



There are some great attractions on our doorstep, many of which are running exciting activities over the half term. Most of the businesses listed here offer either free entry or activities at very reasonable prices and are a great way to prise children away from tablet screens and games consoles. If your children visit one of the attractions below, or anywhere interesting, I'd love to hear about it. Please ask them to write a short piece about their visit and pop it in my mailbox outside the hall and I'll be sure to reward them for their effort.

I hope you all have a brilliant half term,

Mr. MacLeod



Ouseburn Farm

A working farm, popular visitor attraction and vibrant green space in the heart of the city, where everyone's welcome and entry is always free. Ouseburn farm is home to a variety of animals, from those you'd expect to find on a farm such as sheep and cows to more exotic creatures including Terrapins and Bearded Dragons. Half term activities include Slime Spies, Reptile Pamper Sessions and Bunny Grooming.

More info: ouseburnfarm.org.uk

Cost: free entry (activities may incur a charge)

BALTIC

The BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Art, housed in a completely renovated flour mill on the south bank of the River Tyne, is the biggest gallery of its kind in the world and entry is free.

On Wednesday the 19th and Thursday the 20th of February between 10.00 and 18.00 the gallery is hosting free drop-in family days: two free days of creativity and play for you and your family! Come together at BALTIC with artist Richard Bliss to create circles of love and fill the space with images, colours, textures, ideas and words.

More info: baltic.art

Cost: free



Jesmond Dene and Pets Corner

This popular nature spot is the perfect place to visit if you love being outdoors. Its narrow, wooded valley follows the river Ouseburn and is home to lots of wildlife. One of the dene's best loved areas is Pet's Corner which is home to animals of all shapes and sizes, including alpacas, pot-bellied pigs, goats and sheep as well as rabbits and colourful birds.

More info: jesmonddene.org.uk

Cost: free (suggested donation of £1 for Pets Corner)



Discovery Museum

Discover all about life in Newcastle and Tyneside. The museum is bursting with interactive displays, which makes it the perfect place to learn and have fun. Visitors to the Discovery Museum can reap the benefits of free entry and it's positioned within Newcastle with great transport links. The displays are regularly updated and complemented by an array of free, fun learning activities and a changing programme of exhibitions. Workshops during the February half term (may incur a charge) include "Play + Invent" and "Crafty Family Fun".

More info: discoverymuseum.org.uk

Cost: free entry (sessions may incur a charge)



The Rising Sun Country Park

This attraction, in the heart of North Tyneside, is ideal for long walks and wildlife and animal-spotting. Covering 400 acres, it includes an organic farm, a nature reserve, a countryside centre and numerous ponds, woodlands and extensive areas of grassland. Families can make the most of a play park too as well as a cafe, picnic areas and a farm where visitors can see pigs, calves, poultry, sheep, ducks and small animals.



The Sunderland Museum and Winter Gardens

Just a short Metro ride away, Sunderland's fascinating history is waiting to be explored at this attraction whose collections date back to 1846. They contain plenty surprises for those who have never been, including its aged resident Wallace the Lion. Visitors can also see the first Nissan car to roll off the production line at the Sunderland factory in 1986; learn about the area's shipbuilding past; view the works of matchstick men artist LS Lowry, who visited the area often, and explore the Winter Gardens' botanical collection of more than 2,000 plants and trees as well as the Jurassic Gardens.

More info: sunderlandculture.org.uk/our-venues/sunderland-museum-winter-gardens

Cost: Free entry

The Great North Museum

The Great North Museum: Hancock is an award-winning family attraction in Newcastle upon Tyne. It is free to enter and open daily. Over the February half term there will be daily planetarium shows (£2 per person) and Albany's Explorer Trail where young adventurers can search the museum for the explorer's kit. Other activities include storytelling, an explorer's day and tales of engineering for under 5s.

More info: greatnorthmuseum.org.uk

Cost: entry is free (activities may incur a charge)



Northern Stage

The Newcastle theatre invites young ones to The Storyteller which will get under way on February 8. Featuring stories collected from around the world by storyteller Chris Bostock, the show is described as perfect for under-fives and the first story is Fish Tales which will journey to the bottom of the sea.

More info: northernstage.co.uk

Cost: £4 per person



Fenham Association of Residents

The FAR Centre is located just half a mile from Wingrove Primary School. On Tuesday and Wednesday of the February Half Term there will be a range of activities for 5-12 year olds including board games, slime making, game show challenge and a visit to the Better Trampoline Park.

More info: farcentre.org.uk

Cost: free (trips may incur a charge)

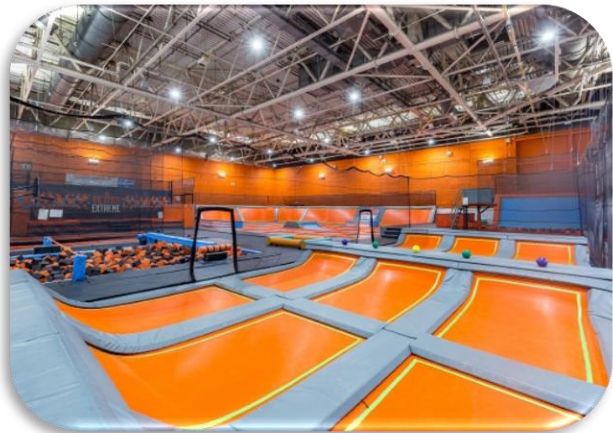


Elswick Pool

Elswick Community Leisure Centre is a community-led, not-for-profit centre for fitness, health and fun. It houses a public gym and a swimming pool that, due to its layout, is suitable for all swimmers. Over the half term the pool will have extended opening times made up of family fun sessions, lessons (booking essential) and ladies only times.

More info: elswickpool.co.uk

Cost: Jnrs £2.50 Adults: £4.00



Better Extreme Newcastle

The trampoline park on the West Road will be open each day throughout the half term. Booking is advised as the park can get extremely busy during school holidays. Check the timetable for great value half price sessions and 2-4-1 deals.

More info:

extreme.better.org.uk/newcastle/trampoline-park

Cost: Jnrs from £4.05 Adults £5.10

*all participants must buy trampoline socks at £2 per pair

MAPS Festival

MAPS is a festival for the North East which explores music, art and play. The ten-day festival, aimed at children and their grownups, will take place in venues across Newcastle and Gateshead between the 15th February - 24th February 2020. The festival programme is packed to the brim with unique immersive art experiences, gigs and workshops. Featuring gigs galore, a fart orchestra, an electronic playground, lip syncing, voguing, a playful protest, takeovers and much more!

More info: mapsfestival.co.uk

Cost: from free (see website for activity costs)



Outdoor Cinema in the Square

Head down to Times Square to enjoy some of the best family films on the big screen. The line-up includes *Incredibles 2* (19 Feb), *Toy Story 4* (21 Feb), *Beauty and the Beast* singalong (23 Feb), *The Greatest Showman* (23 Feb) and the first Harry Potter film (22 Feb) to name just a few. Tickets vary from completely free to £12 depending on whether you want to sit on a bench or snuggle around a fire pit. Street food and snacks are on hand to keep you well fuelled during your movie watching.

More info: inthesquare.co.uk/cinema

Cost: from free



Climb Newcastle

Climb Newcastle's Pool Centre are running extra climbing classes throughout the half term holiday, with extended opening hours from 12 to 9pm. Supervised Rock Star classes are great fun for all ages. Booking is essential with prices from £8 including shoe hire. Daily schedule from Monday to Friday: 12-1pm: 3-5 year olds, 1-2pm: 6-9 year olds, 2-3pm: 10-13 year olds. Introductory family sessions are available daily. Again, booking is essential. £15 adults, £10 under 14s including shoe hire and day pass.

More info: climbnewcastle.com/halfterm

Cost: from £8.00

Stepney Bank Stables

Stepney Bank offer a variety of horse-riding lessons according to your needs and riding ability, including private or group lessons. All ages are welcome and don't worry about having specialised kit - they can supply hats and give you advice on suitable clothing for when you get started. Over the February half term, the stables are offering a variety of activities including craft sessions and 10 minute horse riding taster sessions to full day pony clubs.

More info: stepneybank.co.uk

Cost: from £3