Issue 47
Sept/Oct 2026

boom Magazine

FREE MAGAZINE - TAKE ME HOME



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Pomeroy Farm

The essential guide for families from bump to big school

(ages 0-11)

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B O O M ...

Welcome to our SPOOKY Issue!

Crisp autumn mornings, cosy golden afternoons, and a whole new season of family adventures are officially here!

This September & October edition is a hugely special one, as it marks Jess's final official issue as co-owner of Boom. While it's a bittersweet milestone for us, we are still diving head first into the very best of autumn, packed with everything you need to make memories as the weather cools down. (Be sure to turn to page 18 to read a special farewell message from Jess!)

Inside, you'll find our ultimate guide to local pumpkin picking, along with romantic (and much-needed!) date night ideas in and around Derbyshire. Lets be Frank has shared their Autumn & Spooky Season plans, a wonderful book review paired with messy play ideas, and brilliant ways to inspire screen-free, imaginative play at home. Whether you're looking for a cosy rainy-day craft or planning outdoor weekend outings, we've got you covered.

As always, this issue is filled with inspiration and trusted recommendations from our wonderful advertisers and Boom Buddies - all chosen with real families in mind to keep your days out accessible, affordable, and joyful.

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for sharing this journey with us. Here's to crunchy leaf walks, cosy pub lunches, pumpkin spice, and making the absolute most of this beautiful season together.

Steph & Jess



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Get in touch!

To list a class, event, suggest an article or find out more about advertising with boom, or for anything else
email : info@boommagazineltd.co.uk

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A Note From Jess... 🍁

After 14 amazing months, this is my final issue as co-owner! Boom is in great hands as Steph takes over fully (with Jason behind the scenes).

👉 **Turn to Page 18 for my full farewell message!**

Cover image provided by:
@RAISINGTHELINFORDS
Taken at Mr Pumpkin, Morley - October 2025

ADVERTISE WITH BOOM

We have had a new advertising plan! WITH FURTHER SAVINGS !

Get in touch - to find out more!

You can still spread the costs monthly!

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Groups & Classes for 0-IIs

If you would like to be included in our class listings please email : info@boommagazineltd.co.uk

Baby Ballers (16m - 5yrs)
Alfreton Leisure Centre
Sat 9 - 9:35am - BabyBallers (16m - 2.5yrs)
Sat 9:40 - 10:15am - MiniBallers (2.5 - 3.5yrs)
Sat 10:20 - 11am - Ballers (3.5 - 5yrs)
Toddler football & multi-skills classes for girls & boys aged 16 months - 5 years. Book: www.babyballers.com

Baby Sensory (0 - 13m)
FlowMotion. Life Yoga Studio, Matlock
Mon 10 - 11am (0 - 6m)
Mon 11:30am - 12:30pm (6m - 13m)
Ripley Leisure Centre
Tue 10 - 11am (0 - 6m)
Tue 11:30am - 12:30pm (6m - 13m)
Tue 1 - 2pm (0 - 13m)
The Venue, Ashbourne
Wed 10 - 11am (0 - 6m)
Wed 11:30am - 12:30pm (6m - 13m)
Wed 1 - 2pm (0 - 13m)
Tyler's, Campbell Street, Belper
Thur 10 - 11am (0 - 6m)
Thur 11:30am - 12:30pm (6m - 13m)
Thur 1 - 2pm (0 - 13m)
Interactive, educational sensory classes which will help your baby learn and develop important skills in a supportive, friendly environment. Book: www.baby.sensory.com/centralderbyshire

Baby Sparks Sensory Class
The Party Palace, Belper
Mon 9:30 - 10:30am - Sparks Movers/Shakers
Mon 10:45 - 11:45am Little Sparks
Darley Abbey Village Hall
Wed 11:30am - 12:30pm - Spark Shakers/Little Sparks
Mickleover Memorial Hall
Mon 1:30 - 2:40pm Tiny Sparks Baby Massage
Mickleover Methodist Church
Fri 9:30 - 10:30am - Sparks Movers
Fri 10:45 - 11:45am - Sparks Shakers/Little Sparks
Baby Sparks creates sensory adventures for babies and children which stimulate, engage and relax through singing, sensory games, instrument play, sensory play, lights and bubbles. The perfect class to nurture your baby's sensory development. Book: www.babysparks.co.uk/derbywest
Sparks Movers/Shakers - 6m - 3yrs
Little Sparks - 6wks - confidently sitting (approx 6m)
Spark Shakers/Little Sparks - 6wks - 12m
Sparks Movers - 1 - 3yrs
Tiny Sparks - 0 - 6m

Barremama (Mums & Mums to be)
St John's with Duffield Methodist Church, Allestree
Mon 10 - 11am - Bond
Mon 11:30am - 12:30pm - Grow
Tyler's, Campbell Street, Belper
Tue 10 - 11am - Bond
Tue 11:30am - 12:30pm - Grow
Tue 1:15 - 2:15pm - Bond
Vanessa's School of Dance, Belper
Tue 6 - 7pm - Flow
Tue 7 - 8pm - Thrive
Ballet inspired, barre-based movement for pregnancy, birth and beyond. No leotards, no pressure.
Flow - Antenatal movement & mindset. Suitable from 14 weeks pregnant right the way through to preparing for labour.
Bond - Postnatal recovery & connection. Perfect for mums ready to return to movement after their 8 - 10 week GP sign-off. C-section mums should be at least 10 weeks postpartum.
Grow - Rebuilding strength & sharing joy. Best suited for mums who are at 6 months+ postpartum with babies who are not yet confidently walking, so everyone can move safely and peacefully together.
Thrive - Reclaiming strength and self. Best suited for mums further along in their postnatal journey (at least 9 - 12 months+), or those ready for a more advanced, higher-energy class.

Moo Music (0 - 5yrs)
Little Moo's Play Barn, Somercotes
Mon 9:20 - 10am - Mixed Moo
Mon 10:20 - 11am - Mini Moo
Tue 9:20 - 10am - Baby Moo In The Dark
Tue 10:20 - 11am - Mixed Moo
Wed 9:30 - 10:10am - Mixed Moo
Wed 10:50 - 11:30am - Baby Moo In The Dark
Wed 12:30 - 1:10pm - Mini Moo In The Dark
Thur 9:20 - 10am - Mini Moo
Thur 10:20 - 11am - Mixed Moo
Fri 10:20 - 11am - Mixed Moo
Fun, interactive music classes for babies, toddlers & pre-school age children where they sing, dance and play. Booking required.
Baby Moo - newborn to walking
Mini Moo - ages 6m to 18m
Mixed Moo - sitting - 5 years

Phonics With Robot Reg (1 - 4yrs)
Hulland Ward Village Hall
Mon 9:45 - 10:30am (1 - 3yrs)
Mon 10:45 - 11:30am (2.5 - 4yrs)
The Play Village, Ashbourne
Wed 1:30 - 2:15pm (2.5 - 4yrs)
Thur 9:45 - 10:30am (1 - 3yrs)
Thur 10:45 - 11:30am (2.5 - 4yrs)
Fun, high energy and educational sessions for toddlers and pre-school children that support the development of early language and literacy skills. Book: www.robotreg.co.uk/derbyshire

Pregnancy & Post Natal Pilates
Belper Health Hub & Pilates Studio, Old Mill House, East Mill, Belper
Thur 10 - 10:40am - Pre & Post Natal Reformer
Fri 10:20 - 11am - Pre & Post Natal Reformer
Mums and mums-to-be of all levels of fitness will benefit from safe mat or reformer Pilates instruction from trained physiotherapists. Babies are welcome at all sessions. Book: www.belperhealthhub.co.uk

Primrose Art Club (4 - 15yrs)
St Mark's Church, Openwoodgate
Wed 4:15 - 5:15pm (4 - 9yrs)
Wed 5:20 - 6:20pm (10 - 15yrs)
Fri 4:15 - 5:15pm (10 - 15yrs)
Fri 5:20 - 6:20pm (4 - 9yrs)
Arts and crafts group sessions where kids can explore their creativity and develop skills. Visit: www.primroseart.club

Most groups are term time only - please check before you travel

Find all class & group information online at **www.boommagazineltd.co.uk** or check out our social media for weekly updates

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Groups & Classes for 0-IIs

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Puddle Ducks Derbyshire (0 - 10yrs)
Various Derbyshire Venues
Mon - Sun (all lessons 30mins)
Do you want your child to learn how to swim? Let's help them learn the right technique, in the right environment, with the best people. Let's give them the courage to be fearless, make friends, swim strongly and have fun. Then let's see where those skills might take them. Swim Academy. Let's do this. Book: www.puddleducks.com

Raising Rooted - Mothers Circle and Creative Play (0 - 11yrs)
Hannah Fields Community Garden, Derby
First Fri of every month
4 - 5:30pm
4th Sept & 2nd Oct
A uniquely crafted group that nurtures both the mother and the child. A space to slow down, be held by nature, and unwind motherhood whilst children can partake in heart led creative activities. Book: www.raisingrooted.co.uk

SEN-FIT
Langley Mill
Tue 7:15pm - Adult Circuit Class
Thur 9:30am - Adult Circuit Class
Both sessions include a chance to stop for a hot drink and a chat after the session. £5 per class.
Thur 4:15 - 6:15pm - Girls Tea Time Club (7 - 16yrs) £10per session
Borrowash
Fri 4:30 - 6:30pm Tea Time Club £10 per session
Shipley Park
Wed 9:30am - Walk and Talk / Couch to OK
SEN-Fit offers children and adults opportunities in fitness that are supported and individually tailored building both physical and mental health. Visit: www.sen-fit.co.uk

Sunshine Forest School
Belper Community Hall Woodlands
Fri 10 - 11am
Play based outdoor learning through forest school sessions, holiday clubs and woodland workshops. All led by qualified practitioners. Holiday clubs available for 5 - 16yrs. Visit: www.sunshineforestschool.co.uk

Taekwondo M&M Academy (4+)
Little Eaton Village Hall
Tue 7 - 8pm (8 - 12yrs)
Sat 9 - 9:45am (4 - 7yrs)
Sat 10 - 11am (8 - 12yrs)
Improve your fitness, flexibility, balance, confidence, discipline and moral values with the Korean martial art, Taekwondo! A great sport for your little ones or even for yourself with our adult classes. £30 per calendar month. First 2 lessons free. Family discounts available. Visit: www.mandm.academy

The Little Baby Sanctuary (0 - active crawling)
JL Dance Academy, Ripley
Wed 10:30 - 11:30am - Baby Massage
Wed 1 - 2pm - Baby Yoga
Sage Yoga Studio, Belper
Thur 10:30 - 11:30am - Baby Yoga
Thur 1 - 2pm - Baby Massage
Darley Abbey Stables, Darley Abbey
Fri 10:30 - 11:30am - Baby Massage
Fri 1 - 2pm - Baby Yoga
Gentle, interactive strokes and movement supporting common ailments, concerns and baby milestones. Qualified NNEB nursery nurse, baby massage and baby yoga instructor. Visit: www.thelittlebabysanctuary.co.uk

Tiddlekicks (0 - 5yrs)
Derby Arena, Pride Park
Mon 9:35 - 10:15am (12m - 4yrs)
Mon 10:20 - 11am (12m - 4yrs)
Vanessa's School of Dance, Belper
Wed 9:30 - 10:10am (12m - 4yrs)
The Studio', Mighty Monsters Soft Play
Fri 10 - 10:40am (12m - 4yrs)
Springwood Leisure Centre
Fri 10 - 10:40am (12m - 4yrs)
Sat 8:45 - 9:25am (12m - 4yrs)
Sat 9:30 - 10:10am (3 - 5yrs)
Sat 10:15 - 10:55am (12m - 3yrs)
Ripley Leisure Centre
Sat 8:20 - 9am (12m - 4yrs)
Sat 9:05 - 9:45am (12m - 3yrs)
Sat 9:50 - 10:30am (3 - 5yrs)
Chester Green Community Centre
Sat 9:05 - 9:45am (12m - 3yrs)
Sat 9:50 - 10:30am (3 - 5yrs)
Sat 10:35 - 11:15am (4 - 6yrs)
Hilton Scout Hut
Sat 8:30 - 9:10am (12m - 3yrs)
Sat 9:15 - 9:55am (3 - 5yrs)
William Gregg VC , Heanor
Sat 11 - 11:40am (12m - 4yrs)
Tiddlekicks is a toddler football club with the fundamentals of football and pre-school learning blended together to create fun and interactive sessions for both parents and children. Keeping your little ones active from a young age to give them the best start in life. 3-week trial recommended. Book: www.tiddlekicks.co.uk

TinyTalk (0 - 5yrs)
St John's Methodist Church, Allestree
Mon 9:45 - 10:45am (0 - 2yrs)
Mon 11:15am - 12:15pm (18m - 4yrs)
The Church on Oakwood
Tue 9:45 - 10:45am (18m - 4yrs)
Tue 11:15am - 12:15pm (0 - 2yrs)
Book: www.tinytalk.co.uk/emilyreeve
St Mark's Church, Openwoodgate
Tue 10 - 11am (18m - 5yrs)
Tue 11:30am - 12:30pm (0 - 2yrs)
Tue 1 - 2pm (0 - 2yrs)
Fri 10 - 11am (18m - 5yrs)
Fri 11:30am - 12:30pm (0 - 2yrs)
Book: www.tinytalk.co.uk/kathgreaves
Communicate with your baby before they can speak! At TinyTalk we sign, bounce and giggle through each class, while you learn a handful of useful BSL signs with action songs, stories and familiar nursery rhymes. Enjoy social time and a nice hot cuppa and biscuits after every class.

Twistin Tots (0 - 5yrs)
Belper Community Hall
Mon 9:45 - 11:45am
Tue 9:45 - 11:45am
Darley Abbey Village Hall
Thur 9:45 - 11:45am
Music, movement and fun for 0-5 year olds. Weekly adventures with themed songs and props. With an hour of stay and play at the end for the children and tea and coffee for their grown-ups.

Vanessa's School of Dance (2 - 18yrs)
Vanessa's School of Dance, Belper
Various classes Mon - Sat
Ballet, tap, modern, contemporary, musical theatre, singing, acrobatics and street dance. Adult classes offered in tap, ballet & fitness. See full timetable at: www.vsdance.co.uk

Groups & Classes for 0-IIs

Under £5 Or FREE

Baby and Me
Ripley Methodist Church
Thur 9:30 - 11am
Meet others in a safe environment, as you interact in your little ones early development through play. A large variety of baby toys to explore and larger toys for when they start crawling and taking those first steps. Messy play sessions approx every 6 weeks. £2.50 per family, includes a hot drink and biscuit. To book email: paulinefretwellhps@gmail.com

Baby Sparks Stay & Play (0 - 5yrs)
Darley Abbey Villlage Hall
Wed 9:30 - 10:15am
Sensory session designed for babies and young children to explore at their own pace, and for parents to enjoy a calm, welcoming space to connect. Themed play, perfect for the whole family! £5 per child, additional siblings £3, babies under 3m free with a sibling. Book: www.babysparks.co.uk/derbywest

B.E.A.R.S Breastfeeding Support Group FREE
Infinite Wellbeing, Heanor
Tue 9:30 - 11am
Alfreton - NEW VENUE COMING SOON!
Check BEARS FB for more information on the new venue!
St Marks Church, Openwoodgate
Fri 1 - 2:30pm
Refreshments, social and judgement free breastfeeding support with a chance to meet other parents! Older siblings are welcome. Term time only. Please check BEARS FB page for full details and all summer events. Support is always available over FB messenger and on the Breastfeeding Network 24hour helpline.

Bridge The Gap Family Hub Sessions (0 - 5yrs) FREE
Sinfin Family Hub - Sinfin Lane
Tue 10 - 11:30am
Becket Family Hub - Stock brook St. Derby
Thur 10 - 11:30am
Audrey Drive Children's Centre
Thur 1:30 - 3pm (alongside stay & play)
Hub Club drop-ins. Toys, books and activities for parents and children. Creative drop-ins. Emotional literacy enriched play and creative activities for babies and young children, plus creative wellbeing activities for parents and carers. No need to book. Visit the website to find out about Bridge the Gap's full programme or to register for a session. www.jwbridgethegap.com

Connected Perinatal Support FREE
Beckett Family Hub, Derby
Mon 10 - 11:30am - Bump to Babies Group (pregnancy - 2yrs)
Insomnia Cafe, Littleover, Derby
Last Mon of month 4:30 - 6:30pm - Pregnancy Connections (pregnancy - 12wks)
Osmaston Allenton Family Hub
Wed 12:30 - 2pm - Tea & Tots (pregnancy - 5yrs)
Audrey Drive Children's Centre, Derby
Thur 10am - 12pm - Bump to Babies Group (pregnancy - 2yrs)
Melbourne House, Derby
2nd & 4th Friday of the month 1:30 - 2:30pm - Dad Time (dads-to-be - 2yrs)
Leisure United Derby Racecourse
Thur 7 - 9pm - Dads' Space, one hour of football & one hour of social (new & expectant dads)
Spaces for mums, dads, parents and carers to meet other parents and chat with peer supporters. Tea, coffee and biscuits, toys for babies and toddlers, a warm welcome and supportive chat on all things pregnancy and early parenthood. No need to book. Visit: www.connectedperinatalsupport.org

Derbyshire Dales Mum2Mum Breastfeeding Support Group FREE
The Play Village, Ashbourne
2nd Wed of the month 10am - 12pm
Hulland Ward Millennium Hall
3rd Wed of the month 10 - 11:30am (at Hulland Hippos Say & Play)
Wirksworth Memorial Hall
1st Thur of the month 9:45 - 11:45am (at Wirksworth Stay & Play)
Elim Church, Ashbourne
Fri 10 - 11.30am
Free drop-in sessions run by local mums trained in peer support. Part of the Breastfeeding Network.

Most groups are term time only - please check before you travel

Derbyshire Toy Libraries Stay & Play
Crich Glebe Community Centre
Mon 9:30 - 11am
Grassmoor Community Centre
Tue 9:30 - 11am
Belper Community Hall
Wed 9:30 - 11am
Florence Nightingale Memorial Hall
Thur 9:30 - 11am
Kilburn Village Hall
Thur 9:30 - 11am
£4 per session, additional siblings/adults £1, under 6m go free. Crich, Grassmoor, Holloway and Kilburn Term Time only. For school holiday sessions check social media. Visit: www.derbyshiretoylibraries.org

Ey Up Mums (0 - 1yrs) FREE
Dalby House Cafe (inside museum)
Fri 11am - 1:30pm
A new group aimed at bringing together first time mums with babies under 12 months. Come and share your experiences, have a chat, come with or without your baby and just enjoy taking some time out with our friendly and relaxed group. No booking required.

Holbrook Baby and Toddler Group
Holbrook Methodist Church
Wed 9 - 11am
A fun and friendly group for babies, pre-school children and their parents, grandparents or carers. Toys for all ages, craft activities, snacks and drinks for all. Play and make new friends in a safe and welcoming environment. £2 per child. No need to book. Contact Helen: 07980 652431.

Hulland Hippos Baby & Toddler Group (0 - 4yrs)
Hulland Ward Millennium Hall
Wed 10 - 11.30am
A range of stimulating play activities for under 5s, including a baby area. Snacks and drinks. Songs and a story at the end. Busy, friendly group. New families are welcome. £3 per family. Open during term time and school holidays. No booking required.

Groups & Classes for 0-IIs

Most groups are term time only, please check before you travel. See our 'What's On' Sumer Holidays Blog online for more.

Infinite Wellbeing Activities
Infinite Wellbeing, Heanor
Mon 10am - New Mum Monday's *
Mon 11:30am - Mini Wrigglers (0 - 1yrs) *
Mon 1pm - Mini Movers & Groovers (1 - 5yrs) *
Tue 9:30 - 11:30am - Tuesday Tots *
Wed 10 - 11am - Pre-School Cooking Class (2 - 5yrs)
Wed 11 am - 12pm - Pre-School Cooking Class (2 - 5yrs)
Wed 1pm - Rhyme Time *
Thur 4 - 5pm - Children's Cooking Class (2 - 11yrs)
*Included in the 4 Role Play Area Entry. Cooking classes require pre-booking. Book: www.infinite-wellbeing.co.uk
Infinite Wellbeing Role Play Area and Cafe (0 - 8yrs)
Mon - Thur 9am - 3pm during term time
Tue - Thur 10am - 2pm during school holidays.
Enjoy time with your little ones as they play, experiment, and run off steam. Watch their imaginations light up. Plus, you can take time for a coffee and snack with other parents and carers. Booking not required for role-play area.

Little Church (0 - 4yrs)
St Peter's Church, Belper
Wed 10am - 12pm
£1 per family
Play and fun with stories, singing and craft activities - parents, grandparents and carers welcome. Term Time only

Messy Church
Denby Bottles Methodist Church
3rd Sun of the month 10:15am
A welcoming and inclusive place where people of all ages can explore faith through fun, hands-on activities, storytelling and music.

Please mention Boom when visiting local groups!



Messy Church (all ages)
St Swithun's Church, Belper
2nd Sat of the month 4 - 6pm (donation)
St Mark's Church, Belper
1st Sat of the month 4pm - Family Film Club (Sept - March)
4th Sat of the month 4 - 6pm (donation)
Crafts, songs and stories - plus food! Pay what you can. Families with children of all ages are welcome.

Move Me (0 - 5yrs) FREE
Becket Family Hub
Tue 1:30 - 3pm
Derwent Family Hub
Wed 9:30 - 11am
Osmaston / Allenton Family Hub
Thur 1 - 2:30pm
Derby Theatre
Mon 28th Sept & Mon 19th Oct 10 - 11:30am
Play, dance and move with your little ones, in this active early years sensory experience. FREE session. Contact Derby City Family Hubs to book or email: earlyyears@derby.ac.uk for more information.

Music and Movement (0 - 5yrs) FREE
Coxbench Hall Residential Home
First Tue of each school holiday 10am 28th July
Intergenerational session within the care home with music and movement followed by snacks and refreshments. Free, no need to book. More info on FB.

Prams & First Shoes (0 - 3yrs)
St Mark's Church, Openwoodgate
Thur 9:30 - 11:30am
Have a cuppa and meet other parents. Lots of toys for babies and toddlers. A warm welcome to a lovely space. Term time only

Stay and Play
Marehay Methodist Church
Wed 9:30 - 11am
Waingroves Methodist Church
Wed 1:15 - 2:45pm
Free play, craft & messy play, music and singing, themed activities. £2.50 per family, includes snacks for children and a drink for parents/carers. Turn up or email: paulinefretwellhps@gmail.com

Squeals on Wheels
All Saints Church, Ripley
Mon 9:15 - 11am
A happy friendly group for parents and carers with babies and toddlers. Unstructured play time with craft and puzzle tables, designated baby area and lots of toys available. Singing and dancing finished with a Bible story at the end of each session.

Toddlers Inc (0 - 5yrs)
Denby Bottles Methodist Church
Tue 10am - 12pm
A group for bumps, babies, toddlers, pre-schoolers and their grown ups. Lots of toys for all ages, finishing with a song and rhyme time. 50p per child. Includes a snack and drink for all. Term time only. Contact Hannah: 07359778505

Whistlestop Wildlife Watch Group (5 - 11yrs)
Wildlife Photography, with photographer Nami Jones
Sun 20th Sept 10am - 12pm - Location and meeting point TBC. Details to be confirmed - please email for information
Sun 11th Oct 10am - 12pm
Monthly wildlife-themed activities at a different nature reserve/wild space in central and north-east Derbyshire or at the Matlock base. £2.50 for one child; siblings 50p extra. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Meeting points confirmed via email. Visit Derbyshire Wildlife Trust Wildlife Watch Groups for more information. Booking essential email: whistlestop_watch@yahoo.com

Wirksworth Stay and Play Baby & Toddler Group (0 - 5yrs)
Memorial Hall, Wirksworth
Thur 9:45 - 11:45am
Volunteer-run playgroup with sensory play, a wide range of toys, and creative activities. No booking required. Includes a snack for the children. Drinks and biscuits for the adults. 0 - 6m £2; 6m+ £4 per family. More info on FB.

LIBRARY SESSIONS

FREE



Alfreton Library
Monday 11 - 11:30am - Story Time
Term time only

Alvaston Library
Tuesday 11 - 11:30am - Story & Rhyme Time

Ashbourne Library
Tuesday 10:15 - 10:45am - Story & Rhyme Time
Thursday 9:45 - 11am - Bubbles & Babies

Bakewell Library
Mon 10 - 11:30am - 'Time to Play' parent-led activity session
Tuesday 10:30 - 11am - Story Time
Thursday 10 - 11:30am - 'Time to Play' parent-led activity session
Time to play sessions are term time only



Belper Library
Wednesday 11 - 11:30am - Story & Rhyme Time

Bolsover Library
Monday 10 - 10:30am - Toddler Rhyme & Storytime
Tuesday 10 - 10:30am - Baby Rhyme Time (0 - 1yrs)
Thursday 10 - 11:30am - Bubbles & Babies (0 - 1yrs)
Friday 10 - 11:30am - Bubbles & Babies (0 - 1yrs)
These sessions are generally term time only, but check with the library staff as sessions may be planned during the school holidays.
Contact: 01629 537800



Chesterfield Library
Monday 9:30 - 10am - Baby Rhyme Time
Monday 11 - 11:30am - Toddler Rhyme Time

Clay Cross Library
Tuesday 10:30 - 11am - Story & Rhyme Time

Etwall Library
Monday 2:30 - 3pm - Rhyme Time
Term time only
Wednesday 10:30 - 11:30am - Bubbles & Babies

Heanor Library
Every other Monday 2 - 2:30pm - Story & Rhyme Time
Every other Thursday 11 - 11:30am - Story & Rhyme Time
Term time only

Ilkeston Library
Tuesday 10 -11am - Baby Sensory Play
Wednesday 10 - 10:30am - Rhyme Time
Term time only

Long Eaton Library
Wednesday 11 - 11:30am - Story & Rhyme Time
Term time only
Weed 10 - 11am Sensory Play

Most sessions are term time only - please check before you travel

Mansfield Central Library
Thursday 10:30- 11:30 - Stay & Play (0- 5yrs)
Wednesday 10 - 10:30am - Baby Rattle, Rhyme & Roll (0 - 12m)
Second Saturday of the month 11am - 1pm - Children's Craft Sessions
Fourth Saturday of the month 11am - 1pm -
Lego Club (4+ years)

Matlock Library
Thursday 10:30 - 11am- Story & Rhyme Time
Term time only

Mickleover Library
Tuesday, Thursday & Friday 11 - 11:30am - Rhyme Time
Booking is essential - 01332 647884



Ripley Library
Tuesday 10 - 10:30am - Rhyme Time
Term time only

Riverside Library (Derby)
Monday 11 - 11:30am - Rhyme Time
Wednesday 11 - 11:30am - Story Time
Friday 11 - 11:30am - Rhyme Time

Sandiacre Library
Tuesday 10:30 - 11:15am - Rhyme Time
Term time only

South Normanton Library
Tuesday 10:30 - 11am - Story Time





mini DONINGTON

Children's Role Play Village





Where Little Learners Play, Explore & Imagine

90-Minute Play Sessions

Imaginative Play for Children Aged 0-6 years old

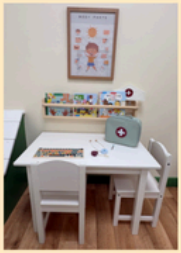
Dedicated Baby Area

Tea, Coffee and Delicious Snacks available to buy

Exclusive Hire for Birthday Parties

Book online

www.minidonington.com





Unit D2, Maple Road,
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DE74 2UT



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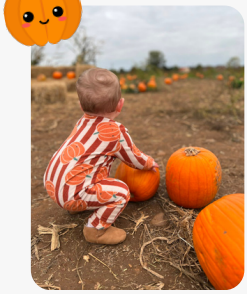
6 Things We'll Be Doing This Autumn & Spooky Season 🍂🎃

Written by Abi - LetsBeFrank Crew

Autumn is one of our favourite times of the year. Crisp walks, cosy cafés, pumpkin patches and making family memories – what's not to love? Here's what's on our autumn bucket list this year!

1. Pumpkin Picking 🎃

A pumpkin patch is an autumn tradition we never miss. Last year we visited Eastwood Farm, which had a lovely pumpkin patch and a gorgeous little café. This year we're hoping to try somewhere a little more local, like Ashover Farm or Mr Pumpkin. Of course, no pumpkin trip is complete without an afternoon of carving them at home afterwards!





2. Halloween Party 👻

This year we're finally heading to Little Moo's Play Barn Halloween Party. We couldn't make it last year, so we're making up for it by taking the fancy dress very seriously! Last year we dressed as the "Franklinstein Family"... so who knows, that might have to make a comeback!



3. Free Family Evenings ✨

Some of the best memories don't cost a penny. We'll definitely be visiting the incredible Halloween displays at Oakes Close in Alfreton (DE55 4GD), which raises money for charity, as well as the fantastic walk-through display on Rawson Green in Belper (DE56 0LN), supporting BBC Children in Need. Both are free to visit, with donations welcomed.

4. A Big Spooky Day Out 🚜

We're so excited to visit Wheelgate Park's Spooktacular for the first time! With rides, animals, soft play, child-friendly Halloween decorations and a FREE pumpkin for every child under 12, it looks like the perfect autumn family day out.



5. Matlock Bath Illuminations 🎆

We've never been before, but this is finally the year! Running from 12th September until 1st November, the illuminations are famous for selling out quickly, especially on the fireworks evenings. We're already picturing fish and chips by the river, hot chocolates and watching the lights dance across the River Derwent. The perfect way to end an autumn day together.

6. A Return Visit to Sundown Adventureland 🎢

Sundown will always hold a special place in my heart because I grew up visiting it as a child, and now I get to make those same memories with Franklin. We visited recently and have a £10 return voucher waiting to be used, so we'll definitely be heading back this autumn. If you've never been before, I'd honestly say it's a must-visit for anyone with a toddler!



7. A Free Spooky Woodland Walk 🌲👻

One place we'll definitely be returning to is Garden King in Swadlincote. Every autumn they transform their woodland walk into a toddler-friendly spooky trail, and it's completely FREE! We loved our visit a few weeks ago and finished it off with lunch in the café before letting Franklin burn off the last of his energy in their brilliant soft play.



We hope your autumn is filled with family adventures, getting outside, embracing the season and, most importantly, making memories together. 🧡🍂

Abi & Franklin x

If you'd like to see more of Abi & Franklins journey - be sure to follow us & them.

@letsbefranks_daysout

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- Annie, TinyTalk parent



...and there are lots more TinyTalk classes around the East Midlands!

Date night spots this Autumn

Written by Holly from Derbyshire Diaries



One of the best ways to maintain a healthy relationship is through quality time, and this becomes more important than ever after having kids.

Make the most of date nights this autumn. These bars and restaurants are the perfect excuse to get dressed up and enjoy what the area has to offer.



Olive, Belper
Looking to try a new cuisine? This is a Moroccan restaurant in Belper. Step into Olive on Belper high street and be transported to Marrakesh with its candlelit, cosy interior. The food is all freshly prepared and is absolutely delicious.



The Beefy Boys, Nottingham
The Hereford Beefy Boys have a new store in Notts- with creative smash burgers, chicken, veggie options and loaded fries there is something to suit all. I know a burger joint isn't the usual go to date night spot, but after seeing each other whilst looking after a new born, surely we've seen it all.

Yassu Greek Kitchen, Little Eaton
Another really great restaurant in the local area. Yassu has some of the best Greek food around offering everything from small plates to souvlaki and moussaka. The portion sizes are really generous. The place is super small and intimate, perfect for a date.

BOA, Derby
This one is down Saddler Gate in Derby City Centre- so it's ideal if you both want to have a drink as it's connected to most places by bus and they run until late. BOA is a bar best known for its award winning chicken wings and sharer plates. They also do great cocktails.



Bouquet Wines, Little Eaton
Bouquet wines is a stunning cafe by day, wine bar by night in Little Eaton - come to think of it would be a great pre drink for Yassu if you fancy a wine before you dine. You can wine it up here in any capacity- from buying a whole bottle from their huge collection, or getting a taster from the self-pours. They also serve charcuterie boards and snacks which look tasty.

Darley Park, Derby
Darley Park is home to some beautiful restaurants, excellent for date night. Lorentes is a Spanish tapas bar and La burrata serves Italian. Both are really beautifully decorated inside and have lovely food. Darley Park is also on quite a few local bus routes so worth checking out.

So what are you waiting for? Get that baby sitter booked and enjoy.









What's Happening Locally

Events happening locally for all ages!
Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire & Everywhere inbetween

We've gathered a selection of family events and activities happening in and around Derbyshire & Nottinghamshire. We hope you find something that sparks your interest!
Please note that new events are always being added, so for the latest updates, keep an eye on our social media for our weekly "what's on" posts.

BARRE SPARKS
THUR 3 SEPT | 9:15AM DOODLE & MOO'S PLAY VILLAGE
Mix fitness with sensory play, songs interaction and lots of fun! Barremama x Baby Sparks

SUMMER EXPLORERS CLUB
ON UNTIL SUN 6 SEPT | CROMFORD MILLS
A summer-long programme of nature trails, creative activities, wildlife discoveries and hands on workshops. - Nature Craft Workshops - Nature Quest Trail - Earn your explore badge - Bug Handling - Giant Games - Den Building

BACK TO SCHOOL DISCO!
FRI 4 SEPT | 4:30PM - 6:30PM | TREETOPS ACTIVITY CENTRE, RIDDINGS
Celebrate the start of a brand new school year with an afternoon full of fun, music and excitement. Get ready for disco and music, dancing, inflatable jungle fun run, play frame access and lots of fun with friends! Don't forget to dress in your best disco clothes - sparkles are always welcome! Booking required.

LOVE THE 90S AND 00S FESTIVAL
FRI 04 SEPT | 6:00 PM - 10:00 PM | NOTTINGHAM CASTLE
Get ready for a huge celebration of two of the greatest decades in music, as Love The 90s Fest expands its nostalgic journey to bring together the biggest stars and biggest hits from both the 90s and 00s!

GANDEYS K-POP DRAGON CIRCUS
THUR 10 SEPT - SUN 20 SEPT | WOLLATON HALL & DEER PARK
A dazzling fusion of East meets West, where magic, music, and myth unite beneath the big top.
Their journey begins when they discover a baby dragon, and together they embark on a heartwarming quest to reunite the young dragon with her majestic mother, guarded by the noble dragon riders.

CLASSIC CAR SHOW
THUR 10 SEPT | 5:00PM TO 9:00PM | THE WHITE HART
We're thrilled to announce the return of our much-loved Classic Car Shows to The White Hart in 2026. These events have been a huge hit in previous years, and we can't wait to welcome enthusiasts, families and fantastic vehicles back. As well as a brilliant selection of Classic and High Performance vehicles, we still also have great food and drink for you to enjoy!

NEVERLAND - DRONE EXPERIENCE
SAT 12 SEPT | 5PM - 10:30PM |
The Our Coop County Ground, Derby
Experience the magic of Peter Pan like never before! Watch hundreds of synchronized drones light up the night sky, bringing Neverland to life in a breath taking symphony of light, music, and story. Join Peter, Wendy, and Tinker Bell on an epic flight across the stars at The Central Co-op County Ground.
Make a full evening of it with live tribute acts, fairground rides, face painting, and street food before the main event—an unforgettable, brand-new show captivating audiences of all ages!

TRAM WEEKEND
SAT 12 SEPT | THE NATIONAL TRAMWAY MUSEUM
Celebrate our collection with many of our operational trams running- ride on as many as you wish, static displays and archive film footage showing.

MATLOCK BATH ILLUMINATIONS
SAT 12 OCT - SUN 01 NOV | 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM | MATLOCK BATH
Matlock Bath Illuminations is a fun-packed family event featuring a spectacular parade of illuminated and decorated boats along the River Derwent.

MUSIC IN CROSSLEY PARK
SUN 13 SEPT | 2:30PM - 4:30PM | CROSSLEY PARK, RIPLEY
Grab your friends and a picnic to enjoy LIVE music by The Sugar Tree in Crossley Park. **FREE**

VINTAGE TRACTOR DAY
SUN 20 SEPT | 11:00am to 3:00pm | Heage Windmill, DE56 2BH
Vintage Tractors at Heage Windmill

GOOSE FAIR
FRI 25 SEPT - SUN 4 OCT | FOREST RECREATION GROUND
With more than 400 rides and attractions and thrills aplenty for all ages, Goose Fair has been staged annually in Nottingham since at least 1284.
Half a million visitors usually attend the ten-day event, generating a significant economic uplift for the city and attracting attendees from across the region and beyond. **FREE ENTRY**

PUMPKIN WOODS
SAT 26 SEPT - SUN 1 NOV | GARDEN KING, SWADLINCOTE
Make your visit EXTRA spooktacular. FREE until 09 OCT, then from 10 OCT £5 per child & adult, £1 per baby From Teddy Bear making, marsh mellow toasting, candy floss, bungee trampolines, role play, mini golf & more!

DERBY FESTE
SAT 26 SEPT | 12:00 PM - 6:00 PM | VARIOUS LOCATIONS IN DERBY
This vibrant event is proudly presented by Derby City Council with project grant support from Arts Council England National Lottery funding. Festé is delivered in partnership with FABRIC, the Midlands strategic dance development organisation, with additional support from Derby Museums and QUAD.

WIRKSWORTH WIZARDING DAY
SUN 04 SEPT | 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM | WIRKSWORTH DE4
The largest fan-organised event for Harry Potter fans in the UK! Every year witches, wizards and understanding muggles take over the historic Peak District town of Wirksworth.

Help keep Boom alive! Let vendors and venues know we sent you! Your shout-outs keep our pages turning.

- September & October

Events happening locally for all ages!
Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire & Everywhere inbetween

DEAR ZOO LIVE
SUN 04 OCT | THEATRE ROYAL
Dear Zoo the timeless children's classic book returns to the stage! See our characters write to the Zoo. Who will be delivered? A cheeky monkey, a jumpy frog and of course a perfect puppy.
Help your children learn as the book leaps onto the stage and share a magical experience as the story unfolds with child-engaging puppets, music and lots of audience interaction.

PUMPKIN PATCH & AUTUMN FESTIVAL AT CASTLETON
SUN 04 OCT - SAT 31 OCT | CASTLETON, S33 8WP
Our pumpkin patch boasts an incredible variety! You'll find a wide range of colours, from traditional oranges to ghostly whites, speckled and warty and you might even discover a crowned prince. Explore different shapes and sizes, from tiny Munchkins perfect for little hands to colossal gourds ideal for carving. Whether you're looking for a spooky lantern or a delicious autumnal pie or soup, your perfect pumpkin is here.

BRITISH SIGN LANGUAGE TOUR OF CHATSWORTH HOUSE
WED 07 OCT | CHATSWORTH HOUSE
Join us for a dedicated British Sign Language (BSL) tour of the house, led by art guide and BSL user, Martin Glover.
This 1.5-hour tour is delivered entirely in BSL, with no spoken English. It is designed for Deaf visitors and BSL users only.

EXPRESS & EXPLORE SEND-FRIENDLY ARTS & CRAFT WORKSHOPS
SAT 10 OCT | LEARNING STUDIO, LAKESIDE ARTS, NG7 2RD
Suitable for ages 7-14
Lakeside Arts are excited to welcome you to their new craft workshops for children with special educational needs and disabilities. - Tickets: £10 (with free adult ticket) per session

FANG-TASTIC HALLOWEEN FESTIVAL!
SAT 24 OCT - SUN 01 NOV | 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM | MATLOCK FARM PARK
Venture into the Forbidden Forest to follow our Spooky Trail, packed with prop-based woodland scenes, ghoul games and spellbinding riddles.
Join Witch Wendolyn's daily craft workshops to create enchanted keepsakes to take home.
24th October: enjoy magical meet-and-greets, fun sing-along sessions, catchy dance lessons, exciting games and wicked photo opportunities with Elphaba and Glinda (see What's On page for full event details).
Take a trip to our Pumpkin Patch where every child with a paid entry ticket receives a **FREE** pumpkin* to pick using mini wheelbarrows, before carving it at one of our carving stations.

LITTLE HORRORS HALLOWEEN PARTY
SUN 25 OCT | 2:00 PM - 6:00 PM | RENAISSANCE AT KELHAM HALL
The Ultimate Family Halloween Experience. Something wickedly wonderful is coming this Halloween half term! Gather your little witches, wizards, vampires, skeletons, and superheroes for an unforgettable afternoon of Halloween fun at the Little Horrors Halloween Party.

AFTERNOON SCREAM TEA
SAT 31 OCT | DEPARTS AT 1:00PM | PEAK RAIL, DE4 2LF
All aboard... if you dare! Our Afternoon Scream Tea Train departs from Rowsley South Station at 13:00, taking you on a spine-tinglingly scenic journey through the beautiful Derwent Valley. Sit back, relax, and treat yourself to a devilishly delicious Afternoon Tea as the countryside glides by your window.

HALLOWEEN FUN
MON 26 OCT - FRI 30 OCT | 10.00AM - 4.30PM | THE NATIONAL TRAMWAY MUSEUM
It's Eerie-sistable!!! Join us for some spooky half term family fun! Fun Halloween Trail along the Woodland Walk. Enjoy scarily fun, family activities with a spooky theme. Stories on a tram, face painter, Halloween crafts, Join in Halloween Show and tricks and treats on our woodland Halloween trail

ROBIN HOOD DAY
THUR 29 OCT | THEATRE ROYAL
Visit one of the historic Robin hood Locations by scanning the QR code.
SCAN HERE

BONFIRE AND FIREWORKS AT CHATSWORTH
FRI 30 OCT - SAT 31 OCT | FROM 6:00 PM | CHATSWORTH HOUSE, DE45 1PP
Join us in the garden for a blazing bonfire and two spectacular fireworks displays, including an earlier, gentler display designed especially for our youngest visitors. The evening will include a varied programme of family entertainment. More details will be shared soon.

WHAT'S ON CALENDAR
WE ASKED YOU 👍🏽 & YOU VOTED 🗳️ SO WE DID IT! 🎉

We brought you a brand new what's on calendar, we update it every week with new events & ACTIVITIES! from family meet ups, festivals, special events at your favourite places, parent nights & so so much more!

Use the QR code to take you straight to the google calendar & add your fav events straight to yours!! BUT be sure to keep checking back & checking for new updates!

However dont fear we will be continuing to add a selected few through out both months so you can have them to hand in the magazine too!

Scan for the what's on calendar

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Tips for Trick or Treat

Whether its dressing up as mummies, ghouls and witches or free sweeties and pumpkin carving, kids love a little bit of Halloween! There's no denying that old Hallow's Eve is growing in popularity, but trick-or-treating can be a little worrying for parents so we've put together five ideas for a safe and spooky Sam'hain!

1. Bright, reflective costumes
If you're taking them out on the Trick-or-Treat Trail this year, make sure the costumes are full of colour or have some reflective stuff on them! Try using glowsticks or make stripes out of reflective tape on hats, treat bags or tights! Also make sure any bought costumes are fire-safe!

2. Avoid sticks and swords
Pirates, knights and mages, what do they have in common? Long, pointy sticks! These can be a little dangerous, especially if a child stumbles. Try a foam sword or plastic 'crystal' ball as an alternative if you're worried.

3. Fitted hats and raised hemlines
We get it, that mini Gandalf costume really *would* be adorable but it's also a bit of trip hazard. Make sure the hem on his cloak is at ankle length and his hat isn't falling into his eyes (a great hack for this is too pad out the inside rim of too-large hats with a flat sock!)

5. Non-food items in your treat bowl
This is just to tone down the sugar but also is great for kids who suffer from allergies! Many individually wrapped sweets don't include the ingredients on the wrapper so kids might accidentally eat something they can't or just end up not having anything at all! Try throwing in some small stationary, badges, or mini card packs.

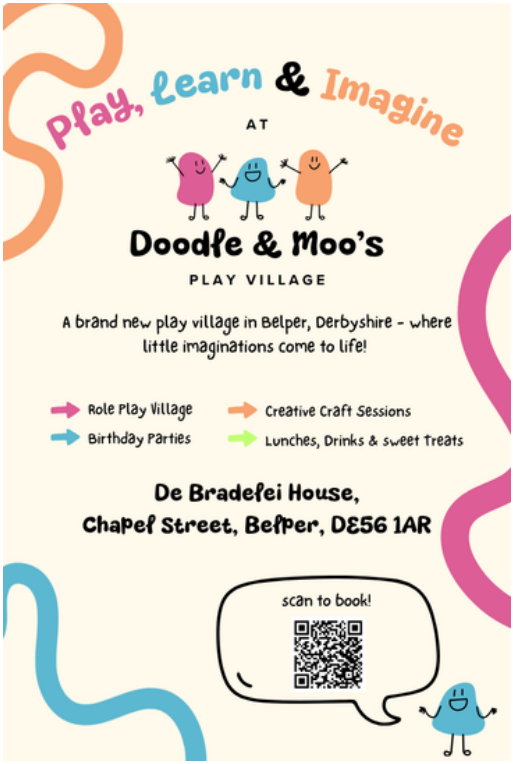
5. Always have a Back-Up Costume
Especially for baby's first (or second [or third]) Halloween, you never know what mudshaps, wee-cidents or vomittacks might occur!



Looking for safe, no-fright Halloween fun?

Join us at Erewash Museum for our FREE event! Fully ground-floor accessible and perfect for all ages and abilities. All treats, no tricks!







A message from Jess :

Writing this is so bittersweet, but after 14 incredible months of co-owning Boom and pouring my heart into creating each issue alongside Steph, the time has come for me to step back. I have genuinely loved every single second of this wild, wonderful journey with you all!

I want you to know that Boom is in the absolute best hands possible. Steph is taking over fully, with her lovely partner Jason by her side behind the scenes, and I just know they are going to take the magazine to even bigger and better places! A huge, heartfelt thank you to every single one of you for all the love, encouragement, and kind messages you've sent my way—both throughout my time here and since I announced I was stepping down. Your support truly means the absolute world to me.

Don't worry though, you haven't seen the last of me! I'm not fully leaving the Boom family - I'll still be around as an official "Boom Buddy," cheering Steph on and helping out behind the scenes while she fully finds her feet. Plus, I will definitely still be running our Boom & Brew meet-ups, so I can't wait to see your lovely faces there for a chat and a catch-up.

If you'd still like to follow along with our family's next chapter, we would adore having you along for the ride! Come join us over on our page for all the best local recommendations, chaos, and toddler adventures from my 17 month old boy - who has major FOMO, endless energy, and is always on the hunt for the next fun day out.



Thank you for making these 14 months so unforgettable. Here's to the next chapter for all of us!

With so much love, Jess x (Sam, Flynn & Bobby)

Always your fellow Boom Buddies — The Linford Family ♡

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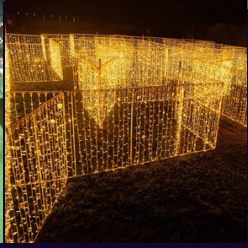












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Children's Book Review: Pumpkin Soup by Helen Cooper

Written by - Ella Fothergill

Meet the Culinary Trio Cooking Up Big Lessons in Friendship.

A duck, a cat and a squirrel make pumpkin soup every night in their old, white cabin in the woods. They each have a specific job; the cat cuts the pumpkin, the duck adds the salt and the squirrel stirs the soup - perfect! Or so it seems ....



One day, the little duck decides that, instead of squirrel, he would enjoy being head chef and pinches the wooden stirring spoon off of its hook. Afterwards, squabbling erupts in the small wooden hut as the three animals argue over their pumpkin soup duties!

The animals' argument and eventual compromise is a powerful lesson for children about friendship, compassion and sharing. Its simple message, with beautiful illustrations and funny animal characters, will make your children snicker, learn and fall in love!

Packed with laugh-out-loud animal antics and stunning visual storytelling, this delightful read for ages 3 and up is guaranteed to have your little ones chuckling, learning, and begging for a second serving before bedtime.

Interactive things to do with the kids around the book...

Written by Jess Henley - Co-owner & Director



Grab the spoons, roll up your sleeves, and get digging! 🎃 Digging into pumpkin "guts" is the ultimate double-duty activity: the kids get a fun messy-play experience (and pumpkins ready to carve/paint), and you get the best ingredient for a cozy batch of homemade Pumpkin Soup! 🥣✨

Turn an autumn walk into an afternoon of play! 🍂 Head outside as a family to hunt for the crispest leaves and biggest acorns, then bring your treasures home for a hands-on "soup making" setup. Measuring, scooping, and stirring natural finds brings storybooks like Pumpkin Soup right off the page! 📚🎃





A pinch of potion and a whole lot of science! 🧪🕸️ Take your little explorers into the garden to collect natural "secret ingredients" before diving into this spooky mixing station. Squeezing pipettes and pouring liquids into a carved pumpkin is a brilliant way to sneak in early STEM learning and fine motor practice through creative play. 🎃✨



Boom Community

Join us on socials, at parent meet ups, or on a child free craft evening. All the details you need to know!

Follow us on Social Media for:

- Weekly What's On Posts
- Small Business Spotlights
- Event Night Announcements
- Parent Meet Ups
- School Holiday What's On Posts
- Tried & Tested REAL reviews from our Boom Buddies!
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Join us for Boom Events!

An affordable craft night where everyone is welcome. Come alone or with friends. Join us for an evening of chatting, making new friends and being part of our wonderful community. The best part - we do the clean up at the end!

SCAN ME!

Let's Go Fly a Kite!

Finding joy in playing – screen free!



Written by Jo Gotheridge

"The secret of genius is to carry the spirit of the child into old age, which means never losing your enthusiasm." Aldous Huxley.

Working with children over 29 years as a primary school teaching, predominantly in Derbyshire, has been a gift in so many ways.

But sadly the education system (particularly in recent years) does not always allow for much creativity or freedom for children to be children. My fondest memories of the job, looking back will always be the following:

- End of year visits to the beach for sandcastles, fish and chips and swimming in the sea.
- Residential stays with zip wires, kayaking, card games before bed and PJs.
- Cooking adventures (or chaos!) after school creating smoothies, shortbread and pizzas.
- Making Viking ships out of cardboard boxes.

What do you notice?
Is it that one Maths lesson that I recall?
Is the feedback from the Ofsted inspector?





No it most certainly is not. I feel so grateful to have worked for two Headteachers who allowed me the freedom to be creative and were encouraging of my 'wild and wacky' ideas – which occurred quite regularly.

If children are not offered chances to feel unbounded joy making mandalas out of petals and dens out of sticks, what chance do they have to be creative as adults?

Initiatives and societies such as Scouts and Forest Schools help keep this drive to utilise nature's playground but sadly technological advances have tempted children away from some pleasures we sought.

What child wouldn't like making things out of sticks and toasting marshmallows by the fire?

Two of my treasured childhood books were 'When we were very young' and 'Now we are six' by AA Milne. The image of Christopher Robin playing 'poohsticks' in the quintessentially English setting is etched on my mind, as it will be for many of us.

The world AA Milne created of stone skimming and adventures in the woods may be somewhat sanitised but it is these ventures, ones led by nature, which will burn long in our memories, not those playing on a phone or watching a You Tube clip.



Maybe after a long while of squeezing the 'arts' out of the curriculum, a change is coming? The new government are being urged to prioritise creativity in their 10 year plan.

CEO of Access Art Paula Briggs said: "The government has said it understands the importance of arts education, but now we need to see commitment and action. Listen to the experts.

"Arts education isn't an optional extra; it's how children develop confidence, curiosity, creativity and a sense of agency. If we truly value those qualities, we need to make arts education a priority for every child."

There are other encouraging seeds of change, led by our communities, one Leeds estate has been praised for closing the road during set times to allow the children to able to play freely and collaboratively outside in the Summer holidays, not cooped up inside on their own.

Long may we aim to nurture creativity, spontaneity and imagination with our future generations.

We need to make sure our children still have the chance to experience pure, unbounded joy where they laugh until it hurts, blow bubbles watching where they land and make daisy chains until the sun sets.



Substack Facebook

Love this article – Read more of Jo's stuff on her Facebook or Substack -->
Jo will also be writing more issues for Boom, so keep an eye on our blogs & in print

Colouring Page

Autumn has arrived! Get creative & enjoy!
Don't forget to send us your creations so we can share them!



Why Mr Pumpkin Deserves a Spot on Your Family's 2026 Autumn Bucket List



Written by Jess - First time mum, Co-owner & Director



If your usual Halloween routine involves frantically grabbing a sad, bruised supermarket pumpkin three days before October 31st, consider this your sign to upgrade.

Tucked away at Lime Farm in Morley, Derbyshire, Mr Pumpkin has evolved from a humble farm patch into an absolute seasonal institution. Having visited last year, it was already high on our family's list of autumn highlights—but judging by their latest updates, 2026 is set to be their most impressive season yet.



For our family, it isn't just about picking pumpkins — it's about starting a lasting tradition with our son, Flynn.

One of the standout highlights at Lime Farm is the sheer effort put into their seasonal photo ops. Dotted around the farm, you'll find giant hay-bale stacks, vintage tractors, oversized pumpkin displays, and themed prop frames. We've decided to make it a yearly milestone: taking Flynn's picture in front of the same wooden photo spots every autumn to measure how much he's grown against the pumpkins.

Beyond the photos, the farm is packed with family entertainment:

- The Pumpkin Trail: A fun, family-friendly perimeter walk filled with clues for kids to solve, with all donations supporting the local Air Ambulance.
- Attractions & Rides: Classic children's teacup rides, bouncy castles, bungee trampolines, a hay bale slide, and Sheldon the Snail keep little ones energized.
- Local Bites: Hot food stalls from regional favorites like Oakfield Farm serve up wood-fired food, spiced hot drinks, and sweet treats.

Book your 2026 pumpkin picking tickets.

BOOK NOW

← Stay up to date with Mr Pumpkin on their Facebook here

When you do venture onto the fields, the scale is unmatched. For 2026, the farm has planted nearly 90,000 pumpkins across over 50 different varieties. We aren't just talking about classic orange carvers - expect ghostly white pumpkins, warty "ugly" gourds, miniature munchkins, and star-shaped varieties. Handing Flynn a wheelbarrow and letting him hunt through the field for "the one" is pure, low-tech joy.



With ticketed entry keeping overcrowding managed and prices kept low, Mr Pumpkin delivers an authentic, fresh-air family experience without feeling commercialised.



If you've never been, or if you're looking to start a new family tradition of your own — set a reminder for ticket sales, grab your wellies, and make it the anchor event of your autumn calendar.



My Pumpkin Patch Top Tips & Packing Checklist

What to Wear

- Wellies or waterproof boots
- Warm layers + waterproof coat
- Gardening gloves (prevents prickly vine scratches)

Backpack Essentials

- Wet wipes & sanitiser
- Snacks & water
- Spare clothes for the kids

In the Car Boot

- IKEA bags/liners (keeps mud off the boot & emptying the boot alot more bare able at home!)
- Clean shoes to drive home in
- Old towel (to wipe down pumpkins)

Quick Pro-Tips

- Morning slots are best: Less busy, fresher fields, and shorter queues for photo ops.
- Lift from the bottom: Never carry pumpkins by the stem—they snap easily and spoil faster.
- Tag-team wheelbarrows: Let kids push them empty, but take over once loaded up!



Twistin Tots

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UNDER 5'S MUSIC CLASS

MUSIC, MOVEMENT & FUN

14 Sep–18 Dec

9.45–11.45AM

1h musical fun

1h stay & play

Belper Community Hall

MON & TUE

Darley Abbey Village Hall

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Children of all faiths and no faith welcome

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Call 01773 822278 to book a tour

Personal Development graded **Outstanding** by Ofsted

Pomeroy Farm

FREE ENTRY

Welcome to Pomeroy Farm Park

A delightful countryside escape for families and nature enthusiasts alike. Enjoy interacting with friendly farm animals, exploring scenic walking trails, and participating in seasonal events. With ample picnic areas and free entry, Pomeroy Farm Park ensures a memorable and affordable day out for all ages.

Camping at Pomeroy Farm Park









Tents, caravans, and campervans welcome! Immerse yourself in peaceful countryside with spacious pitches, clean facilities, on-site refreshments, and stunning walking trails. The perfect balance of tranquility and outdoor fun.
Unwind under the stars and wake up to nature. Book your pitch today!

Animal Experiences




Under £25.00
for 2 People




Meet, greet and interact with animals of your choice from our onsite petting area. Ever bathed a pig? Fancied walking a goat? Perfect for family, friends or special events! All experiences are led by staff who offer handling advice. We strongly advise booking in advance.

Artisan Ice Cream

Since 2017, we've been producing our own artisan ice cream made with whole milk from our dairy cows. Our shop is open daily April to October, 9am-6.30pm, with 14 rotating flavours.





We also offer an ice cream trailer for events and wholesale supply. Get in touch for a price list!

Ice cream trailer and self-serve cart available for hire. Local delivery available. Contact us for supply lists, quotes or any other information.

Titchy Town CHELLASTON

Hero Town MELBOURNE

Interactive play centres based in South Derbyshire

Titchy Town and Hero Town are both indoor play centres designed especially for little ones up to 8 years of age. Children can freely explore the many different play zones in both centres. The centres are designed to allow children's imagination to run wild whilst they role play in a safe environment.

Hero Town also features a soft play area specially designed for young children to learn, explore, and develop essential skills through play. Integrated within our role play centre, it provides a safe and stimulating environment that encourages creativity, imagination, and independent discovery. Through climbing, balancing, crawling, and interactive play, children can develop key physical skills including coordination, balance, strength, and fine motor control.

Grown-ups can participate in their child's play, or just sit back and watch them learn whilst enjoying a mug of freshly brewed tea or coffee and an amazing homemade cake from our little coffee shop.

Where are we?

Titchy Town is based on the site of Scallywags Private Day Nursey in Chellaston (Rowallan Way, DE73 5WX). Hero Town is based on the site of Scallywags Private Day Nursery in Melbourne (Castle Lane, DE73 8JB). Please use Scallywags car park at both sites. You will find signage in both car parks on how to access the centres.

How it works?

Both centres work on a pre-book via our website and pay on arrival basis with sessions lasting 90 minutes. On your first entry you will be issued a loyalty card and for every nine sessions you attend you will receive your 10th entry free of charge! Loyalty cards can be used across both sites. Payment is **cash only**. See prices on our websites.

Titchy Town Play Centre

Castle Store
Town House
Vets 'n' Pets
Anabelle's Café
Wash 'n' Go
Harry's Yard
Heidi's Fire Station
Baby Zone

Hero Town Play Centre

Dolly Dogs Grooming Parlour
George's Garage
Simon's Shed
Foston's Fire Station
Mrs Potts Tearoom
Castle Lane Clinic
The Land Where Dreams Come True
Baby Zone
Little Heroes Soft Play

To find out more, enquire about private party hire, or to book into a play session...

Visit our websites: titchytown.com or hero-town.co.uk