FAMILIES BULLETIN
16th July

RETURN TO SCHOOL ARRANGEMENTS

SEPTEMBER 2026

INSET DAYS – SCHOOL CLOSED FOR ALL STUDENTS

Tuesday 1st September and Wednesday 2nd September

Staff availability will be limited on these days as training sessions will be taking place.

STUDENT RETURN DATES AND TIMES

YEAR 7	Thursday 3rd September 8:15am
YEAR 12	Thursday 3rd September 9:00am
YEARS 8 & 9	Friday 4th September 10:00am
YEAR 10	Friday 4th September 10:25am
YEAR 11	Friday 4th September 9:10am
YEAR 13	Friday 4th September 8:35am

FULL UNIFORM EXPECTATIONS

- RGTS Grey Blazer with pink trim
- White plain shirts with collar tucked in
- RGTS tie
- Plain matt black trousers, tailored, regular fit (no denim, coloured pocket zips or skinny fit trousers), no leggings
- Plain black leather school shoes, providing adequate protection and support (no casuals, fabric, canvas, trainers, sandals, pumps, 'work' type shoes e.g. Doctor Martins, high heels, boots, coloured laces, coloured stitching).

PE KIT

- RGTS Black T-Shirt with logo
- Plain black shorts
- Plain black socks
- Trainers – Pumps (converse, vans etc.) and plimsolls not allowed.

ALL STUDENTS SHOULD BE EQUIPPED FOR LEARNING AND SHOULD HAVE THE FOLLOWING EQUIPMENT:

- Pencil Case with the following contents:
- 2 blue and/or Black writing pens
- 2 red pens
- 2 pencils
- Sharpener and rubber
- 1 Ruler
- Scientific calculator
- A reading book
- Water bottle
- Plain black rucksack

End of Term Message

As we come to the end of the summer term, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support throughout what has been a busy, productive and successful academic year at Royal Greenwich Trust School.

The final week of term has provided our students with a wealth of memorable experiences beyond the classroom. Students have enjoyed a range of educational visits, including trips to the National Maritime Museum, Queen's House, and Southend, providing valuable opportunities to broaden their experiences, learning and reward their successes throughout the year.

Yesterday, we held our annual Sports' Day at Sutcliffe Park. Despite the warm weather, students embraced the occasion with enthusiasm, determination and exemplary conduct. Throughout the day, they demonstrated our core values in abundance: Responsibility through the maturity with which they conducted themselves; Grit by challenging themselves and persevering in every event; Teamwork by encouraging and supporting one another; and Success by striving to achieve their personal best. My congratulations go to every student who participated and contributed to making the day such an enjoyable celebration of sport and community.



After a very successful exam season, we wish our Year 11 students every success as they move on to the next stage of their educational and personal journeys. We are incredibly proud of everything they have achieved during their time at RGTS and look forward to celebrating their accomplishments on GCSE Results Day on 20th August and hearing of their future successes in the years to come.

Our Year 10 and Year 12 students have already begun preparing for the important year ahead. Staff are ensuring students are well equipped for the demands of their forthcoming public examinations. We have every confidence that they will continue to demonstrate the ambition, resilience and commitment that characterise our school community.

Year 9 students have also begun an important period of transition as they prepare to enter Key Stage 4. Students have now received confirmation of their option choices, and preparations are already underway for their Year 10 Work Experience placements. These experiences will play an important role in helping students make informed decisions about their future education and career aspirations.

We are continuing to expand the transformational opportunities available across Universities Schools Trust. Recently, a group of our Year 7 students attended the Science Summer School Programme at St Paul's Way Trust School, where they participated in a range of engaging scientific activities and had the privilege of hearing from renowned particle physicist Professor Brian Cox. Experiences such as these help to inspire curiosity, raise aspirations and enrich our students' educational journeys.

A particularly warm welcome goes to our new Year 7 students and their families, who will be joining the RGTS community in September. We are delighted that you have chosen RGTS and look forward to supporting your child as they begin this exciting new chapter in their education.

As many families may be aware, the Government has recently confirmed new legislation regarding the use of mobile phones in schools, which will come into effect from September. I would encourage all parents and carers to read the article on the following page carefully, as it outlines what these changes will mean for students at Royal Greenwich Trust School and explains our expectations moving forward.

The front page of this Families' Bulletin outlines our arrangements for students returning to school in September. Please take a moment to note the dates and start times for your child's year group to ensure a smooth return at the beginning of the new academic year.

As we move into the autumn term, we will also be returning to our full school uniform expectations following the temporary adjustments made during the recent period of exceptionally warm weather. Full details of our uniform and equipment expectations can be found on the same page.

Finally, I hope you all enjoy a safe, restful and enjoyable summer break, and I look forward to welcoming everyone back in September for another successful year at Royal Greenwich Trust School.

Asma Khan
Head of School

Creating a Phone-Free School Environment

In line with the updated September 2026 guidance, our school is committed to being a phone-free environment throughout the school day. Limiting access to mobile phones helps protect learning time, improves focus, supports positive behaviour, and promotes respectful face-to-face interaction within our school community. This approach is not about punishment. It is about creating calm, safe, and supportive conditions in which every pupil can learn, participate, and succeed.

The mantra staff can use with students around mobile phones is: 'See It, Hear It, Lose It'. This is displayed around the school site and in classrooms.

- Phones must be switched off and placed in bags
- From September 2026, this will include all web based devices including smart watches.

If a member of staff hears or sees a student's mobile phone or device, they will confiscate the phone or device. The phone will be handed in to reception and can be collected by the student at the end of the day. In the second instance, the phone will be handed into reception and must be collected by a parent/carer.



While this change may feel significant, it reflects a growing body of evidence showing that reducing access to phones during the school day can have a positive impact on learning, relationships and wellbeing.

Why Are Schools Becoming Phone-Free?

Today's young people are growing up in a world where smartphones are a constant presence. Research suggests that almost all young people own a mobile phone by the age of 12, and time spent online has increased significantly over the last decade.

A recent Ofcom study found that children aged 8–14 spend an average of **2 hours and 59 minutes online every day**, with social media and video-sharing platforms accounting for much of that time.

Although technology brings many benefits, evidence suggests that unrestricted smartphone use can affect concentration and learning. UNESCO has reported a negative link between excessive technology use and student performance, while studies cited in its research found that removing smartphones from schools in countries including the UK, Belgium and Spain led to improved learning outcomes.

Researchers have also found that even the presence of a phone can be distracting. One study highlighted by UNESCO found that it can take students up to 20 minutes to refocus on learning following a phone-related distraction.



Supporting Student Wellbeing

Our responsibility as a school extends beyond academic achievement. We are equally committed to supporting young people's emotional wellbeing, confidence and social development.

National research has highlighted growing concerns about screen time and wellbeing. A House of Commons Education Committee report found that nearly **one in four children and young people use smartphones in ways consistent with behavioural addiction**.

The same report identified links between excessive screen use and:

- Increased anxiety and emotional distress.
- Sleep disruption.

- Exposure to online bullying and harmful content.
- Negative impacts on body image and self-esteem.
- Reduced opportunities for face-to-face social interaction.

Importantly, the Department for Education has recently announced new guidance for families on healthy screen use, recognising the need to support children's learning, wellbeing and healthy development in an increasingly digital world.

The Benefits We Expect to See

Schools that have already introduced phone-free policies consistently report positive outcomes, including:

- Greater focus and engagement in lessons.
- Improved classroom behaviour.
- Fewer distractions.
- More positive social interaction during break and lunchtime.
- Reduced social media-related conflict during the school day.
- Greater participation in clubs, sport and enrichment activities.

Many students themselves report that not having access to their phones during the day helps reduce pressure to constantly check notifications, respond to messages or compare themselves with others online.

Staying Connected

We understand that some families may have concerns about communication, particularly around journeys to and from school.

If a parent or carer needs to contact a student urgently during the school day, our Reception Team will continue to ensure messages are passed on quickly. Similarly, if a student needs to contact home, staff will support them.

Many schools with similar policies have found that some parents choose to use tracking tags or similar devices to provide reassurance during journeys without requiring a smartphone.

Working Together

We are confident that our students will adapt quickly and positively to this change. By creating a phone-free environment, we are giving young people greater opportunities to focus on learning, build stronger friendships, develop independence and enjoy a healthier balance between their online and offline lives.

Thank you for your continued support as we implement this important change. Together, we can create the best possible environment for every student to thrive academically, socially and emotionally.

Mr Brougham
Deputy Headteacher - Inclusion

Dates for your diary

Date	Event	Year Group	Timings
Thursday 13th August	A Level Results Day	13	10.00am-12.00pm
Thursday 20th August	GCSE Results Day	11	10:00-11:30am
Thursday 1st September	INSET Day	All	All Day
Wednesday 2nd September	INSET Day	All	All Day
Thursday 8th October	Sixth Form Open Evening	12 and 13	4-7pm
Thursday 15th October	Year 7 Meet the Tutor Event	7	TBC

Information on a drop-in service for careers guidance following GCSE results

GCSE Results Day: Need Advice?

Didn't get the results you expected for your Post 16 offer? Haven't applied for Post 16 yet and need some guidance?

Our Careers Practitioners are here to help! Drop in for free, impartial information, advice and guidance.
When:

Thursday 20th August: 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM
Friday 21st August: 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Where:
The Woolwich Centre Library, 35 Wellington Street, SE18 6HQ

No appointment needed – just turn up! We're ready to help you explore your options and plan your next steps.

For further information, please email help-me-with-my-future@royalgreenwich.gov.uk

2026-2027 Term Dates

As we enter the summer break, we wanted to remind our families of the term dates for next year. Please note that two additional INSET days will be confirmed and communicated at a later date.

Autumn 2026-27	
Term 1	Thursday 3rd September 2026 to Friday 23rd October 2026
Half Term	**Monday 26th October 2026 to Friday 30th October 2026**
Term 2	Monday 2nd November 2026 to Friday 18th December 2026
Christmas Break	**Monday 21st December 2026 to Friday 1st January 2027**

Spring 2027	
Term 3	Tuesday 5th January 2027 - Thursday 11th February 2027
Half Term	**Monday 15th February 2027 - Friday 19th February 2027**
Term 4	Monday 22nd February 2027 - Thursday 25th March 2027
Easter Break	**Monday 29th March 2027 - Friday 9th April 2027**

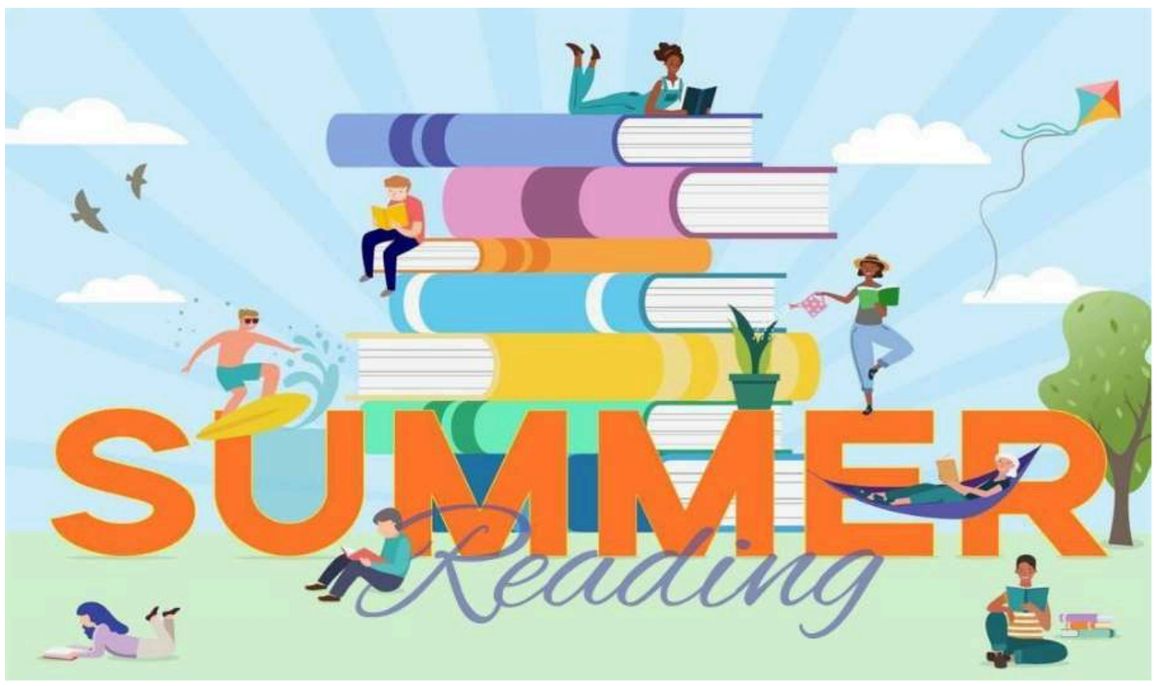
Summer 2027	
Term 5	Tuesday 13th April 2027 - Friday 28th May 2027
Half Term	**Monday 31st May 2027 - Friday 4th June 2027**
Term 6	Tuesday 8th June 2027 - Wednesday 21st July 2027

INSET Days - School Closed
Tuesday 1st September 2026
Wednesday 2nd September 2026
Friday 20th November 2026
Monday 4th January 2026
Friday 12th February 2027
Monday 12th April 2027
Monday 7th June 2027

Additional Closures
Early May Bank Holiday - Monday 3rd May 2027

Please note that a further two INSET Days will be announced at a later date.

Summer Reading 2026: Ignite Your Child's Imagination!



The summer holidays are the perfect opportunity to encourage our students to read for pleasure. Whether you are travelling or enjoying a quiet break at home, a brilliant book provides hours of entertainment and inspiration. From gripping fiction to fascinating non-fiction, there is truly something to suit every interest.

Why It Matters

Reading during the holidays helps teenagers maintain their literacy skills, explore new worlds, and expand their imagination. Even just a few minutes of reading each day can make a massive difference, helping to foster a lifelong love of books and preventing the "summer slide" before the new term begins.

"Go All In" on Passions

This summer aligns with the National Year of Reading 2026, a major initiative by the Department for Education and the National Literacy Trust | UK Literacy Charity to rekindle the joy of reading across the UK.

The campaign encourages young people to "Go All In" on their existing passions. Whether your child is obsessed with sports, music, cooking, or gaming, reading is a fantastic way to deepen their knowledge of the things they already love.

Get Involved & Explore

We encourage you to explore reading recommendations with your child this holiday (simply click the links below to access the lists):

- Books for KS3: Brilliant recommendations for 11-14 year olds
- Books for KS4: Engaging choices for 14-16 year olds
- Books for Sixth Form: Challenging & diverse fiction and non-fiction for young adults

📚 Looking for more? For comprehensive book lists, please visit lovereading4kids website

💡 Quick Tips for Supporting Reluctant Readers

- All Reading is Good Reading: Graphic novels, comic books, magazines, and audiobooks all count! If it keeps them engaged, it's building their literacy.
- Make it a Habit: Encourage just 10–15 minutes of reading before bed or during a quiet time in the afternoon.
- Visit Your Local Library: It's a fantastic, free day out. Finding books in person can give students a sense of ownership over what they choose to read.

The Summer Reading Challenge

Younger students (and older siblings who want to mentor them!) may also be interested in taking part in The Summer Reading Challenge. This initiative encourages children to keep reading during the summer holidays, ensuring they are ready for a great start to the new term in the autumn.

Students set a personal reading goal and collect rewards for reading anything they enjoy. Children can sign up at their Children can sign up at their local library, and it is completely FREE to take part.

Mr Needham
Assistant Headteacher

Year 7 Explore Historic Greenwich



Our entire Year 7 cohort recently enjoyed an exciting and enriching visit to Greenwich, spending the day exploring the National Maritime Museum, the Queen's House and the beautiful surroundings of Greenwich Park.

Throughout the visit, students explored fascinating exhibitions, discovered more about Britain's rich maritime heritage and gained a deeper appreciation of one of London's most historic locations. In Greenwich Park, they also took part in a range of fun games and team-building activities, providing opportunities to work collaboratively, build friendships and enjoy the outdoors.

We are especially proud of the way our Year 7 students represented Royal Greenwich Trust School throughout the day. They were polite, respectful and impeccably behaved, demonstrating maturity, responsibility and the core values that define our school community.

The visit was a tremendous success and a memorable experience for everyone involved. We would like to congratulate all of our Year 7 students for their enthusiasm, curiosity and exemplary conduct. They were outstanding ambassadors for the school, and we look forward to many more enriching learning experiences throughout the coming year.



Year 10 Enjoy a Fantastic Visit to Gravity

On Friday 10th July 2026, our Year 10 students enjoyed an exciting end-of-year visit to Gravity, where they took part in a variety of fun and energetic activities while spending valuable time together outside the classroom.

The visit was a tremendous success and provided students with the opportunity to relax, celebrate the end of a busy year and strengthen friendships. Throughout the day, our students represented Royal Greenwich Trust School with pride, demonstrating exemplary behaviour, maturity and responsibility at every stage of the trip.

Students followed instructions impeccably, showed excellent self-discipline and were courteous and respectful in all public spaces. They displayed outstanding manners and positive attitudes towards staff, members of the public and one another, reflecting the high standards and values we strive to uphold as a school community.

We are immensely proud of every one of our Year 10 students for the way they conducted themselves throughout the visit. Their enthusiasm, respect and exemplary conduct made the day an enjoyable and memorable experience for everyone involved, and they were outstanding ambassadors for Royal Greenwich Trust School.





Things To Do In London In The Summer Holidays 2026

Free London museums to visit with children

London is home to a fantastic range of museums offering free admission, making them ideal for family days out. Whether your child enjoys dinosaurs, science, history or hands-on interactive experiences, there is something to inspire learners of all ages.

Natural History Museum

A firm favourite with families, the Natural History Museum offers an exciting day of discovery. Highlights include the world-famous Dinosaur Gallery, the Mammals Gallery, and the Volcanoes and Earthquakes Gallery, where visitors can experience a realistic earthquake simulator. The impressive Earth Hall, with its giant suspended globe and escalator through the centre of the Earth, is a must-see. Families can also enjoy the museum's recently opened gardens, featuring prehistoric-themed displays, and make use of the indoor picnic area on the Lower Ground Floor.

Science Museum

Located next door to the Natural History Museum, the Science Museum is packed with fascinating exhibits celebrating science, technology and innovation. Popular galleries include Space, Flight and Medicine, alongside a wide range of interactive displays designed to inspire curiosity. Families are welcome to bring a packed lunch, with picnic areas available on Levels -1 and 3.

Young V&A

Designed especially for children and young people, the Young V&A in Bethnal Green provides an engaging and interactive museum experience. The museum is divided into three creative zones – Play, Imagine and Design – where visitors can explore hands-on exhibits, creative activities and inspiring displays suitable for children from early years through to teenagers. It is an excellent choice for families seeking a fun and imaginative day out.

London Museum Docklands

Housed within a historic warehouse, London Museum Docklands tells the story of London's rivers, docks and diverse communities. One of its most popular attractions is Sailortown, an immersive recreation of a 19th-century dockside street, allowing visitors to step back in time and experience London's maritime history.

Horniman Museum and Gardens

Situated in Forest Hill, the Horniman Museum combines natural history, world cultures and music in a welcoming, family-friendly setting. Visitors can explore fascinating collections from across the globe before enjoying the beautiful gardens, which offer spectacular views across London. Families can also take part in the free Octonauts Adventure Trail, available throughout the summer.

British Museum

Home to one of the world's greatest collections of historical artefacts, the British Museum offers families the opportunity to explore ancient civilisations from around the globe. During weekends and school holidays, the Families Desk provides free trails and activity packs to help children engage with the museum's many galleries, including Ancient Egypt, Greece, Rome and the Anglo-Saxons.

Free days out in London with children

Kenwood House

Nestled on the edge of Hampstead Heath, Kenwood House is a magnificent English Heritage property offering free admission throughout the year. The elegant historic villa is home to an impressive collection of world-renowned artwork, including paintings by Rembrandt and Vermeer. Families with younger children can enjoy a dedicated activity trail designed for children aged 5–11, encouraging them to discover the house through interactive challenges. After exploring indoors, visitors can enjoy the surrounding 112 acres of parkland, perfect for picnics, walks and outdoor games.

Fulham Palace

Once the historic residence of the Bishops of London, Fulham Palace offers families the chance to explore centuries of history in a welcoming setting. Visitors can discover the museum, Great Hall and Chapel before heading outside to enjoy the extensive gardens and open lawns. Younger visitors will particularly enjoy the natural play area, making this an ideal destination for combining history with outdoor play.

London's Free Viewing Galleries

Experience some of the best views of London's iconic skyline without spending a penny. Several of the capital's impressive viewing galleries are free to visit, offering spectacular panoramic views across the city.

Popular locations include:

- Sky Garden
- Horizon 22
- The Garden at 120
- The Lookout
- The Post Building Roof Garden
- One New Change Roof Terrace

Many of these attractions require advance booking, particularly during the school holidays, so it is worth reserving tickets before your visit.

Greenwich Junior Parkrun

Sundays, 9am, free
Eltham Park South, SE9 1AN
A free, fun, and friendly weekly 2k event for 4-to-14 year olds.

Enjoy a Summer of Free Events Across Royal Greenwich

Families are invited to make the most of another fantastic Summer in Royal Greenwich, with an exciting programme of more than 40 free events and activities taking place across the borough throughout the summer holidays.

Funded by the Royal Borough of Greenwich, with support from the Mayor of London and the National Lottery Heritage Fund, the programme celebrates art, culture, heritage and community, offering something for everyone to enjoy.

- 🎭 Family-friendly performances and entertainment
- 🎨 Interactive arts and creative workshops
- 🎉 Community celebrations and carnival-inspired events
- 🌳 Outdoor activities in parks and public spaces
- 🎶 Live music, cultural experiences and much more

The programme has been designed to be free, inclusive and accessible, ensuring families from across the borough can enjoy high-quality events throughout the summer.

With activities taking place from now until September, and even more events still to be announced, there are plenty of opportunities to enjoy memorable days out close to home.

Free arts and culture events

Holiday Food & Fun Programme – Free Summer Activities and Meals

The Holiday Food & Fun (HAF) Programme returns this summer, providing eligible children and young people across the Royal Borough of Greenwich with access to free holiday clubs, enriching activities and nutritious meals throughout the school holidays.

The programme is designed to help children stay active, make new friends, develop new skills and enjoy a safe, engaging environment during the summer break. A wide variety of activities are available, including:

- ⚽ Sports and physical activities
- 🎨 Arts, crafts and creative workshops
- 🍳 Cookery and healthy eating sessions
- 🎭 Performing arts and music
- 🌳 Outdoor adventures and games
- 🤝 Team-building and wellbeing activities

Children aged 4 to 16 who receive benefit-related Free School Meals are eligible for free holiday club places, with each family able to book up to four sessions. There are also dedicated places available for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).

The Holiday Food & Fun Programme is a fantastic opportunity for children to remain active, continue learning through play, build confidence and enjoy healthy meals during the school holidays, all at no cost to eligible families.

For further information, to view participating providers and to book a place, please visit: https://www.royalgreenwich.gov.uk/children-young-people-and-families/parenting-and-family-support/holiday-food-and-fun

Free Meals for Children During the School Holidays

The Royal Borough of Greenwich is continuing to support families throughout the school holidays by providing free, nutritious meals for all children and young people, helping to ensure that no child goes hungry during the summer break.

There is no registration or eligibility criteria for this programme – simply attend one of the participating venues during the advertised times. Meals are available at a range of community locations across the borough, including libraries, leisure centres and adventure playgrounds, making it easy for families to access support close to home.

This initiative aims to:

- 🍽️ Provide healthy, nutritious meals during the school holidays.
- 👨‍👩‍👧‍👦 Support families with the increased cost of food during school breaks.
- 🤝 Offer welcoming community spaces where children and families can come together.
- 🌞 Help ensure every child can enjoy a healthy and active summer.

The scheme is open to all children and young people, making it an excellent resource for families looking for additional support over the holiday period. Meal times and locations vary throughout the borough, so families are encouraged to check the latest information before attending.

For further information, including participating venues and opening times, please visit: https://www.royalgreenwich.gov.uk/children-young-people-and-families/parenting-and-family-support/free-meals-during-school-holidays

Young Greenwich

If you're aged 9 to 18, you can become a member of Young Greenwich for free and get access to a variety of great activities, meet friends, learn new skills and go on fantastic trips this summer.

Clockhouse & New Charlton Community festival

Saturday 18 July, 12noon to 5pm, free
Clockhouse Community Centre, Defiance Walk, Woolwich Dockyard, SE18 5QL

Come along for a family-friendly community event including a bouncy castle, face painting, food stalls, live music, kids disco, dance groups and much more!

Thamesmead Festival
Saturday 8 August, 12noon to 7:30pm, free
Southmere Park, 21 Hartslock Drive, London, SE2 9UR

Family-friendly event featuring an exciting blend of music, handpicked by local people, alongside dance, comedy, art, local crafts, street food, and community activities, including the popular Thamesmead Dog Show.

SEND Family Fun and Info Day

Saturday 8 August, 10am to 12:30pm, free
Woolwich Works, SE18 6HD

A fun-filled day designed for families with children who have special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). Meet Greenwich SEND Voice, council SEND services, and a range of support organisations, while enjoying activities like a bouncy castle, giant games, face painting, and much more.

Horn Park Summer Event

Saturday 22 August, 12pm to 5pm, free
Horn Park Primary School, SE12 9BT

Join us for a fun-filled day for the whole community! There will be free food, music and entertainment, dance performances, face painting, community stalls, games and sports, activities for all ages, a fruit and veg competition and free health checks.