

PARENTS NEWS

Nov - December 2016 No. 254 The First & Foremost Local Monthly Newspaper

1993 - 2016

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www.toweroflondonicerink.co.uk

www.winchestersciencecentre.org

What's On in November & December

www.olympiahorseshow.com

www.marlowetheatre.com

www.peacocktheatre.com

www.rarebreeds.org.uk

Published on time, every time since 1993

www.parents-news.co.uk

Three Editions in South-East England

Southwest
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& Surrey

London
South
E Surrey
& W. Kent

Kent

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South West London & Surrey

English National Ballet Nutcracker

This Christmas season *English National Ballet* presents its acclaimed production of **Nutcracker** returning to the **London Coliseum** **14 Dec 2016 – 7 Jan 2017**. 2015 saw English National Ballet's most successful Nutcracker run on record, when over 73,000 people made a performance at the London Coliseum part of their holiday celebrations. This year's tour of **Wayne Eagling's** version continues the Company's tradition of presenting a Nutcracker production every year since 1950, its founding year. On a sparkling Christmas Eve in a frost-dusted Edwardian London, Clara and her enchanted Nutcracker doll discover a magical world where she battles with the Mouse King and meets a handsome stranger. As the air

grows colder, Clara and her valiant Nutcracker take a hot air balloon ride across London to the glistening Land of Snow where her adventure really begins. In a world of Edwardian elegance, Nutcracker brings to life the popular Tchaikovsky score featuring the Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy and Waltz of the Flowers. *English National Ballet* will host a range of workshops and events, aimed to provide a gateway into the world of ballet. Activities include on-stage workshops for all ages, Live Drawing, Family Events, and Behind-the-scenes Talks. Family Friendly performances of Nutcracker are on **Tuesday 3 and Saturday 7 January** (matinee performances). Times and ticket prices vary www.ballet.org.uk/nutcracker



Christmas Gift to Suit Children age 5 +

Simbrix are little individual bricks which connect together to form a shape or design, encouraging children to use their creativity.

The bricks are scatter-proof during play but easy to take apart and reuse. It can even be ironed if you want to make the designs permanent. The product retails from £15 www.simbrix.com/



Hamleys Regent Street Second Annual Toy Parade

A cast of hundreds including marching bands, dancers and toy vehicles will descend on Regent Street along with including *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles*, *Ghostbusters*, *Mr & Mrs Potato Head* and *My Little Pony*. Hamleys, the finest toy shop in the world, will once again bring a family fun to Regent Street Sunday 20th November 2016. 10:30 – 16:00

Holy Cross

Saturday 26th November, 2 to 4pm. Raffle, chocolate tombola, cakes, gifts and a visit from Father Christmas. 50p admission

Sunday 27th November, Christingle service in aid of the *Children's Society*. 4pm.

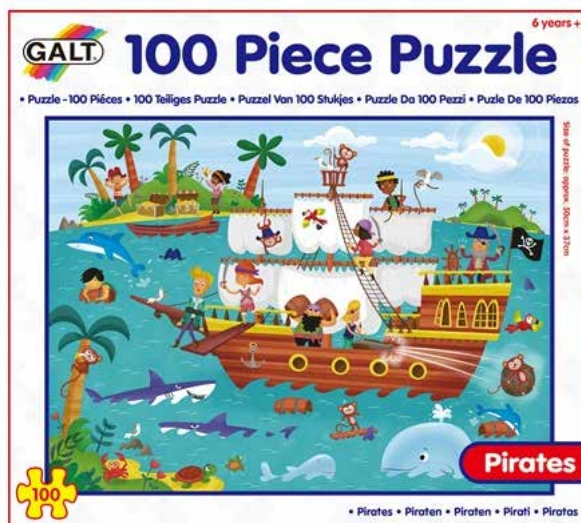
24th December, children's crib service, 3.30pm.



Galt Toys has launched six new puzzles

4 Puzzles in a Box – Dinosaurs or Fairies
Each puzzle box contains four colourful scenes, with a different amount of pieces to encourage the development of matching and sorting skills. The puzzles range from 12, 16, 20 and 24 pieces, with bright designs to help stimulate a toddler's sensory and cognitive development. Suitable for children aged 3+ years, the 4 Puzzles in a Box retails at £5.99, available from www.galttoys.com

100 Piece Puzzles
The four 100 piece puzzles are beautifully illustrated, depicting four fun scenes including: Dinosaurs, Pirates, Princesses and Safari. Each puzzle comes with a full size poster to follow, and with so much going on in each scene children will return to them time and time again. Suitable for children aged 6 and onwards, the 100 Piece Puzzles retail at £6.99, available from www.galttoys.com



SCRIBALL: Collect it, Colour it play it.

Scriball, a unique and fun new gift from football experts *Mitre*, is guaranteed to bring a twist to this year's Christmas (and birthday!) gifting. Not just any football, it won't only have your kids kicking and throwing it, their creative juices will be flowing too, as it includes everything they need to decorate and create their very own keepsake ball. There are three *Scriballs* to collect with different cartoon characters *Oodles* (the goalie), *Zongs* (the defender) and the *Floops* (the strikers). Each comes

in a colourful easy to wrap box that includes a mini pump and set of five funky felt tip pens. It even includes a stand to proudly display your finished ball.

At just £10 each, *Scriball* is the perfect stocking filler and is available now at www.mitre.com



Babe, the Sheep-Pig

A Play by David Wood
Based on the book by *Dick King-Smith* **25 Nov 2016 – 5 Feb 2017** at *Polka Theatre*, Meet the little pig with big dreams in *Polka's* new stage adaptation of much loved novel *Babe, The Sheep-Pig*. Featuring stunning puppetry, original music and a charming 'baa-ber sheep' quartet, Babe, the Sheep-Pig runs on *Polka's* Main Stage for the whole family ages 5 and up. With a subsequent national tour throughout 2017, this is *Polka's* biggest ever production.

www.polkatheatre.com
or call the Box Office on **020 8543 4888**

PARENTS NEWS Primigi Shoe Review by Lucy Parley, 37, mum to Reuben, five, and Lois, three, and co-founder and editor of fussybird.co.uk

STYLE (EN) 6128277 boys' sneakers
These trainer boots had my five-year-old at 'flashing lights'. He was thrilled with his light-up shoes, which are activated by a side button or by jumping up and down on the soles. Bright yellow laces on a blue background add to their appeal, and the laces themselves are great for when he wants to practise tying them. Luckily, there's also a handy side zip for quick and easy putting on and taking off, and the soft leather upper makes it even easier for them to push their foot in.

Aside from their stylish appeal, the trainers also tick off a few practical points that mums are always looking out for when it comes to their little ones' footwear. My son can get quite hot feet, so the removable, breathable and washable leather insoles are a godsend. There's also supportive cushioning in the heel, acting as a shock absorber for when your mini superheroes are jumping off climbing frames and swinging from trees.

Durable and hardwearing but so soft, light and flexible to allow freedom during play, I was reassured by how well these trainers are made.

My active kids get through shoes incredibly quickly, so it's important to me that I find shoes that last through the intensive physical wear and tear they are subject to. And they really do look great on - the blue contrasted strikingly against the bright yellow sole and laces, making them a stylish addition to my son's wardrobe. He wasn't taking them off in a hurry!

STYLE (EN) 6181000 girls' sneakers
Glitter, shiny metal detailing and pink sparkles (offset against a muted grey background) meant these were an out and out win for my three-year-old daughter, whose feedback was 'Wow!'.

The easy-wear Velcro straps made them a win for me too, as it meant she was more than capable of putting her shoes on without assistance - great for little ones learning to become independent.

The straps also give the fit across the top of the foot more flexibility, which I found useful as my daughter has a high instep, so it can often be hard to get her foot in a shoe, which will then inevitably dig in and leave a mark.

Lightweight and super-soft but made well from quality materials, they have a good grip and flexible sole, which made them perfect for a snazzy scooter to the shops. The breathable leather insole kept my daughter's feet dry and comfortable even after a busy day's play, and the glittery toes and sparkly stones decorating the Velcro straps make these eye-catching play shoes work as partywear, too.

Instead of going for the usual patent-leather party shoes, I would add these to a tutu or little dress for a cool, casual-smart twist that lets her run around and dance away at the disco without fear of rubbing or slipping.

www.primigi.com



Going for a Winter Walk

Original and dynamic, **Primigi** shoes are perfect for children who want to enjoy the most beautiful season of the year ... in style.

At least two types of shoes are recommended during this season: high, with an insulating, lug type sole, suitable for the cold and rain; it's alright if they are waterproof. Lighter, with flexible soles and uppers, good for heated rooms, for long hours spent at home.

Do you believe that the sudden changes of winter temperature can be a problem for your children? Nothing to worry about, you can also leave them free to play outside, **Primigi** together with **Gore-Tex** will protect and keep their feet dry.

PRIMI shoes with **GORE-TEX** deliver a special combination of total breathability and waterproofness, keeping feet dry and protected against the cold and overheating with

extraordinary health benefits. Thanks to the microscopic pores of the **GORE-TEX** membrane, rain and water are not able to penetrate while excess heat and sweat escape easily.

The best technology depending on the situations: for children always on the move, who don't want to give fun outdoor games up, even with snow and low

guaranteeing waterproofing and breathability over time, perfectly protect the foot keeping it dry and cool.

Choose for your child the only mix of technology and style able to assure the maximum performances combined with the latest fashion trends.

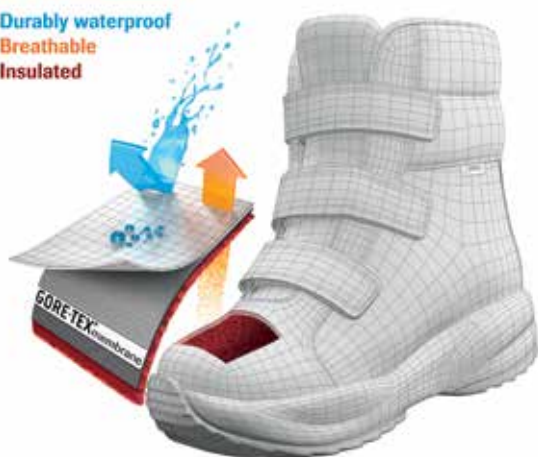
Many are the *must-have* of the season: all super trendy, made of technical materials with lightweight soles.

Find more on www.primigi.com



temperatures, **GORE-TEX** INSULATED COMFORT shoes, besides

- Durably waterproof
- Breathable
- Insulated



The Snowman

23 Nov - 1 Jan
Peacock Theatre
Portugal Street, WC2A 2HT
www.peacocktheatre.com
020 7863 8222

"Sheer theatrical magic. Go see **The Snowman** and melt" *The Times*

Delighting audiences for 19 hit years, this magical stage adaption of **Raymond Briggs'** much-loved book has transported a generation of children and their families into the wintery wonderland of a boy and a snowman that comes to life.

Twinkling with festive spirit, this joyful mix of exquisite dancing, storytelling, enchanting sets, a flying Snowman and live music – including the beautiful *'Walking in the Air'* – is the perfect Christmas treat for all the family.

"Guaranteed to melt the heart of even the most cynical Scrooge" *The Guardian*



A Truly Magical Christmas at The Rare Breeds Centre

3rd, 4th 10th, 11th, 17th, 18th, 21st, 22nd & 23rd Dec
No family Christmas is complete without a visit to see Father Christmas and here at the **Rare Breeds Centre** Christmas has become a much loved tradition.

This is a heart-warming family experience that will leave not just the children feeling suitably festive, but the rest of the family too! The elves will welcome you into our truly magical Grotto and along with *'The Naughty Snowman'* and Santa you will experience forty minutes of fun and entertainment, at the end of which each child meets Santa for a one to one chat and receives their special present, whilst you take those cherished photos!

Sessions with Santa are at: 10.30 am 11.15 am 12 noon

1.30 pm 2.15 pm 3 pm
Booking is essential, either www.rarebreeds.org.uk or call Nikki 01233 861508

This year *'Wiley Wolf Productions'* are performing **Peter Pan** the pantomime, with all the usual jokes, fun and interaction....don't miss this, the kids will love it.... performances are at 12 noon, 1 pm and 2.15 pm...Oh! no it isn't!! Take the children to Mother Christmas' workshop to decorate biscuits or cakes....no extra charge for this activity and for a small fee, the children can make a candle and turn it into a very special table decoration for their Christmas table!

The Rare Breeds Centre
Woodchurch TN26 3RJ



The magical Christmas show for all the family

The Snowman™

The Live Stage Show



"Sheer theatrical magic. Go see **The Snowman and melt**"
The Times

Featuring **'Walking in the Air'**

FAMILY TICKET ONLY £115
4 tickets, must include at least one child
Transaction fee applies. Max £3

23 Nov - 1 Jan

THE PEACOCK

020 7863 8222 peacocktheatre.com

Who will you meet at the Rare Breeds Centre this Christmas?

Visit this December...

3rd & 4th
10th & 11th
17th & 18th
21st to 23rd

- ✓ See our seasonal panto **Peter Pan** presented by Wiley Wolf Productions
- ✓ Come take part in some **Christmas Activities** at Mrs Christmas's workshop

Booking is essential!

Book online at rarebreeds.org.uk/events/christmas
Special rates for Annual Members - call 01233 861508



Rare Breeds Centre

Mr Tumble's Christmas Party

Star of *CBeebies's Something Special*, **Mr Tumble**, will be brightening up the festive season and making Christmas celebrations even more magical, for children and parents alike, with the release of his first ever album, **Mr Tumble's Christmas Party**, out on **4th November**.

The album contains brand new studio recordings of 20 much-loved classic Christmas songs, with a **Mr Tumble** twist. Tracks include *Santa Claus is Coming to Town*, *Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree*, *Frosty the*

Snowman, *Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer* and many more, including *Do You Want To Build A Snowman* from the kid's favourite blockbuster hit film, *Frozen*.

CBeebies's Mr Tumble (played by Justin Fletcher) regularly plays to live audiences across the country and is one of the biggest and most well-known celebrities for pre-school children - a superstar for tots. How apt then, that he joins his peers with an album of everyone's favourite Christmas hits.



Skate at the Only Royal Palace with an Ice Rink in the UK

25th Nov – 8th January 2017
Tickets On Sale Now
www.hamptoncourtpalaceicerink.co.uk

A festive experience like no other will be on offer this year as **Hampton Court Palace Ice Rink** opens. Be swept away by the seasonal atmosphere and history as the stunning 1040m² ice rink opens for the public to skate against a backdrop of one of the greatest palaces on earth - Henry VIII's historic home, **Hampton Court Palace**. Combining a stunning setting, spectacular scenery and seasonal skating, this favourite open-air ice rink epitomises

the best in festive fun. Located in front of this *Historic Royal Palace*, the stunning ice rink offers something for everyone, from novice to expert. Open daily 11am - 10pm, adult tickets £13.50, with children under 12 at £9.50.

A quick train or boat ride from the heart of the capital will see you transported to one of the country's most scenic skating settings, with spectacular views of the Thames-side Tudor palace.

By day, why not enjoy a majestic afternoon tea for two fit for a King or Queen? In the evening, marvel at the romance

Tesla Model S for Kids arrives in the UK in time for Christmas

The ultimate gift for young car enthusiasts, the **Tesla Model S for Kids** is now available for pre-order in the UK, with shipping starting from November. The most innovative battery powered ride-on for children was created through a collaboration between **Tesla** and iconic American toy manufacturer **Radio Flyer**.

It boasts the exhilarating performance of a *Tesla* (with two speed modes at 3mph and 6mph) and features the longest run time and fastest recharge time thanks to its *Flight Speed™* Lithium Ion battery technology.

Shoppers can design their child's *Tesla* with features such as long range battery, premium paint finish in authentic model



S colours, personalised number plate, working headlights and front trunk ("frunk") storage compartment. The ultimate ride-on is suited to kids ages 3-8 and is now available online for pre-order at

www.RadioFlyer.com starting from £499.

When compared to leading kid's battery powered ride-ons, the **Tesla Model S for Kids** features longer run time for added fun, along with quicker charging thanks to the use of a Lithium Ion battery power.

Lead-acid batteries, which commonly power other ride-ons in the industry, demand 14 hours or more of charge time to ensure full power for the next use. This means more fun for kids and less hassle for parents.

More fun with LEGO® Juniors

LEGO Juniors is the perfect introduction to the world of **LEGO** building for younger children looking to try their smaller hands at building for the first time. Introducing **LEGO Friends**

New to **LEGO Juniors** are three new **LEGO Friends** sets. The **LEGO Friends** are Mia, Stephanie, Emma, Andrea and Oliva and they all live in the imaginary world of **Heartlake City**. This Summer they were busy with *Emma's Ice Cream Truck*, *Mia's Vet Clinic* and *Stephanie's Horse Carriage*, join in the fun.

Mia's Vet Clinic £ 24.99
Join Olivia and Mia's veterinary team and work to



help injured and sick animals get better!

Stephanie's Horse Carriage £ 8.99 Go on a carriage ride with Stephanie and her horse Mokka!

Emma's Ice Cream Truck £17.99 Head to Emma's ice cream truck with Andrea to get some delicious ice cream in the sun.

Batman™ & Superman™ vs Lex Luthor™ £ 19.99 Suit up alongside **Batman™** and **Superman™** and prepare to take on **Lex Luthor™**!

To find out more about **LEGO® Juniors** www.LEGO.com/juniors

Christmas Gift for Dad STYLE+ with NEW BLACK PEPPER & BERGAMOT ULTRA CONCENTRATE SHOWER GEL

Unlike most shower gels, **men-ü** does not disappear through your fingers, and creates a rich lather for the height of clean & has added moisturisers to help prevent the skin from drying. Includes Pro Vitamin B5 & Vitamin E. This spicy & fruity blend of black pepper & bergamot citrus combine to invigorate & keep you fresher for longer. Gift sets available

with a choice of accompanying hair styling product 100ml £12.95 - £14.95.

www.men-u.co.uk



The Guide Dogs for the Blind Association

You can sponsor **Lexi** as a gift for someone special and print the photo and certificate straight away!

By sponsoring **Lexi** you will be kept up to date through her journey to become a guide dog. www.guidedogs.org.uk



Hampton Court Palace Ice Rink

Enjoy a royal day out with a trip to the Ice Rink & remarkable Hampton Court Palace, to be transported back in time at the most regal ice rink in the UK

Opening dates:
25th Nov 2016 – 8th Jan 2017

Early bird:
Book before 24th Nov and receive 10% off

Book now:
www.hamptoncourtpalaceicerink.co.uk

HAMPTON COURT PALACE
ICE RINK



of the rink as the palace's façade comes alive with colour, adding to the ambience of this simply stunning location.

VISIT THE PALACE: Why not enjoy a royal day out with a trip to this remarkable palace and be transported back in time, then get your skates on the most regal rink in the UK. This is the perfect family location and fun day out; learn about Henry VIII - one of the most menacing Kings in English history - and discover what life was like at the Tudor court.

Let your children's imaginations run wild as you wander the historic corridors and courtyards and immerse yourself in the sights and sounds of this breath-taking location. Then take to the rink and have a leisurely glide around the ice. Note: entrance to *Hampton Court Palace* is not included in the ice skate ticket price.

FAMILY SKATE TICKET: Get involved and skate in style with the *Family Skate Ticket* (for 4) available to book now priced at £38.00.

Enjoy ice-skating with family & friends, make a day of it explore the stunning Palace and enjoy afternoon tea. Open daily from **25th November through to 8th January 2017**, to book tickets head to

www.hamptoncourtpalaceicerink.co.uk

GIFTS FOR KIDS...

JML TABLE ZWOOSH BALL £9.99

JML JUGGLE BUBBLES £9.99

JML ZWOOSH BALL £11.99

ALL AVAILABLE FROM JMLDIRECT.COM

My Marsden March

Anytime. Anywhere.



Dear Parents,

We are inviting all schools to organise their own 'My Marsden March' in aid of The Royal Marsden Cancer Charity. This is an easy to organise sponsored walk for your child's school that can take place anytime, anywhere. The school chooses a date, location and distance to suit themselves, and anyone from one or two classes to the whole school can take part. From short walks for younger children to longer hikes for older ones. *My Marsden March* is designed to be adaptable for schools.

It's also a great opportunity for pupils to have fun before and during the walk, for example by designing and making their own flags and banners, or decorating their outfits for the day. I will help you make your school's *My Marsden March* a success by providing free t-shirts for teachers, pin badges for children, balloons, collection tins and posters to display around your school, like the one shown.

If you are feeling inspired and think your school might be interested in organising a *My Marsden March* or if you have any questions, please contact me on Janet.Tobin@rmh.nhs.uk or 020 8915 6105. You can also find out more at www.royalmarsden.org/schools-march.

We are fast approaching the end of the summer term but it may be a fundraising event your school could organise for the autumn !
I hope to hear from you soon.
Janet Tobin

Registered Charity No. 1095197

ENJOY CHRISTMAS 1940s STYLE

Ever wondered what it was like celebrating the festive season during wartime? Then step back into the 1940s at **Kent Life Heritage Farm Park** on **November 26 and 27** and experience the sights, sounds and smells of *Christmas on the Home Front*. How to 'make do and mend', learning how civilians coped with rationing by preserving and re-styling clothes from the era; and discover how to rustle up some genuine 1940s recipes issued by the *Ministry of Food* – including a sponge cake made with liquid paraffin instead of fat – at a wartime cookery demonstration.

Other activities include drill displays by the *Home Guard*, a 1940s school lesson, shops from the era and a rehabilitation centre for injured *RAF* pilots. You might even spot a German POW or two being put to work mending bicycles... Take a peek inside the *Lenham Cottages*, one of which has been converted to recreate life in World War II, complete with sticky tape on the windows to reduce bomb blast damage, a bathtub with a water ration line, and a mangle to do the washing. You can even check out an *Anderson Shelter* in the garden to see how families protected themselves during

bombing raids. Tickets for *Christmas on the Home Front*, which runs from 10am to 4pm, cost £6.95 for adults, £5.95 for concessions, £5.50 for children aged three to 15, and £19.95 for a family (two adults and two children). Under-threes and members go free.

Book online at www.kentlife.org.uk
01622 763936

You can also follow Kent Life on Facebook /*KentLifeFamily-Fun*, and on Twitter @*KentLife*. *Kent Life* is in Lock Lane, Sandling, near Maidstone, just off junction 6 of the M20.



Santa Specials Rural Life Centre

The Rural Life Centre is ready to unwrap its annual **Santa Special weekends**. One of the most popular events in the Tilford-based museum's busy calendar, the four days of festive excitement are a big attraction to the Christmas

cognoscenti, young and old *Santa Specials* take place on **Saturday and Sunday, December 10th and 11th**, and **Saturday and Sunday, December 17th and 18th**. *Booking is essential*. Visitors get a chance to ride on

the Old Kiln Light Railway's train, lend a helping hand in the gnomes' workshop and see a selection of animals, before entering the magical world of Santa's grotto, where youngsters will receive a present from the man with the timeless gift of making dreams come true.

Santa Specials bring a lot of happiness to many people, not least the tireless group of volunteers whose efforts ensure this end of year favourite retains its warmth, welcome and popularity. Seasonal refreshments will be available, and there will be plenty of other attractions to enjoy, including a toy workshop and a model railway display.

Tickets are £11.50 for children and £7 for adults. To book: **01252 795571**

Further information: www.rural-life.org.uk



Swimming Lessons



Quality classes in small group

**** COME AND TRY A CLASS FREE ****

Lessons for:

Adults and Children from 2 yrs
Non-swimmers -Improvers
Advanced & SUPER Advanced

Classes held at:

Downsend School Ashted/Leatherhead
Epsom College

For more info contact Colin on 01372 739600

Christmas show and family show

Bollywood Jack

Tara arts Earlsfield, London
7 Dec - 7 Jan 7.30pm & 2.30pm matinees £18.50

www.tara-arts.com/whats-on/bollywood-jack

A brand-new Christmas treat in the brand-new Theatre with traditional *Bollywood* spin! Hot on the heels of the sell-out smash hit successes of *Bollywood Cinderella* and *Dick Whittington Goes Bollywood*, comes **Bollywood Jack!** With more than a Balti full of sparkle and fun mixed with Kipling's poems, go to *Tara Theatre*, as they kick off the festive season in style with an East-West culture-clash of glittering costumes, a side-splitting dame and songs that will have you dancing in the aisles!

Breaking the Ice

Theatre Company and Unicorn Theatre Stratford Circus,

London **19 - 24 Dec**
various times £8 - £10

<https://stratford-circus.com/event/breaking-the-ice>

Join an Arctic adventure based on the incredible true story of a wild polar bear who made friends with a husky. Follow a story of unlikely friendship and be part of *Team Polar Bear* or *Team Husky* as the animals learn to play together. Then get involved in the fun yourself and join in with the Arctic activities before or after the show.

Mimi and the Mountain

Dragon Skewbald Theatre
Bloomsbury Theatre,

13 - 31 Dec 11.30 and 3.30

most days £12 & £10 conc
High up in the snowy mountains of Switzerland the villagers of Dorta bang their drums, blow their horns and ring the bells to keep the Mountain Dragon away. But this year is different. One snowy morning Mimi discovers something extraordinary - a baby dragon sleeping in her woodshed! The little creature is lost and frightened but how did he get there and what happens when his mother comes looking for him?

Room on the Broom

Tall Stories Stratford Circus,
London **2 - 18 Dec** various times £12

www.stratford-circus.com/event/

the cat purred and how the witch grinned, as they sat on their broomstick and flew through the wind.

London Bridge Presents Christmas By The River

London Bridge City welcomes back their iconic Christmas market to the bankside of the Thames, filling *More London, The Queen's Walk, Hay's Galleria* and *London Bridge City Pier* with over 40 independent traders in beautiful Christmas themed wooden cabins.

Offering handcrafted and bespoke gifts, **'Christmas By The River'** will host a range of elegantly designed stalls as well as a selection of delicious festive food. **'Christmas By The River'** is the perfect spot for winter-warming drinks with a fully stocked bar serving cocktails, mulled wine and craft beers as the centre-piece of this enchanting Christmas market.

Dressed with festive lights and Christmas trees, **'Christmas By The River'** will be the ideal place for not only gift buying, but experiencing the

best of what London has to offer during the festive season with iconic views of *The City, Tower Bridge* and *The Tower of London*.

It will launch on **Thursday 30 November** and will be open from Monday – Sunday, 11am – 7pm **until Tuesday 3rd January**. Nearest tube is *London Bridge*.

London Bridge City
A bustling riverside destination incorporating *More London, Hay's Galleria, Cottons Centre* and *No.1 London Bridge*.

A changing programme of arts, entertainment and events, world class food and drink against a backdrop of great architecture.

London Bridge City presents *Christmas By The River* is curated by Tudor Markets

<http://tudormarkets.com>

Carshalton Frost Fair

Carshalton Village welcomes the return of the **Frost Fair** on **Saturday 3rd December**, 1-6pm. Organised by local charity *EcoLocal* with *Friends of Honeywood Museum*, this family event takes place in the beautiful setting by **Carshalton Ponds**.

Outside in *Honeywood Walk* and the *Memorial Gardens*, you will find an array of craft and farmers' market stalls selling unique Christmas gifts such as handmade ceramics, woodcraft, organic cosmetics, toys, glass art, and more. And you'll find tasty stocking fillers from gingerbread to Caribbean preserves and handmade chocolates. It's the perfect way to start your Christmas shopping and support local crafts people and producers. Take the children to visit Santa's grotto in *Honeywood*

Museum, where there's also a Christmas magic show and storytelling. Or explore the **Winter Wonderland Trail** (1-4pm) through the *Ecology Centre* grounds, where you'll find *Friends of Sutton Ecology Centre's Christmas Fair*.

Two stages with live music from local groups to suit all tastes including carol singing, brass bands, clog dancing, folk, and pop. As it gets darker the event will be lit with twinkling fairy lights and you can enjoy hot food and warming drinks while you soak up the atmosphere. There will be a hog roast as well as vegetarian food, crepes and lots of delicious cake! A bar, mulled wine, tea, coffee and hot chocolate.

www.carshaltonfrostfair.org.uk

Green and Ethical Christmas Fayre

The sixth **Green and Ethical Christmas Fayre** will take place at **Holy Trinity** Clapham on **Saturday 3rd December**. They will be welcoming back stall holders from previous years as well as lots of exciting new businesses, offering beautiful gift items that have been sourced ethically or are environmentally friendly. With clothes, accessories, jewellery, artisan foods and artwork available to buy you can be sure to find perfect Christmas gifts for friends and family... all with a good conscience! Animals from *Vauxhall City Farm* will be returning for the fancy dress nativity scene and **Father Christmas** will be welcoming the children with environmentally friendly toys at his *Green Grotto*. Music, storytelling and kids activities throughout the day

plus plenty of delicious food and drinks provided by the *Green Café*. **MP Kate Hoey** will be opening the event and they're expecting a fantastic turnout at this year's event. Sponsorship is by **Knight Frank** estate agents again this year.

A percentage of the fayre profits will go to **Emmaus**, a wonderful charity offering homes and meaningful work to people who have experienced homelessness or social exclusion.

The Green and Ethical Christmas Fayre
3rd December 11am – 4pm.
Holy Trinity Clapham
Entry £2 Adults, Children Free
Christmas Shopping with a Conscience
www.greenethicalchristmas.com

Old Barn Stables

Waffrons Farm, Woodstock Lane South, Chessington, Surrey

A Friendly, Family Run Riding School

- ❖ BHS Qualified Instructors
- ❖ All ages & abilities
- ❖ Pony Days
- ❖ All weather sandschool
- ❖ Lessons & Hacks
- ❖ Holiday Fun



For directions and info, call

020 8398 0822

Family Variety Acts

Harry M Weinrebe Learning Centre at **The British Library**, 96 Euston Road, NW1 2DB
Sunday 27 November, 2016
14.00 – 15.30
Free | Drop in | Suitable for ages 5 – 11

www.bl.uk/events/family-variety-acts

Do you love to dance, sing and have fun with your family?

Want to pick up some new tricks and skills? They'll turn your family party piece into a Victorian variety act - be it magic, dance, wise-cracking, singing or tombola-turning. Learn how to improvise, entertain and own the stage!

The British Library family programme is generously supported by *John Lyon's Charity* and *The Sackler Trust*.

That's Entertainment: Make your own stage
Harry M Weinrebe Learning Centre at **The British Library**,
Sunday 11 December, 2016
14.00 – 15.30
Free | Drop in | Suitable for ages 5 – 11

www.bl.uk/events/thats-entertainment-make-your-own-stage

Create a 3D pop-up theatre displaying your own fantastical stage show. Using colour, collage and drawing, you could show a magician performing a mind-boggling illusion, an acrobat doing a jaw-dropping stunt or a juggling giraffe!

The British Library family programme is generously supported by *John Lyon's Charity* and *The Sackler Trust*.

Christmas comes early to Putney

This year **Father Christmas** will be making an early stop in SW15 to collect wish-list letters from Putney's good little girls & boys. Even **Father Christmas** has to get organised as the festive season approaches and this year is no exception. He's taking a special trip out of his busy schedule to visit children in Putney at the **Parish of Putney Christmas Bazaar** on **Saturday 26 November 2016** between 11am and 2pm.

Children can meet Father Christmas, receive a small gift, then write their wish-list in a letter and post it in Santa's very own post box. A couple of weeks later a personalised reply will be sent to each and every child in the post.* All proceeds from the Bazaar will go to **Hestia** – a London charity helping survivors of domestic abuse and their families to rebuild their lives.

They provide refuges for women and children across the capital and offer support for men too.

Everyone is welcome to come to this special event. Famous hunt the turkey competition to traditional festive favourites such as toy and bottle tombolas, a special raffle, bouncy castle, face painting, arts and crafts to buy and make, mulled wine and mince pies, hot dogs, tea and cakes. Live music from the *Treble Makers Junior Choir* and you can even buy your Christmas tree or wreath at the fair too! Admission is free. *A small cost applies for games, activities and refreshments etc. inside the fair.

Parish of Christmas Bazaar, St. Mary's Church by Putney Bridge.



Museum of Richmond

Christmas Holidays 2016:
Princess Mary Gift Boxes
Wednesday 28 to Friday 30 December 2016,

10am to 12noon
See the new *Star and Garter* exhibition and learn about its role during the First World War. Design and make a Princess Mary Tin which was a present given by the Princess to all serving soldiers during World War One
Museum of Richmond,
Second Floor, Old Town Hall,
Whittaker Avenue, Richmond,

020 8332 1141
learning@museumofrichmond.com
www.museumofrichmond.com



Meet Santa at Emirates Spinnaker Tower

Sat 3rd & Sun 4th December
Sat 10th & Sun 11 December
Sat 17th – Friday 23rd Dec
This December, look out for Santa's reindeer, come and meet the man himself, and see the *Tower* all dressed up for Christmas. Santa will be taking time out of his busy schedule to make appearances

Waterfront Cafe and *Cafe in the Clouds* will both be

offering warming drinks and tasty treats, making them ideal places to relax during your Christmas shopping in **Gunwharf Quays**.

Emirates Spinnaker Tower is open daily from 10.00am to 6.00pm (excluding Christmas Day).

www.spinnakertower.co.uk
or call **023 9285 7520**

to book in advance or to find out more.

Emirates Spinnaker Tower,
Gunwharf Quays,
Portsmouth, Hampshire,
PO1 3TT
Adult: £9.95 Concession:
£8.95, Child: £7.95, Family:
£33

02392 857520
www.spinnakertower.co.uk



Gatton Park Events

Family and Children's Activities

All activities must be booked in advance, unless otherwise stated. Children under eight must be accompanied by an adult.

Saturday 12th Nov

Build a bird box (6+ years)
Family workshop to build a bird box and various kinds of bird feeders to take home
10am – 12noon Cost: £10 for adults and £10 for children

Saturday 26th Nov

Family Christmas Decoration Making
Christmas wreaths and other decorations from the natural materials of **Gatton Park**.
10 – 12.30 or 1.30 – 4pm Cost: £10 for adults and £10 for children

Sun 4th Dec & Sun 11th Dec

Santa's Grotto
Enjoy a golf buggy ride to Santa in his grotto, explore the grounds following a trail of clues return to **Gatton Hall** to make a Christmas decoration. Book a timeslot for your buggy ride online. 1pm – 3pm Cost: £5 per child. Tea and cake available to purchase.

Thursday 22nd December
Christmas Crafts (4-7yrs)
Christmas decorations for younger children. 10am – 11am or 1.30pm – 2.30pm Cost: £5
Gatton Park, Rocky Lane, Reigate,

01737 649068

education@gatton-park.org.uk
Book www.gattonpark.com

Space Mission for Santa at Winchester Science Centre and Planetarium

Blast off into space and help save Christmas! This fun and interactive show includes audience participation and footage of Santa (there will not be an actual Santa in the

Planetarium). Explore the solar system and find out about some of our neighbouring worlds while helping Santa ensure Christmas can go ahead as planned. **3 - 23 December**

• Ticket prices: £7:50 (standalone), £3.80 (in addition to General Entry) per seat
www.winchestersciencecentre.org
01962 863791



Space Mission for Santa

Blast off into space and help save Christmas!

A live planetarium show with a Christmas twist, especially designed with families in mind

The show lasts 30 minutes and is perfect for ages up to 10 years
Showings every Saturday & Sunday, and weekdays 15 - 23 December

[01962 863 791](tel:01962863791)

www.winchestersciencecentre.org



SPECTACULAR LINE UP SET TO PERFORM AT *OLYMPIA*, THE LONDON INTERNATIONAL HORSE SHOW 2016

International Horse Show, 13-19 December 2016. The headliners include the world-renowned equestrian artist, **Santi Serra** who is set to wow the 90,000 visitors with his Spanish flair and unique performance. Joining him on the centre stage will be the elegant **Portuguese Lusitanos** showcasing their beautiful skills of horsemanship and harmony. In addition, all the old favourites which make London's premier horse show magical, such as *The Shetland*

Pony Grand National, The Kennel Club Dog Agility and The Olympia Finale, will be back once again to delight the crowds of spectators attending this year's show.

Santi Serra has a unique relationship with his animals, who he often refers to as 'actors'. He communicates with them through mind and body and is able to put on a thrilling show which is filled with tricks and never-before-seen choreography between

horse, human and dog. The movements of thoroughbred horses in the wild, the respect for who takes care of and teaches them, the obedience without using force, the friendship... a show that will make you have an unforgettable time.

The world-class **Lusitano Display** is comprised of Portugal's top 16 stallions and riders, hand-picked to represent their country in this demonstration of traditional

Portuguese equestrian skills. The striking horses are mesmerising to watch with their beauty and flexibility emphasised through the breath-taking action packed carousel routine.

Olympia, The London International Horse Show is the ultimate celebration of equestrianism. This year's headline acts will bring high levels of entertainment for the audience and will complement the world-class competitions in

Dressage, Show Jumping and Carriage Driving perfectly.

As well as the displays, audience members will also be treated to the highly anticipated return of the **Markel Champions Challenge** in aid of the *Injured Jockeys Fund* on the evening of **Friday 16 December**, which will feature high profile names such as the legendary **Frankie Dettori** and reigning *National Hunt Champion*, **Richard Johnson**.

The world's top competitors will be in attendance, as once again Olympia will host three *FEI World Cups™* in Carriage Driving, Dressage and Show Jumping. *The Reem Acra FEI World Cup™* Dressage leg takes place on **13 and 14 December**, the *FEI World Cup™* Driving leg presented by **Dodson & Horrell** on **16 and 17 December** and the *Longines FEI World Cup™* Jumping leg presented by **H&M** on **18 December**. The climax of the seven-day equine extravaganza will finish with the **Olympia Grand Prix on Monday 19 December**.

www.olympiahorseshow.com



TICKETS TO BE WON

A chance to win a pair of tickets to **Olympia International Horse Show**, for the Friday evening **16 December 2016**. This includes a backstage tour

To enter answer this question: **What famous jockey will be at Olympia International Horse Show on Friday 16 December**. Answers by email to: info@parents-news.co.uk with "Horse Show" in subject line and please supply name, address and telephone number. Send them in by **noon Friday 2 December 2016**. The editor will select one complete and correct entry to be given the tickets.

Usual PN rules apply



BEANO STUDIOS LAUNCHES NEW RANGE IN TIME FOR CHRISTMAS

Beano Studios, the business behind the relaunch of the **Beano** as a global kids' entertainment network, has launched an awesome new range of products featuring refreshed **Beano** designs, just in time for Christmas.

The collection, available through the online shop at shop.beano.com, includes t-shirts, hoodies, beanies, stationery packs, games and accessories; perfect presents for the next generation of mischief makers this Christmas, along

with the not-so-grown-up adults who love the iconic British brand.

The bold designs are available in three different product groups – *Big Heads, Pranks and Classics* featuring some of **Beano's** most beloved characters; Dennis, Gnasher and Minnie the Minx. The designs feature punchy repeat patterns and bold primary colours.

Books are a staple Christmas gift, making **Beano Annual** the perfect option for this year.

All products are currently available from www.beano.com



Saturday 26 November, 10am - 5pm & Sunday 27 November, 10am - 4pm

It's beginning to smell a lot like Christmas at the Chelsea Physic Garden Christmas Fair. To conclude our year of *Captivating Scents*, this year's Fair embraces the scents of Christmas.

We look forward to welcoming you to this long-established and hugely popular Fair with over 100 exhibitors selling a broad range of beautiful products. There will be a range of exquisitely designed and crafted products including jewellery, clothing, contemporary craft, toys and a selection of festive fare - perfect gift shopping for your loved ones or perhaps to treat yourself.

Our wonderful team of *Growing Friends* volunteers will once again be selling their hand-crafted wreaths using plant material from the Garden together with other horticultural festive delights including gift boxes and seasonal plants.

We will have book signings by our Head Gardener Nick Bailey of his best-selling book *365 Days of Colour in your Garden*. His 2016 achievements include a Silver-Gilt medal for his Show Garden at the Chelsea Flower Show. Further details of other book signings will be revealed on our website nearer the time.

There will be the chance to create your own handmade seasonal decorations to take home in Christmas Family Activities run by our Education Department.

Refreshments will be available throughout the Fair and, for those who would like a more substantial warming meal, Tangerine Dream Cafe will be serving a seasonal menu.

Chelsea Physic Garden
66 Royal Hospital Road, London, SW3 4HS Tel. 020 7352 5646
www.chelseaphysicgarden.co.uk

ALL THAT GLISTENS...

With Christmas around the corner, gifting ideas are on our minds. See our selection of indulgent and luxurious gifts below.



Transformulas 23 Carat Hydration Gold, £41.95
A luxurious hydrating cream which is enriched with 23 Carat gold - adding a gorgeous golden sheen to your complexion - as well as having anti ageing benefits.



SensatioNail Polish to Gel Kit, £34.99
A super snazzy at home gel kit which turns any mani into gel. With 0% chipping and highly durable - this is a must have to keep your Christmas pedis in place or simply a great treat for any beauty-aholic!



Monsoon Rose Gold, £35.00
The first ever fragrance from the famous retailer, with notes of fresh citrus and warm feminine layers, its the perfect fragrance for Christmas day or a special gift for a loved one.



Rubis Rose Gold Tweezers, £32.00
Precision is the key! These sharp and precise tweezers will have everyone checking out your brows! Long lasting, Stainless Steel and in a gorgeous colour - what's not to love?



Fake Bake 3D Face & Body Tanning Contour Kit, £49.95
Including the worlds best known Tanning brands best sellers, this kit helps ensure you are tanned and primed to perfection for the party season ahead.



Embryolisse Lait Creme Concentre, £20.00
A French beauty cult that every celeb lover needs this Christmas! Keeping your skin dewy and moisturised, this A list favourite is a needs be. It's also in a unique golden package.

A clean bill of health for +richmond practice after a Care Quality Commission inspection

A clean bill of health for +richmond practice after a Care Quality Commission inspection

The Care Quality Commission (CQC) or healthcare watchdog has praised the +richmond practice team, after they were included in a pilot inspection with four other independent sector providers. The CQC undertook a comprehensive review of the practice in the five categories for which all health care providers, both private and NHS, are scrutinised. The CQC gathered information from their inspection, ongoing monitoring data and feedback given by patients, the provider and members of the public. They considered the following questions when assessing the service:

Are they safe? Are they effective? Are they responsive? Are they caring? Are they well led?

In their report about +richmond practice the Care Quality Commission said:

“Patients reported that they had received an excellent service and that the staff was caring and helpful. Many comments expressed satisfaction at being listened to and they found the reception staff friendly, efficient and helpful. All patients commented on the cleanliness of the practice.”

The practice which started from a single room at *Roseneath*

dental surgery in 2005 has successfully established a multi-disciplinary team of private GPs, Gynaecologists, Paediatricians and a Radiologist in the heart of Richmond. They provide same-day appointments, usually without a referral from a GP.

While the CQC is not at present grading private providers +richmond practice got a clean bill of health and a glowing CQC review.

Dr Sebastian Renz, +richmond practice medical director said: “We are delighted to receive such a positive report from the CQC – which reflects the quality of care we provide and the dedication and professionalism of our staff. Good results come from attending to the requirements every day. You have to keep chipping away at it. He also commented

on the inspectors being curious about every detail and informally they even commented on the media available in the consulting rooms including the *Peppa Pig* DVDs we use to distract younger patients.

For more information about the practice or to arrange a same-day appointment call +richmond practice

020 8940 5009

richmondpractice.co.uk



richmond practice
PRIVATE DOCTORS' SERVICE

GP • Paediatrician • Gynaecologist

020 8940 5009 richmondpractice.co.uk

Deck the halls with Maped Helix.

Maped Helix is ensuring that your Christmas tree stands out and is beautifully decorated this year as the festive season begins.

The colouring specialists will be starting December with some crafty Christmas cheer as their new **Christmas Colouring Pack** brightens up the season.

With a trio of decorations, you can add that personal touch to 3D tree and bauble decorations whilst making those stars sparkle.

Combined with a dozen Color'Peps Long Life felt tips, you can be safe in the knowledge that Maped's

colouring products are not just for Christmas.

With a selection of intricate designs, you can hang your masterpieces and ensure the halls are suitably decked to impress Santa and his sleigh on Christmas Eve.

Lianne Fletcher, Marketing Manager at Maped Helix, will be making sure her tree is dressed to impress when the snow begins to fall;

“Christmas is all about going that extra mile and adding the personal touches, be it to your tree or your cards.

“We've created something that allows your tree to be a unique

reflection of your personality and the ability to match your tree to your household.”

Color'peps Christmas Activity Pack is available from all good retailers across the UK and online.

www.mapedhelix.co.uk

Advertise in PARENTS NEWS
020 8337 6337
fergus@parents-news.co.uk
www.parents-news.co.uk



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email admin@oxbridgeuk.com

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email info@oxbridgeuk.com

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PENGUIN RANDOM HOUSE CHILDREN'S

** CHRISTMAS GIFTS **

Gifts for all ages



Beatrix Potter Fashion Designer Collection

Five of Beatrix Potter's best-loved tales with new covers, notes and endpapers from influential fashion designers including Henry Holland, Preen and Orla Kiely. The perfect stocking-filler.

The Tales of: Squirrel Nutkin, Peter Rabbit, Mrs. Tiggly-Winkle, Tom Kitten and Jemima Puddle-Duck
£6.99 each HB / Published 7th July



V&A Collection

The Very Arty Box is filled with postcards and activity cards. It is the perfect gift for all budding artists and designers. *Fashion Mash-Up* is packed with over 75 pieces of clothing, 250 stickers with fabulous glitter and foil finishes, styling tips and 5 Instagram backgrounds - the ultimate book for all fashion lovers. Readers can style head to toe the 6 models illustrated by fashion favourite, Daisy de Villeneuve. *The Twelve Days of Christmas* combines William Morris patterns and new illustrations - a gorgeous Christmas gift to be treasured by all fans of art and design.

The Very Arty Book: £9.99 / Published 27th October
Fashion Mash-Up: £17.99 / Published 27th October
The Twelve Days of Christmas: £14.99 HB / Published 3rd November



Vintage Ladybird Colouring Books

A Ladybird Book of Colouring contains twenty-four iconic Ladybird covers to be reimaged and coloured by children and adults of all ages. The hardback cover and pocket size dimensions make these titles stand out amongst the current trend of colouring and crafting books. *Well-loved Tales Cinderella* will contain reproductions of each of the 24 classic images, from the ugly sisters and the fairy godmother to the golden coach and all three of Cinderella's iconic ball gowns.

A Ladybird Book of Colouring: £6.99 HB / Published 4th August
Well-loved Tales Cinderella: £6.99 HB / Published 1st September



Meningitis Baby Watch

Tense or bulging soft spot

High temperature. Warning - could be normal or low in babies under 3 months

Very sleepy/staring expression/too sleepy to wake up

Breathing fast/difficulty breathing

Extreme shivering

'Pin prick' rash/marks or purple bruises anywhere on the body

Sometimes diarrhoea

Is your baby getting worse fast? Babies can get ill very quickly, so check often.

Unusual grunting sounds

Vomiting/refusing to feed

Irritable when picked up, with a high-pitched, moaning or odd cry

Blotchy skin, getting paler or turning blue

A stiff body with jerky movements, or else floppy and lifeless

Pain/irritability from muscle aches or severe limb/joint pain

Cold hands and feet

Not every baby gets all these symptoms and they can appear in any order

Get your baby vaccinated to protect against meningitis. Vaccines give excellent protection but can't prevent all forms.

For information and support our Freephone helpline is available 365 days a year

080 8800 3344 (UK) 1800 41 33 44 (Ireland)

helpline@meningitis.org

www.meningitis.org

Meningitis 
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Peppa Pig Party Time Race Game

It's Suzy Sheep's Birthday so Peppa Pig and her family are on their way to join the party, but will you be the first to arrive? Suitable for 2-4 players, aged 4+.

Available from Argos, Toys R Us, John Lewis, Amazon.co.uk RRP £9.99



Peppa Pig Puzzle & Colour

A giant double-sided Peppa Pig floor jigsaw puzzle. Children can piece together the brightly coloured image on one side and then when finished, enjoy piecing together a different black & white image on the reverse side, to then colour it in. Includes FREE crayons in a hand travel bag. Suitable for ages 3+ and measures 90x60cm when finished.



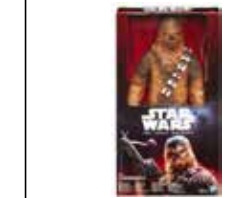
Available from Smyths, Toys R Us, John, Amazon.co.uk RRP £12.99



DINO 3D Puzzle Models

Children can create their very own, realistic 3D DINO model! Build a fantastic T-Rex, Triceratops, Stegosaurus and Plesiosaurus using the easy to assemble durable foam puzzle pieces. No glue or tools required. Suitable for ages 8+.

Available from Smyths, Toys R Us, Wilkinson's JohnLewis, Amazon.co.uk RRP £7.99

 SelfiMic Stick, £22.95 from global_megastore	 Nerf N-Strike Thunderbow Blaster, £19.99 from Argos	 Finding Dory Toy, £8.99 from ToysRUs	 Disney Frozen Magic Elsa Doll, £8.99 from Argos
 Paw Patrol 52 Piece Drawing Case, £7.49 from vinsaniuk	 Gifts for Kids Whether your kid is a Lego lover or a Frozen fanatic, wannabe Santa's should flock to eBay.co.uk's wide selection of must-have children's toys this Christmas		 Wet Head Game, £16.99 from ToysRUs
 Paw Patrol Zoomer, £72.39 from stortfordtoys	 Vtech Kidizoom Multi Function Smart Watch Plus, £37.99 from giftzgallery14	 Pie Face Showdown, £14.89 from respring-mall	 Star Wars Chewbacca toy, £24.95 from bpsalesdirect


the enchanted christmas house

A truly memorable adventure that the children will never forget

The Enchanted Christmas House is a 3 hour interactive theatrical extravaganza that will delight the whole family.

This year's show is the Santa's Pink Pigeon and the Glitter Snatchers.

You'll begin the tour in the Garden of Winter Wonder for a fabulous playtime filled with creative activities that inspire awe and wonder. Then meet the Elves in the BUSY ELVES WORKSHOP to make fabulous arts and crafts. Help scare away the 'Glitter Snatchers' with all manner of festive singing, dancing and creative ventures. Meet Mrs. Claus in her GINGERBREAD KITCHEN to decorate gingerbread men with even more musical fun and fantasy. Next stop is the GENIE'S CHRISTMAS CAVE to play fabulous games with the Genie and his Elves.

For a fairy-take finale, join Mrs. Claus and Santa's Magical Friends for an interactive show bringing together all the characters you've seen on tour. Grown-ups can wash down all this excitement with mulled wine and mince pies.

The Enchanted Christmas House is the best in family entertainment and interactive fun.

The Enchanted Christmas House takes place in a 'Conde Nast' Award winning venue and is the brainchild of eminent child psychologist and author of children's and parenting books, Dr Margot Sunderland. Activities led by professional actors and play experts.

A magical Christmas adventure for the whole family

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