

Family Information

Autumn 21 newsletter for families

We are already halfway through the Autumn term and have lots of exciting activity ideas to share with you if you are looking for things to do with your children over half term.

The weather forecast looks good for the first days of half term, and Norfolk has lots of interesting outdoor spaces which are free... parks, beaches, and woodlands.

Getting outside gives a chance for children to use some of their boundless energy... and it's good for physical and mental health, but it's also a stimulation for brain development, communication skills and learning...



Before you go...

Talk about where you are going... what do we need to wear, to take?

Let your child help make a sandwich for themselves or fill their water bottle.

While you're out...

Encourage your child to look for treasure, conkers, acorns, seashells, interesting leaves, etc

Notice what interests your child and talk with them about it.

Take a photo on your phone to remind you later of the best moments.



If you need further inspiration for family fun this half term, then look no further! There are some fantastic activities for families taking place across the county - including some spooky Halloween fun.

Discover new games to play together, learn to paint Black History style and enjoy some downtime with bedtime story hour. The Family Learning Team have lots of exciting new online sessions available for families with children aged 0-11. All sessions are FREE and there is something for everyone to enjoy!

To find out more and to book your place, visit www.norfolk.gov.uk/halftermactivities

50 Things to do before you're five in Norfolk!

Free and fun sessions building your child's learning and development through getting active, making, communicating and exploring. [50 Things to do website](#)

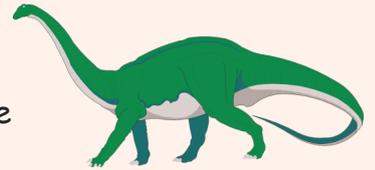


Meanwhile at our museums, you can create your own fairytale, track down ghosts and ghouls, hunt for elves, immerse yourselves in goo, guts and gore or take a journey through children's literature. Some events require advance booking. Find out more, including how to book on the [museums webpages](#).

Our libraries are also continuing to run a range of events for children and young people of all ages including brilliant Bounce and Rhyme sessions and a virtual visit to Banham Zoo - visit the [What's On page](#) for more information.

#DippyOnTour

If you have not had a chance to visit Dippy, be sure to do so before the exhibition closes on 30th October <https://dippy.cathedral.org.uk/>



Another wonderful FREE exhibition is the [#gaiaatmancroft](#) display at The Church of St Peter Mancroft. A vast planet Earth suspended from on high, slowly rotating, and helping to foster conversations about climate change.

For more information, please visit <https://bit.ly/3ab3Oc5>

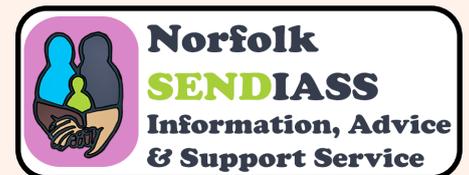


Norwich Science Festival

The Norwich science festival is back this half-term 23-30 October to bring your family all things science. To find out what's on and to get involved you can visit their website [Norwich Science Festival](#)

Whatever your child does at half term, it will be more fun for them if you listen, let them tell you about it, show your interest and sometimes join in... but don't take over, sometimes let them be in charge of the play.

Norfolk SEND Partnership (previously known as Parent Partnership) have changed their name and have a new logo to go with it too! Still the same service providing free and impartial information, advice and support.



Finding childcare and financial support

If you are working and using an Ofsted registered childcare provider, check if you're eligible for [Tax-Free Childcare](#) You can get up to £500 every 3 months for each of your children to help with the costs of childcare. It can also be used to help pay for after school clubs and play schemes. If you are in receipt of Universal Credit you cannot get Tax-Free Childcare at the same time, to check which scheme you are better off with use this [childcare calculator](#) to work out which type of support is best for you.

Admission to reception classes

The admission round for entry to reception classes for the school year 2022/23 is now open and closes on 15th January 2022. You will need to make an application for a reception class place, even if your child currently attends a nursery on a school site. For more information about the process click here [Admission to reception classes](#)



If you have any questions, need support with childcare or have any comments, please get in touch with Family Information at fis@norfolk.gov.uk, 0344 800 8020 or send us a message on [Facebook](#).



Norfolk County Council

