



SLS Parent Newsletter

Spring 1 2024

Here are some of the exciting local events for children and young people coming up over half term.

Portsmouth BookFest 2024



Portsmouth BookFest 2024 runs from 11th February to 17th February. This includes an exciting line up of online and in person talks, workshops and activities for all ages.

At in-person author events you'll have the chance to buy a book and get it signed by the author with book sales supported by the authors themselves or partner bookseller, independent bookshop The Hayling Island Bookshop.

[BookFest 2024: Children's Programme – Public Library Service \(portsmouth.gov.uk\)](https://portsmouth.gov.uk)

Reimagining Kipling at the BASE

11 February, 18 February and 25 February, 3pm-5pm
3 March, 3pm-7pm

Portsmouth Guildhall

FREE – Please [book your ticket](#) in advance.

Suitable for ages 13-18

Explore spoken word, rap, and poetry in dynamic workshops. Immerse yourself in the artistry inspired by the works of Portsmouth resident Rudyard Kipling. Craft your unique pieces, refine your performance prowess, and connect with fellow young creatives in this transformative experience.

Meet Zog!

£3 per child – accompanying adults don't need a ticket.

Zog is the keenest dragon in school. He's also the most accident-prone, getting into one scrape after another as he learns to roar and fly and breathe fire. But who is the mysterious little girl that keeps coming to his aid? And can she really help with his toughest test: capturing a princess?

Hear the story, take part in a craft activity, and meet Julia Donaldson and Axel Sheffler's friendly dragon Zog.

Tuesday 13 February:

10am: Paulsgrove Library. [Book a place.](#)

12:30pm: Cosham Library. [Book a place.](#)

3pm: North End Library. [Book a place.](#)

Wednesday 14 February:

10am: Carnegie Library. [Book a place.](#)

12:30pm: Southsea Library. [Book a place.](#)

3pm: Alderman Lacey Library. [Book a place.](#)

Debutots storytime sessions

Thursday 15 February

£3 per child (free for Leisure card holders) – accompanying adults don't need a ticket.

Debutots Portsmouth is excited to celebrate Portsmouth Libraries BookFest! Come and join us in Magical Story World, as we journey through our interactive story together with lots of silly sounds and awesome actions. We will sing, dance, pop bubbles and travel through the wonder of our imaginations.

11am: Portsea Library, John Pounds Centre. [Book a place.](#)

2pm: Cosham Library. [Book a place.](#)

4pm: Alderman Lacey Library. [Book a place.](#)

Suitable for children aged 6 months – 5 years.

Dinosaurs!

Friday 16 February

£5 per child (£2.50 for Leisure Card holders) – accompanying adults don't need a ticket.

Hear dinosaur stories, take part in a dinosaur activity, and meet some very special dinosaurs to hear some amazing facts. Puppets provided by Skywalkers.

10:30am: Portsmouth Central Library. [Book a place.](#)

2:30pm: Beddow Library. [Book a place.](#)

Suitable for ages 4+



Writing for laughs with Lynne Stretch

Saturday 17 February

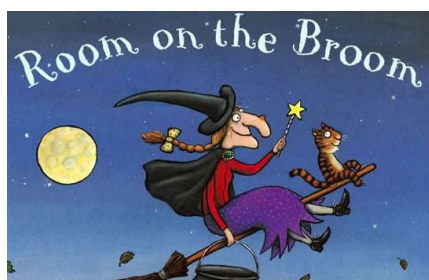
£3 per child (free for Leisure card holders) -accompanying adults don't need a ticket.

This is a creative writing workshop for children aged 7 to 11 years old with the theme of laughter in mind. All materials will be provided so bring your creative ideas to make this a workshop you will always remember.

10:30am-12 noon: Cosham Library. [Book a place.](#)

2pm-3.30pm: Southsea Library. [Book a place.](#)

Room on the Broom story time



A special story time for children with additional support needs. This event is **free** and drop-in, and all are welcome.

Alderman Lacey Library: Tuesday 13 February at 2pm

Portsmouth Museum



10th Feb 2024 – 18th Feb 2024 10:00 AM – 4:30 PM

Portsmouth Museum and Art Gallery hosts ocean-themed fun for all the family this half term.

Ocean-themed craft activities

Cost: £2.50 per person (£1 for Portsmouth Leisure Card holders)

Drop in from 10.30am to 12pm, or 1.30pm to 3pm.

Ocean at the End of the Lane trail

Cost: £2 per person (50p for Portsmouth Leisure Card holders)

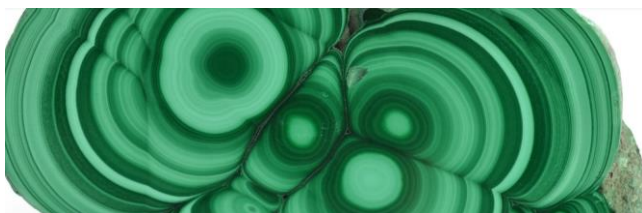
Solent Seas Art Competition

Bring in a drawing or painting of your favourite sea creature found around the Portsmouth coastline. The competition will be judged by the museum's Curator of Art and the top three winners will have their art displayed online.

This competition is open to children aged 16 and under.

Plus there will be a chance to guess the number of sweets in a jar to win the lot, and guess the name of our giant sea creature – and win it!

Portsmouth Natural History Museum



Meet mineralogists from Southampton Mineral and Fossil Society at Cumberland House from 10.30am to 3pm on Wednesday 14 February.

They will be on hand to identify your minerals and to show some of the minerals that they have been working on in the museum store.

Then, try out using streak plates to see if you can identify minerals and get hands-on with some mineral activities.

Free entry, no booking required.

D-Day Museum



There's a full week of family friendly activities taking place at The D-Day Story this February half-term, from 'Spies and Lies' to 'The Big Drop- Make your own Parachute', all included in the price of a ticket.

Details about all the events are below:

[Events – The D-Day Story, Portsmouth \(thedaystory.com\)](https://thedaystory.com)

