, become a swan champion, and make your own swan creations to take home.

Activities take place from 10am to 3pm on Saturday 15 August.

Admission is free.

Portsmouth Museum

Meccano Day



The Solent Meccano Club is back with all the Meccano pieces you could possibly need to make anything and everything.

It's your chance to learn more about this fun hobby, chat with the experts, or learn how to get started on your very own building projects.

From seasoned Meccano builders to first timers, all are welcome to this event at Portsmouth Museum and Art Gallery. Plus, entry is free so drop in any time between 11am and 3pm on Wednesday 19 August

Fort Nelson



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



Join us at Port Solent for free Kids Club events, packed with fun entertainment for families. From magic shows and discos to craft workshops and interactive entertainers, there's always something exciting happening during school summer holidays.

All activities are free to attend, making Port Solent the perfect place for a family day out by the marina.

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

