

SEFTON children's UNIVERSITY



October half term Challenge 2026

Activity 1 **Autumn scavenger hunt** Below is a link to a website where you can get a free scavenger hunt. Print it off or write down the list of things you need to find & tick things off as and when you see them. https://www.myohana.co.uk/blog/autumn-scavenger-hunt#download-your-free-autumn-scavenger-hunt-printable	**Activity 2** **Liverpool River of Light** Why not visit the free Liverpool River of Light artwork which is running from Friday 23rd Oct to Sunday 1st November. To gain a credit create a poster with your favorite light display and what you enjoyed the most.	**Activity 3** **Autumn Science experiments** Have a go at some science experiments at home. You could do Leaf Chromatography (why leaves change colour), Pumkin Volcano, Or Conker Sink or Float experiments but check out the link below for instructions. https://www.supercamps.co.uk/blog/science-of-autumn-experiments	**Activity 4** **Half term baking.** Have a go at making some half term treats, you could make some biscuits, flapjacks, themed filled peppers or muffins. Check out the link below for some ideas: https://www.bbcgoodfood.com/howto/guide/10-half-term-recipes-kids
Activity 5 **Make something out of recycled materials!** You could find sticks, stones, leaves and flowers and create your own artistic landscape on paper or canvas. Or you could try making some jewellery out of pasta, pretzels or cereal, you could use string to tie it all together. https://thecraftingfoodie.com/recycled-crafts-for-kids/	**Activity 6** **Get moving!** Create a mini indoor obstacle course, you could use pillows, chairs, blankets to build a fun course then time yourself doing it. Or you could organise an at-home sports day…be creative and create races with the things you have at home. https://www.nhs.uk/healthier-families/activities/indoor-activities-for-kids/#home	**Activity 7** **Books Alive! Once upon a town** Books Alive! Is bringing a world of story telling , creativity and fun to Southport on 24-31 October. The Jolly Postman Trail will be taking over the town centre and there will be a packed festival of stories at the Atkinson. Merseyrail will be doing a special £2 return ticket (£1 for children). To gain your credit do a book review of your favourite book there.	

Collect extra Children's University credits during the October holiday by completing this challenge. Each activity is worth 1 credit (unless otherwise stated) when you take evidence of your activity to your teacher or send it to your local Children's University. Send it to SeftonCU@elevate-ebp.co.uk

Southport Books Alive Festival – 24th to 31st October

https://www.visitsouthport.com/whats-on/top-events/books-alive/



BOOKS ALIVE! FESTIVAL OF STORIES

29 & 30 OCTOBER
THE ATKINSON, LORD STREET, SOUTHPORT PR8 1DB

BOOK FREE TICKETS — SCAN ME...

All events are FREE to attend, but advance booking is recommended as places are limited – find out more at visitsouthport.com/booksalive

In partnership with Children's Books North Network, Festival of Stories brings together celebrated children's authors and illustrators for two days of interactive storytelling, creativity and family-friendly experiences, hosted by CBeebies star and author Katy Ashworth.

BE INSPIRED! AT SOUTHPORT LIBRARY

Lydia Monks: Meet the Artist and Draw-Along 4+

Join bestselling illustrator Lydia Monks for a fun talk and draw-along! Hear how she became an illustrator, discover what it's like working with Julia Donaldson, enjoy live drawings of favourite characters, then create your own picture inspired by The Tooth Fairy and the Crocodile.

Natalie Denny: Meet the Author and Interactive Storytime 4+

Calling all mini activists! Join Natalie Denny for interactive storytelling and crafts, and discover how to stand up for what you believe in. Create your own placard or banner, take the Bee Squad pledge and learn the special Bee Squad handshake!

Dapo Adeola: Meet the Artist and Draw Along 4+

Fly into an empowering event with bestselling author and award-winning illustrator Dapo Adeola as he introduces his latest picture book, Super Goat Girl. Enjoy drawing, laughter and plenty of fun as you discover what makes you super and celebrate the joy of being yourself.

Kate Pankhurst: Meet the Author – Fantastically Great Women 4+

Celebrate ten fantastic years of Fantastically Great Women with bestselling author and illustrator Kate Pankhurst! Discover incredible women who changed the world in this wildly wonderful anniversary event, inspired by the million-copy bestselling series.

Ashley Thorpe: Meet the Author – The Boy to Beat the Gods 7+

Step into a world of gods, myths and adventure with Ashley Thorpe, author of The Boy to Beat the Gods! Discover the Yoruba gods and their links to mythologies around the world, then learn how to create your own exciting characters and worlds.

Joseph Coelho: Meet the Author & Playwright – Inspiring Poetry 7+

Join former Children's Laureate and Carnegie Medal for Writing Winner – Joseph Coelho as he dives into all things poetry, sharing his favourite poems from his collections and inspiring young audiences to pick up a pen and write. Joseph is the author of over 50 books for children.

BE CREATIVE! AT SOUTHPORT LIBRARY

Salomey Doku: Meet the Artist and Draw Along 4+

Get creative with illustrator Salomey Doku in a fun-filled session inspired by Sir Lenny Henry's Tyrone stories! Enjoy storytelling, dream up your own adventure, design a rocket and learn how to draw Tyrone, before giving him a brilliant new hairstyle.

Metaphrog: Graphic Novel Workshop 7+

Join award-winning graphic novel duo Metaphrog, creators of Wilomina: The Land of Dreams and Nightmares, for a fun, interactive comic workshop. Pick up top tips for creating comics and let your imagination run wild as you draw your own characters and monsters!

Ruth Awolola: Interactive Poetry Workshop 4+

Join poet Ruth Awolola for a fun-filled, interactive poetry workshop! Play with words, rhythm and imagination to create bold and brilliant poems. Perfect for writers of all ages, this creative session is a chance to write, share ideas and create together.

Gabrielle Kent: Meet the Author – How Stories Begin 4+

Where do great stories begin? Join author Gabrielle Kent to discover how ideas can appear in the most unexpected places! Explore playful prompts, ask curious questions and learn how to find inspiration in the world around you to create stories of your own.

BE PART OF IT! AT THE ATKINSON STUDIO

Altru Drama: Hansel & Gretel 3–11

Follow the breadcrumbs into the world of Hansel and Gretel in a special performance by Altru Drama. Bored and searching for adventure, the pair have no idea what their stepmother has planned or where their journey will lead!

EggPeople: Poetry Slammed! 6+

Expect the unexpected as EggPeople bring standout poems by Sefton's talented young writers to life. With no idea what's coming next, each poem inspires a spontaneous and completely unique piece of live theatre.

Tmesis Theatre: The Wondershelf All

Step inside a magical bookcase where myths and legends come to life! Packed with puppetry, music and laughter, this imaginative adventure celebrates the joy of reading and is perfect for curious minds and dreamers of all ages.

Little Seeds Music: Tales from the Lighthouse 5+

Set sail on a magical adventure as a lonely lighthouse keeper learns to overcome his fear of the stormy sea. Featuring storytelling, traditional music, original songs and spellbinding puppetry.

MAKE-IT! WORKSHOPS AT THE ATKINSON ART BOX

Get crafty with artist Dot Rogers in a free family workshop inspired by favourite children's stories. Create a lion inspired by The Lion Inside or a colourful caterpillar inspired by The Very Hungry Caterpillar.

NOISY NOISE NOISE AT THE ATKINSON FOYER

Shhh... just kidding. Make some noise! Explore a playful sound library of over 90 books triggering weird, wonderful and occasionally rude noises. Created with kids, for kids, it's a brilliantly chaotic celebration of sound and play.

PROGRAMME

THURSDAY 29 OCTOBER

LOCATION	10:00	10:15	10:30	10:45	11:00	11:15	11:30	11:45	12:00	12:15	12:30	12:45	13:00	13:15	13:30	13:45	14:00	14:15	14:30	14:45	15:00	15:15	15:30	15:45	16:00
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THE ATKINSON FOYER	Noisy Noise Noise																Noisy Noise Noise								
THE ATKINSON ART BOX					Make it Craft Workshop																				

FRIDAY 30 OCTOBER

LOCATION	10:00	10:15	10:30	10:45	11:00	11:15	11:30	11:45	12:00	12:15	12:30	12:45	13:00	13:15	13:30	13:45	14:00	14:15	14:30	14:45	15:00	15:15	15:30	15:45	16:00
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= These sessions are supported by a British Sign Language (BSL) interpreter 4+ = This session is suitable for ages mentioned | Accessibility information can be found on **visitsouthport.com/BooksAlive**