







Child Friendly Nottingham Updates

Nottingham families get creative for free this summer: Pop in to the Summer Arts Pop-Up!



Keeping children busy over the school summer holidays just got easier! This year families can pop into a new dedicated space for art and creativity in the Victoria Centre – **the Summer Arts Pop-up** - which will be opened to the public on **Wednesday, 6 August and then every Wednesday, Thursday and Friday 11am - 3pm until Saturday 30 August.**

Hosted by our partners ChalleNGe and the Young Creative Awards the Pop-up Shop is situated in the Upper Mall of Victoria Centre, next to The Entertainer toy Shop, there will be a host of drop-in creative activities for all the family to enjoy together, all led by a Minister for Joy and suitable for early years to teenagers, including:

-  Regular features include a Lego corner and cardboard construction workshop, games and self-led crafting activities
-  A changing programme of creative workshops, led by artists and local cultural organisations
-  An interactive dance experience using VR Headsets
-  Children and young people's exhibitions: Young Creative Awards 2025 shortlist exhibition, RED from Lakeside Arts (Rufford and Crabtree Farm Schools) and HOME; an installation by the Nottingham Schools Trust.
-  Chill out space for reading and quieter activities
-  A space for teenagers to create and connect
-  **Opportunities to listen to children and young people's experiences of the city with Child Friendly Nottingham.**





In addition, there is a series of Creative Futures workshops on Wednesdays between 4-6pm led by Young Creative Awards Alumni and Connecting Notts youth network to explore how young people can turn their creative talent into a career **sessions from 4-6pm** in the Pop Up space, aimed at those wanting to find out more about working in the arts and building a creative life and career.

The Summer Arts Pop Up is a collaboration between Young Creatives Nottingham, ChalleNGe (Local Cultural Education Partnership), Arts Partners and is supported by Victoria Centre, Nottingham. It is part of the Child Friendly Creative City initiative, launched in June 2025.

As well as engaging with fun activities, the Summer Arts Pop Up will be a one-stop shop for families to discover what is happening across the arts and cultural sector over the summer break. You can also share your own favourite places for creativity and inspiration in your community.





CHILD RIGHT OF THE MONTH:

As part of our Child Friendly Nottingham Action Plan, we're dedicated to promoting a different child's right each month. Please see the link below for a resource to support your engagement with children and young people. We hope you find this Rights Respecting School resource helpful!

This year's calendar of 'Child Rights of the Month' can be found in the ChalleNGe [Cultural-Rucksack](#).

Please tell us if you are doing any activities around the Rights of the Month, we'd love to hear about any activities you're doing around children's rights! Please share your ideas with us.

This Month:

[Articles 31 Resource](#)

This month, we will be **highlighting Article 31** from the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), to raise awareness for raise awareness for **National Play Day** on the **6th August 2025**



Article 31: Right to Play

Every child has the right to relax, play and take part in a wide range of cultural activities.

Article 31: Right to Play

Article 31 of the UNCRC says that children and young people have the right to rest and have fun in whichever way they prefer. This can be through sport, watching films, theatre, music or something else.

Just like adults, children and young people should have the freedom to take part in various cultural activities and the government should make this easy for them to do without discriminating if they have a disability, low income or other barriers. This could include either online or in person opportunities.



Why is playtime and rest important?

Play is a natural part of childhood and an integral part of a child's and young person's development. It is a key factor in helping develop physical motor skills and emotional cognitive well-being through growth, learning and development. It helps creativity and cultural awareness, allowing children and young people to explore the world around them as well as learn to take responsibility for their own choices.



To read more about why it is so important you can read this article:

[10 reasons why play is important | National Literacy Trust](#)



What can I do to support?

Nottingham is full of rich cultural activities that go on year-round. Signposting Children and Young people to these activities and opportunities is what we can do and help take our younger children and early years to take part in these activities.

Check out what summer activities are happening in [this section of our Bulletin](#), and of course ChalleNGe's [Summer pop up shop](#) will have lots of fun and relaxing activities too.

Next Month:

Next month, we will be **highlighting Article 38 and 39**, to raise awareness for **International Day of Peace** on the **21st September 2025**.



Article 38: War and armed conflicts

Governments must not allow children under the age of 15 to take part in war or join the armed forces. Governments must do everything they can to protect and care for children affected by war and armed conflict.



Article 39: Recovery from trauma and reintegration

Children who have experienced neglect, abuse, exploitation, torture or who are victims of war must receive special support to help them recover their health, dignity, self-respect and social life.



The next year's calendar of 'Child Rights of the Month' will soon be available on the ChalleNGe 2025-2026 [Cultural-Rucksack](#).





TRAINING UPDATES

Training dates in 2025

Upcoming Training: **An Introduction to Children's Rights in Practice**

To support Nottingham's ambition to become a globally recognised Child Friendly City, we are supporting partners across Nottingham city to be working to a Child's Rights Based Approach by offering **FREE** training, delivered by the UNICEF UK Child Friendly Cities Team.

Join for a practical and interactive introduction to children's rights as set out in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

We are awaiting training dates from UNICEF UK but please contact the CFN Team at child.friendly@nottinghamcity.gov.uk to be added onto our waiting list.



Bespoke Training

Bespoke Child Rights in Practice Training can be organised for teams of 10 colleagues or more.

To discuss it with us please email child.friendly@nottinghamcity.gov.uk

Would you Like to be a Child Right's Trainer?

UNICEF UK are opening a programme to 'Train the Trainer', so we can cascade child rights training to a wider audience across Nottingham.

If you are interested in becoming a Child Friendly Nottingham trainer, please contact the Child Friendly Nottingham Team at child.friendly@nottinghamcity.gov.uk





WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING?

Thinking Differently Event

On Thursday 17th July, the Police and Crime Commissioner, It's in Nottingham and The Raleigh Education Trust hosted the Thinking Differently event with partners in the private, public and Voluntary and Community Sectors to improve outcomes for children and young people over the next 10 years.



It was a positive event with more than 120 stakeholders present



including appearances from the High Sherriff of Nottingham; Ed Attenborough and Councillor Cheryl Barnard, Nottingham City Council's Portfolio Holder for Children, Young People and Education.



To read more you can click this article:

[Thinking Differently Event](#)

Notts Hope Hack Event

The Violence Reduction Partnership (VRP) organised their first ever youth-led event called 'Hope Hack' on 25th July in Newark.



Young people aged 12 and 25 were given the chance to share their voice in tackling knife crime, gangs and exploitation, to help provide solutions that could influence professional services and policy. This was the first Hope Hack held in Nottinghamshire and was the 40th such event to take place across the country.



To read more about it you can click this article:

[Nottingham Hope Hack Event](#)

CFN Survey Results Pending...



Back in November 2024, the Child Friendly Nottingham programme launched Nottingham's first children and young people's perception survey which closed 28th February. In the months since then the Co-operation and Leadership members, University of Nottingham and other partners have been analysing and collating the data which we will share the final reports with you all in due course.



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UPCOMING DATES / EVENTS:

| Event / Description | Date | Additional Details |
|--|------------------------|--|
| Summer Reading Challenge | 05 July – September | Summer Reading Challenge Nottingham City Libraries |
| 'Superheroes & Superbeasts' Outdoor Trail | 26 July – 31 August | Wollaton Hall and Deer Park 'Superheroes & Superbeasts' Outdoor Trail - Wollaton Hall |
| Summer Holidays Activities Ask Lion | 28 July – 02 September | Various Dates and locations: Ask Lion Summer activities |
| Nottingham City Library Summer activities | 29 July – 31 August | Various Dates and library locations: Summer Activities 2025 Nottingham City Libraries |
| Robin Hood's Adventure Trail 2025 | From 04 August | Robin Hood's Adventure Trail 2025 - free fun for families! It's in Nottingham |
| National Play Day | 06 August | International Day of Play UNICEF Parenting |
| ChalleNGe and YCA Pop Up Space Opening Launch | 06 August | ChalleNGe & Young Creative Awards, Summer Pop-Up Space at Victoria Centre |
| International Youth Day | 12 August | International Youth Day 2025 August 12, 2025 Global Awareness Days Events Calendar |
| Nottingham Beach | 16 July – 31 August | Nottingham City Centre, Nottingham Beach 2025; Open 16th July 2025! |
| Nottingham Caribbean Carnival | 17 August | Victoria Embankment; 1-8pm NG2 2JY Nottingham Carnival - Sunday 17th 2025 |
| Black Achievers Award Nomination Deadline | 31 August | Nominations - Black Achievers Award |
| Back to School | 02 September | Tuesday 2nd September Back to School date |





WHAT'S COMING UP?

Black Achievers Award

Do you know someone who is making a real impact in their community, industry or beyond?

Now's the time to recognise and celebrate their achievements.

For the **Aspiring Stars Award 2025**, Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service in collaboration with the Black Achievers Awards is offering young people aged 18-25 a unique opportunity to gain hands-on experience in an internship, offering the chance to gain real-world experience, develop leadership skills, and contribute to a more diverse and inclusive workforce.



There are several other categories where you can nominate an individual (including yourself) or an organisation today and help shine a spotlight on black excellence across the UK.

Deadline for nominations close Sunday, 31 August.

Visit their website to submit your nomination:

[Nominations - Black Achievers Award](#)

Summer Activities

Summer 2025 is here!

If you are looking for things to do in Nottingham this Summer, this is the place to find them!

Click the Image below to see the full list of activities:



In Nottingham City the **Summer Holidays** run from Monday **28th of July until Tuesday 2nd of September** (Monday 1st September is an Inset day). Some activities may start before this date e.g. Summer Reading Challenge started on 5th July.



Nottingham Caribbean Carnival 2025

On Sunday 17th August, the Nottingham Carnival is back on the Victoria Embankment running from 1pm – 8pm.

One of the UK's most colourful parades featuring hundreds of spectacular carnival costumes and amazing dancing, plus live music, sound systems, delicious food, and family-friendly fun along the Trent Riverside.



Image Credit: Nottingham Carnival Website

Get early bird tickets from 14th July for discounted entry before general release. Under 10s are free, with child tickets running from 10 – 15 years.

For more information and buy tickets, please check out the website:

[Nottingham Carnival - Sunday 17th August 2025](#)

Nottingham Beach

It's back for summer 2025, Nottingham Beach came back on July 17th and is located in the Old Market Square until the end of August 2025. There are rides, refreshments as well as the pool/beach area, all at the heart of Nottingham City Centre.



Image Credit: Nottingham Beach

Find out more here:

[Nottingham Beach 2025; City-by-the-sea! Open 16th July 2025!](#)



Summer Reading Challenge – Story Garden

The **Summer Reading Challenge** is back – and this year's theme is **Story Garden**, celebrating magical creatures, enchanted plants, and outdoor adventures that will spark every child's love for reading.

The challenge runs from 5th July until 6th September.

Every child who completes the challenge will receive a **special certificate** and be invited to a **medal ceremony** at their local library in **September**.



To Learn more and how to take part you can click on the link below:

[Summer Reading Challenge | Nottingham City Libraries](#)

Nottingham City Library Events

As well as the summer reading challenge Nottingham City Libraries will be running **free craft, robot, and LEGO sessions** throughout the holidays, taking place on Various Dates and library locations.

NOTTINGHAM
CITY
LIBRARIES

Some activities include:



Draw Your Own Comic



Make a Moving Robot!



HOME: Zero

A playful, immersive installation, inspired by National Gallery paintings

Click here to find out more and book your space:

[Summer Activities 2025 | Nottingham City Libraries](#)

Wollaton Hall Summer Activities



Wollaton Hall also has several summer activities throughout August including [‘Superheroes & Superbeasts’ Outdoor Trail](#), [Open Air Theatre - Wollaton Hall](#) and the famous [Splendour Festival](#) which has a little splendour kids area as well.



Click here to find more activities at Wollaton Hall: [What's on - Wollaton Hall](#)



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It's In Nottingham – Robin Hood Adventure Trail

The Robin Hood's Adventure Trail 2025 is back running from 04 August until the end of summer.

The trail has 11 characters to find scattered through the city, once you find them all you can claim a prize.



To find out more you can click here:

[Robin Hood's Adventure Trail 2025 | It's in Nottingham](#)

UK Parliament Week Kits

November 24th – 30th is UK Parliament Week, this is a chance to empower students, and to encourage them to share their views and voices.



You can order a **free kit resource kit**, with multiple resources to engage the Children and Young People you work with.

Marking the tenth anniversary of [UK Parliament's petitions website](#) there is the launch of their new **Petitions Pursuit board game!** A game to help young people understand how petitions work and the steps they can take to get their voices heard on issues they care about.

[Click Here to get involved!](#)

CFN Monthly Bulletins

Within our bulletin's, we regularly share news and information around Child Friendly Nottingham activity and related initiatives.

Please email us at child.friendly@nottinghamcity.gov.uk by the **last day of each month** with anything that you want to include in the following month's issue.

We hope that you find our bulletins useful and interesting.



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