

Summer of fun

FOR SANDWELL'S CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Your guide to activities across Sandwell this summer

Join us for a bostin summer of fun activities

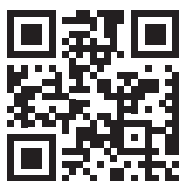
Sandwell Council's Youth Service will be running free holiday activity and food programmes in Sandwell parks and open spaces across the six towns.

A range of activities aimed at 11 to 19-year-olds (up to 25 for those with SEND), supported by the Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme, will be offering some bostin fun and excitement for young people. Check out details for our activity days on page 3.

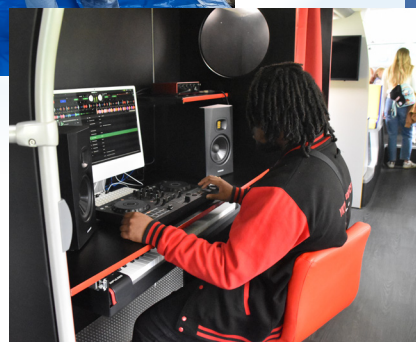
Young people will be able to access our NEW Youth Bus – kitted out with the latest technology and gadgets. Scale the heights on our mobile climbing wall and take part in multi sports, graffiti art and laser fun. Back by popular demand is our skate park coaching and competitions which will be returning to Brunswick Park, Britannia Park and Victoria Park, Tipton.

And don't miss our summer holiday adventure days at Malthouse Outdoor Activity Centre in Tipton. For children aged eight and over to try out canoeing, climbing, abseiling and archery.

Email youngpeople_services@sandwell.gov.uk to find out more and book places.



Visit www.justyouth.org.uk for more information on activities and programmes or follow us on Facebook (search 'JustYouthSandwell').



SCHOOL HOLIDAYS TO REMEMBER!

free activities for children and young people



COME AND FIND OUT MORE AT:

<https://holidayactivities.sandwell.gov.uk/>



Little moments make big memories

#MAKINGMEMORIES

Exciting summer activities for children

As the summer holidays draw near, brace yourself for a spectacular line-up of Sandwell Holiday Activities to keep your youngsters entertained and active.

Funded by the Department for Education, Holiday Activities provide fantastic opportunities for children and young people to explore new interests, create friendships and have fun. Whether it's sports, music, dance, art, drama, cooking or day trips, there's something for everyone.

If your child receives free school meals based on benefits, you'll receive a Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) e-voucher. This voucher will come with a unique code and booking instructions via email or text.

Head over to holidayactivities.sandwell.gov.uk to find activities offering FREE universal or subsidised spaces. Stay updated by following 'Sandwell Holiday Activities' on Facebook.

Go Play Sandwell!

Become part of the fantastic Go Play Sandwell family with Sandwell Council's play service.

Dive into a summer packed with indoor and outdoor fun including arts and crafts, archery, mud painting, family games and much more! All you need to do is check what's on in your area, show up and play – all at no cost!

Amazing FREE play sessions are available for all school aged children and families across the borough all year round.

Check out our play sessions calendar at www.goplaysandwell.co.uk for a full calendar of events and contact details. Follow 'Go Play Sandwell' on Facebook.



Let's make this summer unforgettable with a great range of exciting activities for children and young people of all ages in Sandwell!



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Sandwell celebrates National Play Day

Join us as we celebrate the National Play Day – which is back for its 16th year, having already delighted over 10,000 children and families.

Enjoy free food workshops, Doh! drumming workshops and theatre productions. Engage in play across the entire site with sporting activities and crafts.

Pack a picnic and enjoy the summer fun! Don't miss out on this fun-filled day of play and entertainment!

Check out our National Play Days summer dates for more FREE events happening near you across the summer holidays.

Go to www.goplaysandwell.co.uk for more information.



JOIN OUR GO PLAY SUMMER ROAD TRIP ALL EVENTS ARE FREE TO ATTEND AND WILL TAKE PLACE FROM 12MIDDAY –4PM

30 JULY
LIGHTWOODS HOUSE
ADKINS LANE
B67 5DP

6 AUGUST
SANDWELL VALLEY
VISITORS CENTRE
B71 4BJ

13 AUGUST
HADEN HILL HOUSE
HALESOWEN ROAD
B64 7JU

20 AUGUST
BROMWICH HALL
HALL GREEN ROAD
B71 2EA



WWW.GOPLAYSANDWELL.CO.UK



Go play Sandwell

Join the Summer Reading Challenge and library activities

Sandwell Libraries celebrate in style this summer with the Story Garden Summer Reading Challenge.

The Summer Reading Challenge encourages repeated visits to libraries across the summer holidays, with fun incentives and stickers for taking part and certificates and medals for all children who complete the challenge. Aimed at children aged four and over, the Story Garden will explore the magic of nature and stories.

For younger audiences, all libraries will be holding interactive Play, Talk, Read sessions and, if you are lucky, you may see our very own Sandy Bear as he tours around the libraries. We will also be running a special Summer Reading Challenge for under-fours.

Every library will have a packed programme of storytelling, games and crafts – fun for all the family.

Contact your local library for their full programme – find out more at www.sandwell.gov.uk/librariesonline and www.visitsandwell.com or search 'Sandwell Libraries' on Facebook.

Visit www.summerreadingchallenge.org.uk for the Summer Reading Challenge.



A sensational summer at Sandwell Museums

Discover and explore Sandwell Museums this summer and enjoy a world of creativity, adventure and entertainment for families to enjoy.

Get crafty and decorate bags, create phone charms with beads, make kites, turn nature into art and loads more!

Get messy with clay and make pots and tiles, enjoy seaside-themed fun with our sandpits and Punch and Judy shows, and be amazed with our science activities.

Travel back in time and join in the fun for Archaeology Week or be adventurous and active while solving problems with the army. Play games with Go Play Sandwell and bring a picnic to enjoy our grounds and beautiful buildings while you solve our trails.

We've also got our new exhibition – The Extraordinary, Ordinary – at Wednesbury Museum & Art Gallery celebrating creative and colourful things you might not expect to have been made in Sandwell during the Industrial Revolution.



Find out full details of what's on at www.sandwell.gov.uk/joininmuseums, find out more about Sandwell Museums at www.visitsandwell.com/sandwell-museums and follow us on social media @sandwellmuseums



Discover nature close to home

Visit Forge Mill Farm and Sandwell Valley Country Park this summer.

Enjoy local outdoor fun and make lasting memories at Sandwell Valley Country Park, which spans over 1,800 acres. Follow us on Facebook @SandwellValleyCountryPark for the latest updates on both Sandwell Valley and Forge Mill Farm.

Explore attractions such as Forge Mill Farm, the Sandwell Valley Visitor Centre, high ropes courses, an adventure playground, cycling trails and scenic walks.

Forge Mill Farm is home to rare animals like sheep, alpacas and Highland cows. It's a fantastic educational destination



for families and school groups, offering farm trails, interactive activities and a farm shop.

Go to www.visitsandwell.com to check out all the activities and events on offer at Sandwell Valley Country Park and across Sandwell.

Community events

Join in all the fun at exciting, family-friendly community events taking place this summer in Sandwell.

These include the Sandwell & Birmingham Mela, Europe's largest South Asian music festival, which takes place at Victoria Park in Smethwick on 19 to 20 July.

Visit www.birminghammela.com for more information and tickets.

In August, enjoy ONE Fest, a free celebration of African, Caribbean and South American arts and culture at Sandwell Valley Country Park from 23 to 25 August.

Register your free attendance for ONE Fest at www.eventbrite.com – search for 'ONE Fest'. The Mela and ONE Fest are community events organised by external organisations



Summer fun at leisure centres

Looking for ways to keep the kids active, engaged and having fun?

Sandwell Leisure Trust offers a fantastic range of children's activities – from exciting holiday camps and sports clubs to free swimming sessions and more.

Whether it's making new friends, learning new skills, or just burning off energy in a safe and fun environment, we've got something for every child.

Spaces fill up fast, so don't miss out! Explore all our activities at www.slt-leisure.co.uk/childrens-activities and book now!



Free swimming sessions available

Free swimming is available for Sandwell children aged 18 and under during designated sessions over the school summer holidays.

For Sandwell Leisure Trust centres – Sandwell Aquatics Centre, Tipton Leisure Centre and Wednesbury Leisure Centre – go to www.slt-leisure.co.uk/free-swimming-in-sandwell or call 0300 012 0121.

For West Bromwich Leisure Centre, register for free swimming by visiting reception at the centre or call 0121 580 6430, or go to www.placesleisure.org and search 'West Bromwich Leisure Centre'



Stay safe, stay out!

Stay safe this summer and please only swim in purpose-built, supervised swimming pools.

Lakes, pools, ponds, canals and rivers may seem inviting on a warm summer's day, but please don't be tempted to swim in them. People can often misjudge their swimming ability. Even in hot weather, water can be icy cold a few feet beneath the surface and very quickly cause severe cramp and hypothermia.

Go to www.sandwell.gov.uk/watersafety for more advice.



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In your town

Our Youth Service will be running a number of activity days in key parks in each of our six towns this summer.

Our regular youth clubs will still be open during the evenings, as well as our youth workers being out and about throughout the summer on estates, parks and open spaces. They will be helping young people to find somewhere safe to go, something positive to do and someone to talk to.

Activity days are free and open to all young people (just turn up on the day). They will be running in a park in each town, offering a range of activities, thanks to funding from the Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme, including our climbing wall, graffiti art, laser fun and multi sports. Our amazing Youth Bus will be at some of these days too.

Activity days in parks

-  **Wed 23 Jul – Thu 24 Jul, 4pm-8pm**
Brunswick Park, Wednesbury WS10 9HH
-  **Wed 30 Jul – Thu 31 Jul, 4pm-8pm**
Britannia Park, Rowley Regis B65 9HH
-  **Wed 6 Aug – Thu 7 Aug, 4pm-8pm**
Lion Farm Playing Fields, Oldbury B69 1EA
-  **Wed 13 Aug – Thu 14 Aug, 4pm-8pm**
Red House Park, Great Barr B43 6NA
-  **Wed 20 Aug – Thu 21 Aug, 4pm-8pm**
Victoria Park, Smethwick B66 3QB
-  **Wed 27 Aug – Thu 28 Aug, 4pm-8pm**
Victoria Park, Tipton DY4 8SW

Full details at www.justyouth.org.uk



Go Play Sandwell will also be running a number of free activities for children aged 5-12 at various locations in each of our six towns this summer, no need to book just turn up and play!

www.goplaysandwell.co.uk

Go play Sandwell

Oldbury Rowley Regis Smethwick Tipton Wednesbury West Bromwich



This map is a guide to the offer in each town rather than showing exact geographical locations

WHATEVER THE RESULT, WE'RE HERE TO HELP

Have you had your exam results and you're not sure what to do next?

Get specialised information, advice and guidance on weekdays
Thursday 14 August to
Friday 29 August, 10am – 4pm

Not including Bank Holiday Monday 25 August

GET IN TOUCH

www.connexionssandwell.co.uk

sandwell_connexions@sandwell.gov.uk
0121 569 2955



30 hours of childcare for eligible working families

From September 2025, eligible working parents can now apply for 30 hours of childcare from the term after their child turns 9 months until they start school.

If you currently receive 15 hours as a working family, just reconfirm as usual and the code will work for the 30 hours offer in September, providing you remain eligible and your provider has confirmed your new attendance pattern for your increased hours.

Remember to reconfirm your code every three months.

Visit www.childcarechoices.gov.uk for information.

Information for families

Sandwell Family Information Service (FIS) offers free, impartial information to families with children from birth to 19 years (or up to 25 years with a special educational need or disability), young people and professionals.

FIS can support you to help find the right childcare provider, help with childcare applications and answer any other childcare-related queries.

Visit the FIS Hub fis.sandwell.gov.uk for national and local services, activities and advice pages.

The hub includes the **Sandwell All Age Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health Directory** which provides a wide range of local, regional and national support services for children, young people and their families.



Whether you want to quit smoking, manage your weight, get more active, improve your mental health or reduce alcohol, our friendly advisers are ready to support you.

Getting in touch is easy. Call **0800 011 4656** or **0121 569 5100**, email **LS@nhs.net** or text **GETHEALTHY** to **87007**. Follow us on Facebook @**HealthySandwell** and visit **www.healthysandwell.co.uk** for more advice.

Pregnant or a new parent?

Are you pregnant or a parent or carer with a child aged 0 to 4?

We are delighted to be able to offer FREE activity sessions for you and your child.

Go to **www.sandwellchanges.co.uk** to find out more about our Changes programme and to book your space.

Family Hubs are here for you

Our Family Hubs offer the right help, in the right place, at the right time.

They offer free activities, services and support for all families in Sandwell with children aged 0 to 19 (or 25 with SEND) and extra support is available for families during pregnancy and in your baby's first years.

Visit **www.sandwellfamilyhubs.com** to see what we have on offer this summer at our seven Family Hubs across Sandwell.

Courses to help parents and carers

Bringing up children is one of the hardest jobs out there! Children don't come with an instruction manual, and we all need a bit of help and guidance from time to time.

In Sandwell, we offer a range of support to help you on your parenting journey – from one-off sessions and online programmes to longer courses.

Search for 'programmes for parents' at **www.sandwellfamilyhubs.com** to find out more about what we have on offer this summer at our seven Family Hubs across Sandwell.

Have fun and make happy memories together

Our Choices Team helps families with children aged 5 to 12 to join in free activities that support healthy eating, feeling good and staying active.

There's lots to try – like arts and crafts, gardening, games, horse riding, rock climbing and more.

All activities are free and take place throughout the year. There's something for everyone to enjoy!

Visit **www.bookwhen.com/choices** or email the team at **choices_sandwell@sandwell.gov.uk**

Sandwell School Nursing Service

Do you have a question about your child's behaviour, toileting, diet or health? Does your child need some support regarding bullying or a healthier lifestyle?

School nurses can provide support and advice for a wide variety of health needs for children and young people to enable them to reach their full potential.

If you are a parent or carer of a child aged 5 to 19 in a Sandwell school and would like confidential advice and support, visit **www.healthforkids.co.uk** for information or access Chat Health by texting **07312 263 756** to contact a nurse directly.

All primary schools are offered the opportunity to host a parent drop-in facilitated by the School Nursing Service, so speak to your school to find out more.

Visit **www.healthysandwell.co.uk/school-nurse** to find out more.

WorkWell in Sandwell

Across Sandwell, WorkWell is helping residents take meaningful steps towards employment, personal growth and improved wellbeing.

Led by Black Country Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust, WorkWell offers tailored support for residents facing barriers to work due to health conditions or disabilities.

Through one-to-one support and access to local resources, the service helps people build confidence, manage their health and explore routes into employment or training.

Visit **www.blackcountryhealthcare.nhs.uk/workwell** to find out more.

Your first step towards a new smoke-free you...

Stop For Life
Sandwell by ice

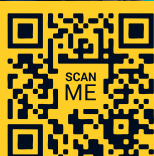
FREE 1-2-1 support
for people who live, work or have a registered GP in Sandwell



StopForLifeSandwell.org

@ 0800 612 4580

Text **QUITNOW SANDWELL** to **66777**



Our parks are
wheweeeee great!

Go out, get moving.
There's fun for all the family at your local park.

www.sandwell.gov.uk/parks



Walking for men's mental health

A big thank you to everyone who joined us for our 52-kilometre Walk in the Park Challenge and stood shoulder to shoulder for men's mental health.

Councillor Jackie Taylor, Cabinet Member for Adult Services and Health and Wellbeing, and Councillor Luke Cotterill led a six-park, three-day walking challenge in June, which finished at West Smethwick Park.

Whether you walked with us, cheered everyone on or provided activities, games or advice along the way, thank you.

Visit **www.healthysandwell.co.uk** or call Healthy Sandwell on **0800 011 4656** for advice and support around mental health and wellbeing.

