Wandsworth schools and families

FEBRUARY 2023

## Headstart

Distributed through schools across the borough

Good rating from Ofsted

See pages 5-7

Joining forces with Apple

See pages <u>12-13</u>





Work Match provides free employment support and training for all Wandsworth Residents. Our Retail and Hospitality course has been a great success with attendees securing jobs with top brands including Levi's, Superdry and Gordon Ramsay's Bread Street Kitchen.

The courses will be held in person in the Clapham Junction and Battersea Area. To register your interest and to find out more information about our service and the free training and guidance we offer,

go to: wandsworthworkmatch.org email: wandsworthworkmatch@

wandsworth.gov.uk

telephone: (020) 8871 5191



I registered with Work
Match and attended the
course which really helped
me to prepare for
employment and
understand the demands
of working in a retail role...
I had interviews with
Mulberry, Abercrombie
& Fitch and Levi's and
was successful at Levi's.

(Olga – Keyholder at Levi's)

Due to popular demand we have added further dates and we look forward to helping more residents gain a great new job.

#### Retail

Monday February 13 Monday March 20 Monday April 24 Monday June 5 Monday July 3 Monday July 31

#### **Hospitality**

Monday March 6 Tuesday April 11 Tuesday May 9 Monday June 19 Monday July 17





# What's inside for Wandsworth families this month

**Good result from Ofsted** 

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Send your comments and suggestions to headstart@wandsworth.gov.uk



#### Welcome to Headstart

In this edition of Headstart I'm really pleased to report that the council's Children's Services department has received a 'good' rating from Ofsted. This means we have improved the help and support we offer to our local children and families, particularly children in care and other vulnerable young people, since our latest inspection.

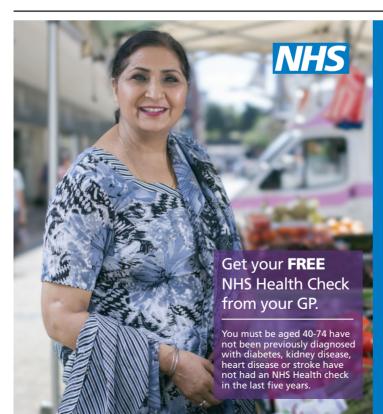
We're really proud of this – but of course we can always do more, and I guarantee we will never stop working with local families to make sure children live their best lives.

In this edition, get information for families struggling with the cost of living crisis, find out about our exciting work with tech giants Apple, read about how we're getting young people involved with tackling climate change, get updates on school streets and breakfast clubs, and much more.

#### Kate Stock.

Cabinet Member for Children





For more information visit www.wandsworth.gov.uk/healthchecks









### Big tick from Ofsted

#### Wandsworth Council has received a glowing report from Ofsted for the way it helps and supports children.

The report rated the council as "good" for the services it provides for children and young people following a visit from inspectors in November.

It said children and families were benefitting from receiving the right support and that the council is "committed to improving the lives of children," meaning children are at the centre of the council's ethos and approach.

Cabinet Member for Children, Kate Stock said: "This is a huge achievement for all our brilliant staff across Children's Services and means we have received our highest rating from Ofsted inspectors in more than eight years.

"The drive for continued improvement reflects the commitment and quality of our staff who understand children's needs well and ensure high-quality services are available at the right time, working together with children and their families and always making sure they have a voice. I'm proud that we are putting children at the heart of everything we do."

This is a huge achievement for all our brilliant staff across Children's Services.

Kate Stock,
Cabinet Member for Children



## Enjoy a warmer welcome

A Warmer Welcome at
Wandsworth children's
centres are local places
where families and
children up to the age of
18 can come along for free.
There are hot drinks, food and a
wide range of things to do.

There's also the chance to have a chat and meet other members of your community. You can also get advice from expert staff on other support available to families if you need it.

#### Go along to:

#### **BATTERSEA**

- York Gardens Children's Centre 9am to 4pm
- Yvonne Carr Children's Centre 9am to 4.30pm

#### **ROEHAMPTON**

Eastwood Children's Centre - 9am to 4.30pm

#### WANDSWORTH

West Hill in the Park - 9am to 4.30pm

#### **TOOTING**

- Smallwood Children's Centre 9am to 4.30pm
- Franciscan Children's Centre 9am to 4.30pm



Find your nearest warm space at wandsworth.gov.uk/warm-spaces



One mother said she discovered the Yvonne Carr children's centre during Covid, and since then it has really helped her daughter's development. "Now with this Warmer Welcome programme it's just amazing especially with the food and drinks. My daughter can go to Stay and Play, then we have a little lunch and then I drop her to nursery so it's really convenient."





#### Cabinet member for children Kate Stock said:

With our Warmer Welcome offer we're providing children and families with a place and space where they can spend time, keep warm and have a hot drink and something to eat while connecting with each other and their local community. We're supporting families by taking the pressure off the decision to heat or eat this winter.





### Help for families

Struggling to make ends meet? There's loads of support on offer from the council and local voluntary groups.

The council's allocated £5m to cost of living support including:

- More money for the voluntary sector to help local people, including Waste Not Want Not, Rackets Cubed and Be
   Enriched which provide their local communities with food,
   CREW Energy to run energy efficiency advice sessions and
   Sound Minds for mental health support. Visit the Cost of Living Hub for details wandsworth.gov.uk/hub.
- More money for the Wandsworth Discretionary Social Fund to provide fuel and supermarket vouchers in a crisis.
   You can apply online at wandsworth.gov.uk/apply-for-crisis-assistance-for-food-and-fuel
- Funding for Citizens Advice Wandsworth to employ more advisors. See the article on the right for detail of how to get in touch with them.
- Support for families including help with the cost of school uniforms and food and activities during school holidays for children on free school meals. Visit wandsworth.gov.uk/ cost-of-living-family-childcare
- Setting up **Warm Spaces** where people can go to stay warm over the winter including a dedicated Warmer Welcome scheme in children's centres see pages 8-9.

### The CAB's Cost of Living Team can help residents

- Find out if they're eligible for financial support and benefits
- Get advice on budgeting and energy efficiency, as well as referrals for specialist debt advice.
- Resolve underlying issues, for example problems with wages, help with rent, and potential entitlement to disability benefits.
- Get referral to and information about other local groups and agencies.

To get in touch submit an enquiry via a form at **cawandsworth.org/get-advice** or phone the free Adviceline on **0808 278 7833** (Monday-Friday 10-4) Alternatively, visit in person at these

Alternatively, visit in person at these locations:

- Battersea Library, 265 Lavender Hill, SW11
   1JB (Monday, Wednesday & Friday 10-4)
- Roehampton, Picasso Building, Mount Clare House, Minstead Gardens, SW15 4EE (Tuesday & Thursday 10-4)

### Parents welcome at Mondays at The ROSE

Fancy a hot cuppa, friendly welcome or activity session after you've done the school drop-off in Battersea and Nine Elms? The ROSE community clubroom on Ascalon Street, SW8 4DL, is now open on Mondays from 9am to 7pm with film screenings, tea and coffee, hot lunches between 1-3.30pm or just a quiet place to get some work done.

Plus local digital charity Power to Connect will be on hand until the end of February to answer your IT questions or help you set up your device.

nineelmslondon.com/ mondays-at-the-rose







## Apple gives schools a taste for tech

St Mary's and Sacred Heart RC primary schools in Battersea have teamed up with global technology firm Apple to learn coding and talk tech in a new initiative ahead of the company's move into Wandsworth in 2023.

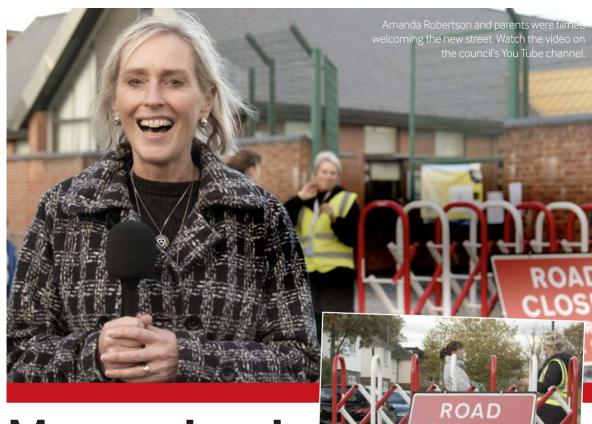
Pupils and teachers have been picking up coding skills through the Battersea Apple Project. Teachers have learned skills in coding and app development which in turn will inspire their pupils to present ideas using animation, augmented reality and digital creativity.

And students are learning about coding and the language of technology with the Everyone Can Code curriculum.

Kate Stock, Wandsworth Council's Cabinet Member for Children, said: "We're looking forward to rolling out projects like this across the borough, bringing digital learning to more of our schools and working in partnership with Apple as they establish themselves in their new Wandsworth home.

"We hope that this is just the start of other collaborations across the borough with Apple as they settle in to become a much-valued member of our community."





## More school streets roll out

#### Beatrix Potter school in Earlsfield is the latest to get a School Street.

Headteacher Amanda Robertson said: "We are absolutely delighted to have launched our School Street. This has been a fantastic change to the safety of all our children as they enter school in the morning and leave at the end of the day."

Wandsworth is committed to creating School Streets at half of all primary schools by 2030. They mean cleaner air around school entrances and safer walking and cycling to school. Currently around a third have them

and two more could open soon in Tooting.

A consultation will be open until May to allow people to share feedback of the Beatrix Potter scheme.

Wandsworth
SCHOOL
STREETS
Wandsworth

The council is currently

looking at the responses to the consultations on two further School Streets at St Boniface Primary and Tooting Primary Schools before a decision is made on whether they should proceed.

If you think your school needs a School Street, email **schoolstreets@wandsworth.gov.uk** 

Find out more about School Streets, including a list of schools that have them, at wandsworth.gov.uk/school-streets-scheme



Power to Connect has now recycled and rehomed 2,224 devices to more than 80 local schools and 20 community organisations.

That means more than ten per cent of the school population in Wandsworth have now received a Power to Connect device since April 2020 to help them do schoolwork, homework, keep in touch with friends and family, complete university applications and find out about job opportunities.

Power to Connect is a partnership between the council and Battersea Power Station. Originally set up during

the pandemic, it now has a long-term plan to target digital exclusion.

Parents can now attend free digital skills workshops and get one-to-one digital support in local primary schools, libraries, community centres and warm spaces.

You can ask questions and get help including creating or accessing email accounts, password recovery, running updates, installing apps, filing in forms and more.

To find out more and sign up, call, text or WhatsApp **07934553192,** email **hello@powertoconnect.co.uk** or go to **www.powertoconnect.co.uk** 

## Schools explore the climate cricic



Look out for an upcoming exhibition by local schoolchildren. Single Use Planet will show their artwork exploring the climate crisis.

last year's successful A Place to Call Home, which saw artwork from children across Wandsworth come together in an exhibition in Southside. Students are seen here with Wandsworth director of children's services Ana Popovici. Students from most of the borough's primary schools are currently working on pieces of art about single-use plastics. All their work will then come together in a group exhibition.

The project is being run by the council's arts and children's services team alongside the Royal College of Art. Artist Blake Joshua will be leading the project.

Encouraging young people to engage with the climate emergency through school projects is part of the council's work to become carbon neutral by 2030. Other work with schools includes

- Encouraging active, sustainable travel including providing bicycles to some schools and creating more school streets (see page 14)
- Decarbonising school buildings, including the installation of green walls
- Working closely with schools to audit and improve air quality in and around them

## Share your views on air quality

The council wants your input into the new Wandsworth Citizens Assembly on air quality.

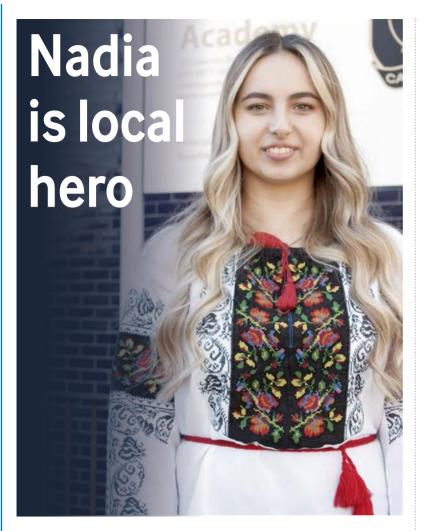
The assembly is a randomly chosen and representative group of local residents who will discuss what needs to be done in Wandsworth to clean up the air. It's keen to get ideas from schools, youth groups, families and young people, which will feed into its recommendations to the council.

Do you have ideas on how air quality can be improved in the borough or are you or a member of your family affected by air pollution? Do you have ideas of how to tackle poor air quality across Wandsworth in a way that improves our health and addresses climate change?

To share ideas email

togetheronclimatechange@wandsworth.gov.uk





Congratulations to Nadia Sasac, who attends Southfields Academy. She has won a Wandsworth Civic Award, given to local residents who go out of their way to help their local community and other people.

She came to Wandsworth to escape the war in Ukraine and has already made a huge difference.

She has combined preparing for her exams with helping other young Ukrainians and their families. Southfields Academy has welcomed more than a dozen of these young Ukrainians in recent months and has been working hard to make them feel at home.

Nadia has been crucial in helping them integrate into the community, meeting with them most mornings before school and at break time to make sure they are not isolated. She has also supported their families with translation.

Ukrainian families living in Wandsworth can find out about sources of support at **wandsworth.gov.uk/Ukraine.** 



#### Local families need you

Home-Start Wandsworth is looking for people to join their network of trained volunteers, supporting families with young children in Wandsworth.

Volunteers help families who may be struggling with post-natal depression, isolation, financial hardship or disability.

Visit homestartwandsworth. co.uk/volunteer, email enquiries@ homestartwandsworth.org.uk or call on 020 7924 5268.

#### Help a child to read

Beanstalk is looking for volunteers willing to support children with their reading. You will receive training and will work within a local school.

Visit beanstalkcharity.org.uk

#### Need a childminder?

The council's Childcare Brokerage Service can help you find appropriate childcare, including funded places for two, three and four year olds.

Call (020) 8871 6223.



## Free music industry courses help young people tune into career dreams

Young people in Wandsworth wanting to explore a career in the music industry are invited to apply for free training and mentoring sessions, thanks to a new programme from World Heart Beat Music Academy following the opening of its new venue in Nine Elms.

Starting this month, the local music charity is providing training sessions, masterclasses, mentoring and paid placements with high profile industry partners to help people aged 14-25 make their first career step.

The new Emerge programme offers training in production and working as an independent artist and

helps young people gain insights into UK music roles. Sessions are held on weekday evenings so that they can be attended alongside existing college studies or work

Kemi Akinola, Wandsworth Council's Cabinet Member for the Voluntary Sector, Business Engagement and Culture said: "These really are great opportunities to help make it fairer for young people to get into an industry which is notoriously difficult to enter. I'd encourage anyone who is interested in a music career to sign up for these free sessions, learn new skills and explore all the options open to you."

Find out more and apply at worldheartbeat.org or call **020 8870 3042** 



### Making schools healthier

#### It's one year since the Healthy Schools London scheme came to Wandsworth, so how are schools doing?

The scheme, supported by the Mayor of London, enables schools to promote the health and wellbeing of students by changing their environment, ethos and culture.

In the past year nine schools have received a bronze award, one has completed silver and several more schools are working towards achieving an award.

Last year in an anonymous survey the council asked 3,300 young people about their health, and the results have helped schools understand what areas they should focus on to support their HSL applications.

#### Read the results at wandsworth.gov.uk/young-people-health-wellbeing-survey

But it's not just about awards – what counts is the impact on pupils, staff and the wider community. For example, to get a bronze award all school meals are assessed against the Government's School Food Standards and then advice and help is given where change is needed. Other areas include support and training with physical and mental health education and training on cooking and gardening.

In the summer term an event will be held to celebrate schools who have achieved HSL status. It will showcase changes made by schools and encourage others to take part.



## Magic Breakfasts on their way

Twenty schools have signed up to take part in the council's pilot project to provide healthy hot breakfasts.

Wandsworth is working with the charity Magic Breakfast to run a year-long, council-funded pilot scheme which means any child who needs it in those schools will be able to get a healthy breakfast for free.

It's part of the council's wider Schools Food Strategy which is being developed alongside young people, families and other organisations including the NHS and voluntary groups.

This aims to tackle food insecurity – three per cent of primary school pupils have nothing to eat for breakfast at all and 17 per cent of secondary pupils don't eat lunch. Other actions will include a review of the school meals service.

The pilot schemes are due to start next month and the type of service offered will vary between schools. Ask your school and keep an eye on the council website for more information, and we'll take a look at how the scheme is progressing in the next Headstart.





## More parent champions make the grade

Congratulations to the second group of local parents who have trained to officially become Wandsworth Early Years Parent Champions.

Early Years Parent Champions are local people who meet families across the borough and tell them about services that can support them, such as funding for early education. The idea is other parents can help in a way that a professional might not be able to.

In the last 12 months parent champions have reached more than 1100 families. They've attended community events, presented the awards at the National Family Information Service Annual Awards and won the Coram Parent Champions Scheme of the

Year and Scheme Coordinator of the Year.

They also support early years SEND families and work in partnership with the voluntary sector including Homestart, Elays and Little Village.

"We're really proud of our award-winning Parent Champion scheme and want to thank all the volunteers who have stepped up to speak to other local parents, share experiences and help people navigate the ups and downs of family life," said Cabinet Member for Children Kate Stock.

Find out more about the scheme by searching for Early Years Parent Champions on our Family Information Service – wandsworth.gov.uk/fis



## Share your love

All children are unique and deserve the best care. If you are interested in a career as a foster carer and could give a teenager a stable and loving home, get in touch.

In return you will get full support, training and generous allowances and fees.

Call **0808 175 3327** 

Email fosteringrecruitment@wandsworth.gov.uk Visit the Fostering for Wandsworth facebook page

#### Ben and Lizzie's story

Wandsworth Council called to say they had found a potential placement match – which means a child who's entered the social care system and needs a safe home. By 6pm 'B' and his social worker were at our door.

By the end of our first day together, my partner Ben and I learned that 'B' loved board games, was in top sets at school, but had never heard of world war two and couldn't use a knife and fork. After seven months in our care, 'B' returned to his biological family as planned, and we still keep in touch.

In our case, the application and approval process to become carers averaged around three hours a week of interviews and paperwork. As short term foster carers, we're on hand to look aft er a child from between two nights to two years. It's incredibly rewarding, and the challenging moments feel wholly worthwhile.

it's incredibly rewarding and the challenging moments feel wholly worthwhile 99



# Don't suffer in silence

Many people are victims of domestic abuse without even realising it – but support is available 24 hours a day.

Domestic abuse is any incident of controlling, coercive or threatening behaviour, violence or abuse by intimate partners or family members, regardless of their gender or sexuality.

The abuse can be psychological and emotional, violent or threatening, physical and sexual, controlling or coercive. It can also be economic – controlling the victim's money to make it difficult for them to leave.

#### Where to get help

Call the Independent Domestic Abuse Advocacy Service on 0203 879 3544

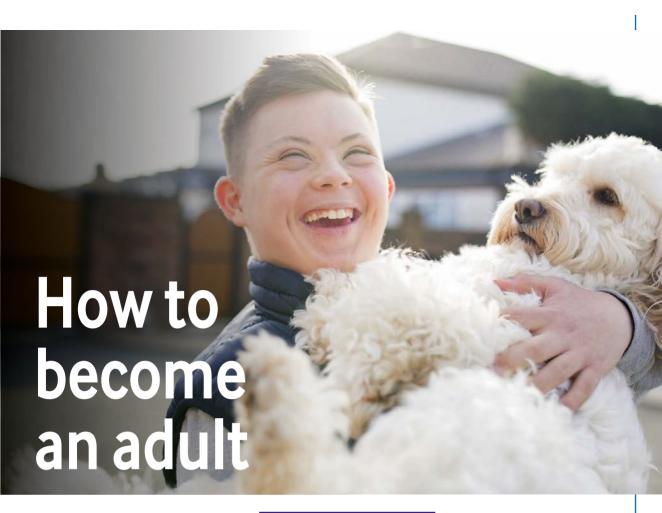
Call the 24-hour National Domestic Violence Helpline on 0808 2000 247

Go to a one-stop shop- just turn up, no appointment necessary

- St Mark's, Battersea Rise, SW11 1EJ, every Monday between 10am and noon.
- Picasso Building, Minstead Gardens, Roehampton SW15 4EE, every Wednesday between 10am and 12.30pm.

For other sources of support, visit wandsworth.gov.uk /getting-help-for-domestic-violence-and-abuse





### For young people with SEND, moving to an adult life can be daunting.

The council has a special team to help you plan for adulthood, think about your future and become more independent. They will also help you navigate the move to adult social care services. Starting at the age of 14, they will work closely with families on a clear, defined pathway to adulthood.

### Find out more at wandsworth.gov. uk/moving-from-childrens-to-adults-services

Find out about all support for children with special needs and disabilities at wandworth.gov.uk/localoffer

#### **CASE STUDY**

#### Jack's transition journey

Jack has cerebral palsy and is a wheelchair user. Jack has been supported by the Transitions team to think about his future career plans and the skills he needs to live independently.

Jack has learned to dress himself and he's had help managing his anxiety so he can eat out and socialise. He's also enrolled on a screenwriting course and plans to move out of the family home when he goes to college.

"Disabled people are wrapped in cotton wool too much but just because you're disabled, it doesn't mean you can't go out and live your best life," he said.

## FIVE ways to manage winter illness

This winter we are seeing high levels of flu, COVID-19 and scarlet fever. Here are some simple steps that parents can take to help protect their families and those around them.

#### 1. Staying home when unwell

To help prevent illnesses spreading, if your child is unwell and has a fever, they should stay home from school or nursery until they feel better, and the fever has resolved.

If your child has diarrhoea and/or vomits, they should stay off school or nursery for at least 48 hours after their symptoms clear up. Adults should try to stay home when unwell too.

#### 2. Hand hygiene

Regularly washing hands in soap and warm water for 20 seconds or using hand sanitiser when out and about can help you and your child to stay well and not pass on germs.

#### 3. Catching coughs and sneezes

Use a tissue to catch coughs and sneezes and then bin it before washing your hands with soap and water or hand sanitiser.

Teaching children this habit and providing them with tissues will help them to not pass on germs when they are unwell.

#### 4. Get vaccinated

Flu can be very unpleasant and sometimes lead to more serious illness. Flu vaccination is still available to those who are eligible and offers the best protection against the virus.

Eligible children include: children aged two and three on 31 August 2022; all primary school-aged children; some secondary school-aged children and some children aged two to 17 years with long-term health conditions.

Visit nhs.gov.uk for more information about COVID-19 and flu vaccinations.

#### 5. Find out more about winter illness

Most winter illnesses can be managed at home. **nhs.gov.uk** has lots of information available to parents, as well as the NHS webpages locally **southwestlondon.icb.nhs.uk** 





#### Speech Bubbles helps children aged five to seven who are having problems with speech and language.

Bounce Theatre has been given one of the council's new Arts for Health and Wellbeing grants to run the year-long project.

Speech Bubbles is a weekly drama programme offering children an opportunity to tell stories and act them out, Bounce Theatre are working with Key Stage 1 pupils at Griffin Primary School and Falconbrook Primary School.

Find out more at bouncetheatre. com/work/speech-bubbles-2

Find out about the grants at wandsworthart.com





## Winter listings

This is just a taste of what's going on. For more activities visit

wandsworth.gov.uk/fis

#### How to be listed

 $Send\ details\ to: \textbf{headstart@wandsworth.gov.uk}$ 

We cannot guarantee that your entry will be inserted. This is a free service. The information in this guide has been provided by the advertisers themselves. Wandsworth Council accepts no responsibility for the accuracy of the information or for any event not organised by the council.



#### **AFC Wimbledon Football Holiday Club**

Open to any boy or girl of any ability between the ages of 4-16 years. Southfields Academy https://afcwimbledonfoundation.com/ holiday-courses

#### Fulham FC Soccer School

Fulham FC's soccer schools cater for boys and girls of all abilities aged 5 to 14. Burntwood School, Tooting Soccerschools.fulhamfc.com

#### **Chelsea Soccer School**

Half term courses are running in Battersea Park and Chestnut Grove School Chelseasoccerschools.co.uk

#### **Athletics Camp**

This five day course covers all aspects of athletic disciplines and is for children aged 7-12 years old. Children will get the chance to improve: social skills; general co-ordination; and athletic skills.

**Battersea Park** 

Call 020 3959 0058 or email bpst@enable.org

#### **All Star Tennis**

#### Feb 13-17

Holiday tennis camp for three-year-olds

King George's Park
 Tooting Common
 Wandsworth Common
 Visit allstartennis.co.uk

info@allstartennis.co.uk

#### **Holiday clubs**

- Energy Kidz Balham Holiday Club Ravenstone School - energy-kidz.co.uk/ holiday-club/balham-ravenstoneprimary-school
- Crazy Camps, Ernest Bevin College and St Francis Xavier 6th Form College crazycamps.co.uk
- Funky Moves holiday course, Alderbrook Primary School, Balham - funkymoves. com/kids/kids-holiday-courses
- Multi sports camp, Floreat School and Earlsfield Primary School amsportsacademy.co.uk/camps

#### **RAD Dance School**

A bursary scheme is available for Wandsworth residents for the royal Academy of Dance dance classes. Find out how to apply at royalacademyofdance.org/ dance-school-bursary





#### Mix and Munch cooking classes

Feh 13-15

Holiday classes for six to 12 year olds and 12-15 year olds in Southfields and East Putney. After school classes also available.

mixandmunch.com, or email hello@

mixandmunch.com, or email hello@mixandmjnch.com

#### **Childminder Briefing Session**

March 7, 10am-noon

Interested in a career as a professional childminder? Find out what's involved and start the registration process.

The session will be at 1 Siward Road, Tooting. Just turn up.

Email childmindingservice@wandsworth. gov.uk for details.

#### **Group 64**

Feb 14-16

Half term theatre holiday projects for 4-7 year olds and 7-11 year olds at the Putney Arts Theatre

g64.org.uk/holiday-projects

#### **Establishing Shot**

Feb 15-19

Workshops on entering the film industry from Chocolate Films in Nine Elms
Email info@chocolatefilms.com or call
020 7793 4287

#### **Craft and Coding Camp**

Feb 13-1

Coding skills for five to 12 year olds. Putney High School cyphercoders.com/february-londoncoding-camp



#### Kimber Skatepark and BMX Track

Suitable for all ages and abilities, the site is staffed and monitored during opening hours and is free to use.

Call 020 8871 5080

#### Putney School of Art and Design

Half term classes for children. psad.org.uk





#### **Libraries**

Fun events, storytimes, workshops and crafts.

better.org.uk/whats-on-inwandsworths-libraries

#### **Schools**

General information: wandsworth.gov.uk/schools

Admissions: wandsworth.gov.uk/admissions

Term dates: wandsworth.gov.uk/termdates

Find a school: wandsworth.gov.uk/schoolsAtoZ



#### Recycling

General information: wandsworth.gov.uk/recycling

What can I recycle?

wandsworth.gov.uk/recyclefromhome



#### Arts, leisure and culture

Arts: wandsworth.gov.uk/arts

Events: wandsworth.gov.uk/events

Libraries: wandsworth.gov.uk/libraries

Leisure centres and sport: wandsworth.gov.uk/sport

Adult Education: wandsworthlifelonglearning.co.uk



#### **Parks**

General information: wandsworth.gov.uk/parks

Playgrounds and trim trails A-Z: wandsworth.gov.uk/playgroundsAtoZ



Parenting support, education, childcare, family activities, health, SEND local offer

wandsworth.gov.uk/fis



#### Wandsworth Council

## WARM SPACES

Local people offered sanctuary from cold as fuel bills soar

Libraries, children's centres & community spaces will welcome those in need

Hot drinks and range of activities to support families



Find your nearest warm space at wandsworth.gov.uk/warm-spaces

