

October Half Term Activities 2026

School holiday arts and sports activities
for Dorset children who need additional support



**Booking closes on
Wednesday 7 October**

Artz+ Sportz+ is funded and organised by Dorset Council
dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/artz-sportz



Booking closes on Wednesday 7 October

Halloween Forest Discovery Day

Monday 26 October

10am to 2pm

Ages 5 to 16 years

**Discovery Area, Thorner's School and LATCH (Community Hall),
School Lane, Litton Cheney, Dorchester, DT2 9AU**

Halloween Forest School fun in the Discovery Area at Thorner's School. Enjoy a choice of woodland activities: den building, magic wand and potion making, spider web stamps, autumn leaves and conker crafts. Share snacks and music around the fire or just chill out in a den and listen to the sounds of the woods.

Some woodland activities are weather permitting (e.g. the campfire) but we have an alternative space for crafts and sensory play indoors, if needed.

Bring snacks, a drink and a packed lunch.



Pony Palace

Tuesday 27 October

10am to 12.30pm

Ages 5 to 12 years

(please note a maximum weight limit of 8½ stone applies for those wishing to ride, due to the size of the ponies.)

Pony Palace, Merritown Lane, Hurn, Christchurch, BH23 6BA

Meet the friendly ponies at the Pony Palace, help the stable staff bring them in from the field or yard and groom them to get them looking smart. When they are all neat and tidy, we will put on their tack and take it in turns to go for a ride. While you are waiting for your turn to ride you will learn about stable management which means how to look after a pony. We will make hay nets, make up feeds and do some mucking out!

Bring snacks, a drink and packed lunch.

pony-palace.ecpro.co.uk



Booking closes on Wednesday 7 October

Soft Play and Swim Sensory

Wednesday 28 October

10am to 1pm

Ages 5 to 17 years

**Purbeck Leisure Centre, Worgret Road,
Wareham, BH20 4PH**

Our friendly Artz+ Sportz+ and Action Van teams are ready to offer hours of fun with soft play, bouncy castle and games. After your soft play session, it is time to head to the pool for a swim. Use the floats and play on the inflatable crocodile!

Bring snacks, a drink and packed lunch.



Bounce and Swing Sensory

Thursday 29 October

Two separate sessions,

9.30am to 12.30pm and 1pm to 4pm

(please state your preference)

Ages 5 to 17 years

YMCA Dorchester, Sawmills Lane, Dorchester, DT1 2RZ

Join us for games and sports activities in the centre's gymnastics hall. You'll love bouncing on the floor trampoline and gliding in the swing. Practise new skills with coach Andrea Dabbs, who many of you will know from our team.

Bring snacks and a drink.

dorchester-ymca.org.uk



Booking closes on Wednesday 7 October

Spooky Art, Action Van and Splash Fun



Friday 30 October

12.30pm to 4.30pm

Ages 5 to 17 years

**Stour Connect, Stour View Close, Sturminster Newton,
DT10 1JF**

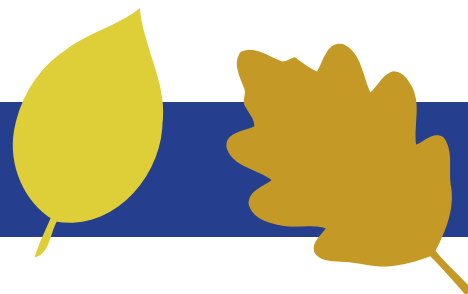
Join Oops Wow for some spooky art! Come and make a haunted cardboard box, it could be a house, or a castle, or a ship - that's up to you! We will also have a go at making some ghostly monoprints and transforming ourselves with fearsome bag headz.

A playful creative session where kids can follow their own ideas. Dress for mess. When the creativity needs a boost burn off some energy with the Action Van team with their Bouncy Castle and soft play fun. End the session with a dip in the fabulous warm hydrotherapy pool.

Bring snacks, a drink and a packed lunch.



Information for parents/carers



Our tutors, coaches and support team will always do their utmost to support each child, including providing 1:1 support or greater, where required. If they wish parents/carers may stay at any session, but we ask that **new parents/carers stay on site for your child's first session** whilst we get to know you both. A member of our support team will be allocated to you. At future sessions your child may be left in the care of our team, where we are able to meet his/her needs. For sessions that include swimming we may ask you to attend if your child cannot change in/out of swimwear without assistance.

 We can adapt many sports sessions to include wheelchair users. All indoor and some outdoor venues are accessible.

Our Team Leaders are Safeguarding Level 3 trained, and we have a team of Designated Safeguarding Leads. Staff trained in emergency first aid are present at all events. We also have staff trained in buccal midazolam to support children with epilepsy and in the use of Epipens/ adrenalin auto-injectors in the management of anaphylaxis. **Parents/carers must be available on an emergency telephone number.** If you would like to find out more, or discuss any concerns, please email; leisure@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk

For more information: dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/sport-leisure/artz-sportz

Dorset Short Breaks Care Passports: Please complete a Care Passport at: dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/short-breaks-care-passport

Booking and helpful information

Booking

Places must be booked in advance. If demand is high, we will allocate places. We can supply details of how we do this fairly on request. Unless otherwise stated, activities cost **£7.90** per child for 2-3 hours, **£10.50** for 4 hours and **£13.25** for 5 hours or more. There is a 20% subsidy for those on income-based benefits.

To book email leisure@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk stating your name, address, telephone number, chosen workshop(s), number of spaces and child name(s).

Bookings close on **Wednesday 7 October** and allocation will take place on **Thursday 8 October**. After allocation, any remaining places will be advertised on www.facebook.com/ArtzSportz

Direct Payments

You can pay for your child's place with Direct Payments.

You can provide your own carer to accompany your child paid with Direct Payments.

Please inform the admin team when your place is confirmed if you would prefer to bring your own carer.

Artz+ Sportz+ have a strong team of Support Staff but may not be able to provide certain specialist medical or care needs.

Cancellations

Refunds can only be made if you cancel more than two weeks before an event, or if we have to cancel an event. Please let us know as early as possible, if you need to cancel a session. This enables us to offer the place to another child and adjust staffing levels.



Information for parents/carers

Artz+ Sportz+ Sensory

These sessions are designed for children with more complex needs who may be supported by our team, where possible, or by their own personal assistant.



The wheelchair symbol Indicates a wheelchair friendly event.

Holiday Activities and Food Programme (HAF)

Activities including a hot meal are free to those who have a HAF passcode on indicated sessions.

If you qualify for benefit-related free school meals email the HAF team to get your passcode; holidayactivities@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk

The Xchange

The Xchange provides news, information and a listing of events/activities for families with children who are disabled.

To join visit: dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/about-the-xchange

Join our mailing list

Send your name, address and email address to Artz+ Sportz+, Leisure Service, Dorset Council, County Hall, Colliton Park, Dorchester, DT1 1XJ.

Email: leisure@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk

Join us on Facebook or follow us on Instagram

Keep up to date on news and events, 'Like' or 'Follow' us to receive updates and to keep in touch with us:



facebook.com/ArtzSportz



instagram.com/ArtzSportz

