

October Half Term Ideas for families

Get Ready for Our Next Adventure: Polar Animal Detective

Here are some family friendly ideas to get you ready for our new project. They are optional and just for fun.

 **Marwell Zoo:** See what Polar animals you can find. How are they different to animals from warmer environments?

Winnall Moors - Local Habitat Detective

Explore this habitat close to home and think:

Would the animals we see in Winchester be able to live at the North or South Pole? Why or why not? Look for birds, insects and other wildlife and notice plants, water, temperature and weather.

Winchester Science Centre - Curious Scientist

Find **one thing** that makes you say “**Wow!**” and one thing that makes you wonder “**Why?**” or “**How?**” Can you tell the class about it when you come back?

The Arc, Winchester - Polar Book Hunt

Find a book about **penguins, polar bears, ice, snow, the Arctic or Antarctica**.
Choose **one amazing fact** to remember and tell someone at home.

Winchester City Mill and the River Itchen - Wildlife Explorer

How many different living things can you spot? Can you find a **bird, fish, mammal or insect**?
Which would be able to live somewhere extremely cold?

Local Winchester walk - Weather Detective FREE

 **What is the weather like today?**

 **What clothes do we need?**

 **What plants and animals can we see?**

Then ask: **What do you think would be different if we were taking this walk in the Arctic or Antarctica?**

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Get Ready for Our Next Adventure: The Fire of London!

After half term, Year 2 will be travelling back in time to learn about **The Great Fire of London!**

Here are some optional ideas if you would like to do a little learning together over the holiday.

Explore old Winchester

Take a walk through Winchester and look for old buildings, narrow streets and timber-framed buildings. Children could photograph or sketch an interesting old building and compare it with modern buildings. This would be a lovely lead-in to discussing why buildings and streets mattered during the Great Fire.

 Visit a local museum and see what you can discover about people and places from the past.

 Build Pudding Lane using LEGO, blocks or boxes.

 Take three photographs showing something old, something new and something interesting.

 Make a Tudor house from a cereal box, LEGO or recycled materials.

 Links to the wider curriculum

Become a history photographer

Your Computing unit is Digital Photography. Children could take photographs on a Winchester walk of:

- the oldest building they can find
- an interesting door or window
- something modern
- something they think might have existed long ago.
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 Autumn life-cycle hunt

Visit a local park or woodland and look for signs of animal life and seasonal change.

 Most importantly...

Enjoy the half term! These activities are completely optional. Choose something that captures your interest and come back ready to tell us about anything you discovered.

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Autumn Half-Term: Robot Adventures

Here are some optional ideas for you and your family and link to our next half term's learning.



Out and about locally

- Visit Winchester Science Centre and hunt for things that behave a little like robots. Can you find machines, sensors, buttons, lights or things that move? The Science Centre has two floors of interactive exhibits, so it fits this topic particularly well.
- Take a robot-spotting walk around Winchester. Look for technology doing jobs for people, such as traffic lights, automatic doors, ticket machines, lifts or pedestrian crossings. *Which are actually robots, and which are just machines?*



Easy activities at home



Build a junk-model robot

Use boxes, tubes, foil, bottle tops and other recycling. Give your robot a name and decide what job it was designed to do.

Robot inventor challenge

Design a robot that would make life better. Perhaps it tidies bedrooms, picks up litter, plants trees or helps animals. Label its special features.



Magnet detective

With an adult, use a fridge magnet to investigate safe household objects. Sort them into magnetic/not magnetic.

Be a robot programmer

One person is the robot and another gives exact instructions such as *three steps forward, quarter-turn right, pick up the teddy*.

Make a robot stop-motion film

Use toys, LEGO or the junk-model robot to make a short stop-motion sequence. Your Computing unit for the term is creating media through stop-frame animation.

Robot reading challenge

Find a story, comic or information book involving robots, machines or inventions. Draw your favourite robot and explain why you chose it.

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Year 4: Invaders & Settlers

After half term, Year 4 will be exploring **Anglo-Saxons and Vikings** and discovering how these invaders and settlers helped shape Britain. If you're looking for something to do over half term, why not visit somewhere that connects to our new learning? **These are ideas, not homework.** Pick something that interests your family and enjoy exploring together!

★ 878 AD, Winchester

878 AD brings Anglo-Saxon Winchester to life and focuses on Alfred the Great and the Viking threat. The experience combines live performance, interactive elements and Anglo-Saxon artefacts, with an additional self-led augmented-reality tour of Winchester.



Winchester City Museum

The City Museum tells the story of Winchester from its Iron Age beginnings and includes its period of **Anglo-Saxon importance under Alfred the Great**, so it links directly to your key question about how Saxons and Vikings shaped Britain.



Butser Ancient Farm

This would make a fantastic bigger family day out. Butser describes itself as bringing **10,000 years of human history to life**, and its current programme includes activities taking place in its **Saxon Hall**, alongside hands-on historical experiences.



Saxons vs Vikings, Museum of the Iron Age, Andover

The museum's **Saxons Vs Vikings** activity puts families into the world of **878**, with challenges including designing an emblem, building a shield wall and cracking a code. The Hampshire Cultural Trust listing describes it as a **free family trail**.



Take an Anglo-Saxon walk around Winchester

Explore **historic Winchester** and ask: *What clues can we find that tell us Winchester has a very long history?*

★ No homework, just curiosity!

There is no expectation to visit anywhere or bring anything in. These are simply ideas for families looking for things to do over half term. If you do have an adventure, we would love to hear about it when we return!

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Year 5: Take Your Learning on an Adventure!

After half term, Year 5 will be exploring **Space**. If you'd like to do something over half term that connects with our new learning please do so. These ideas are completely optional.

Winchester Science Centre & Planetarium - Space Explorer

Visit the Planetarium and discover something new about space.

Go Stargazing

Choose a clear evening, wrap up warm and spend 10-15 minutes looking carefully at the night sky. Can you spot the Moon? Can you spot anything particularly bright?

Become a Moon Photographer

Combine **Science and Computing** by photographing the Moon with an adult over several evenings.

St Catherine's Hill - Imagine Earth from Space - FREE

Walk up St Catherine's Hill. *When you reach a viewpoint, imagine travelling further and further away from Winchester: Winchester → England → UK → Earth → Solar System. What would disappear from view at each stage?*

Make a Mini Space Documentary - FREE

Create a **30-60 second video** called: **"One Amazing Thing About Space"**

They could present a fact about Earth, the Moon, a planet or a star.

Create a Solar System Walk - FREE

Go to a park or large open space. Choose different locations to represent the **Sun and planets**. The distances don't need to be scientifically accurate. The useful preparation here is remembering the **order of the planets** and beginning to appreciate that the Solar System is enormous.

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Get Ready for Our Next Topic: A Child's War

After half term, Year 6 will be exploring **A Child's War**, investigating the experiences of different people during the Second World War. If you'd like to do something over half term that connects with our new learning please do so. These ideas are completely optional.



Talk to your family

Ask parents, grandparents or other relatives what they know about your family's experiences during the Second World War. Perhaps somebody served in the armed forces, was evacuated or lived through wartime Britain. You might discover photographs, letters or stories that have been passed down through your family.



Discover your local wartime history

Go for a walk around **Winchester or your own neighbourhood** and see whether you can find a war memorial. Look carefully at the names, dates and inscriptions.



Try a wartime-inspired meal

Find out about some of the foods people ate during wartime rationing and, if your family fancies it, try making a simple wartime-inspired dish together.



Visit the library

Visit your local library and look for an **age-appropriate book about children's experiences of the Second World War**. It could be fiction, non-fiction, a diary or a picture book.



Become a measurement detective

Year 6 will be working on **converting units** after half term. Have a measurement hunt at home. Look for examples of **grams, kilograms, millilitres, litres, millimetres, centimetres, metres and kilometres**.



Explore a habitat

Year 6's Science learning will focus on **living things and their habitats**. Visit a local woodland, park or nature reserve and investigate the living things you find.

There is **no expectation to complete these activities** or spend money. They are simply ideas for families who would like to explore our new learning together.