

It's time to PARTY!

Primary Times' guide on how to host your child's perfect birthday party, without breaking the bank



As the madness of Christmas and New Year has worn off and the January blues have subsided, February is the perfect time to begin thinking about your child's perfect birthday party. Primary Times has compiled a guide on how to host your child's ultimate birthday bash, whilst remaining under budget and stress free throughout the whole process. To begin, tell your child it's time to start planning the big day. No doubt you will be met with tons of ideas and it's your job to steer them in a way that is both realistic and affordable, but also plenty of fun for all. The first step to party planning is to choose the venue for where this party will be held. If you're happy inviting all your children's friends into your home, then this will be a great money-saver. For some of us however, this isn't an option. In this case, try shopping around to find what works best for you and your little one. Appropriate venues can include a whole multitude of options, from your local village hall, to soft play centres, swimming pools, cinemas, sports pitches, or restaurants. Ask these individual venues whether they have any package deals available for

children's party hire. With costs in mind, when booking a venue consider partnering up with another school parent to host a joint birthday party for your children. This will allow for just as much fun, whilst cutting the costs down by half. Guest list numbers will greatly depend on the venue you choose, but with another parent on board, it will allow you to be a bit more flexible with your pennies. Once all of this is decided, you can begin to think about the fun details of the day. The food, for example, can be a great way for your child to get involved in the party planning. If your party is self-catered, consider the different foods you will lay out for your guests. You can't go wrong with rustling up a selection of sandwiches, mini pizzas, veggies with dips or cocktail sausages. If you're looking for a theme, an International themed menu is a great way of encouraging the children to try different foods from around the world, whilst having fun at the same time. Indian samosas, Mexican nachos, Chinese spring rolls and American hotdogs are some of our favourite dishes of the day. As for games, there are a whole host of different options that will keep the children happy and keep your costs low. Some of our favourites include the old classics of pass the parcel, musical chairs, and pin the tail on the donkey. Alternatively, for a more modern party game, a piñata is becoming

an increasing favourite amongst children. They are available at most major UK supermarkets, and are sure to keep the kids laughing for ages as they eagerly try and retrieve the treats inside. Finally, before children leave a birthday party, they are usually expected to take a party bag home with them. Rather than the classic cellophane bag filled with sweets, balloons, and pencils, there are several alternatives which will keep your party guests smiling, without costing a fortune. Some of our favourites include a small children's story book, a packet of seeds for children to grow their own vegetables, or some home-baked treats wrapped up with a bow.

The Party Checklist

- Invitations
- Party Venue
- Games
- Cake
- Food & Drink
- Decorations
- Music
- Camera
- Party bags
- Thank you notes

It's time to PARTY!

From entertainers to venues, we have lots of new, stress-free ideas for making your child's day extra special!...

Thriftwood

Set in a beautiful woodland environment, Thriftwood is the ideal venue for an adventurous activity party or to meet friends at the Chillout Holiday Club. Suitable for children from 8-16yrs, parties are tailor made to suit your needs and budget. Budding Robin Hoods can go for gold on the archery range, or they can run around on the water like a hamster with the Water Walkerz. If heights are your thing, why not try the Sky Hi Walk, build a crate tower into the trees or climb to the stars on the climbing tower. Be the King or Queen of the Demolition Zone or ride the Inflata-Bull like a cowboy whilst your friends try and buck you off. For further details visit www.thriftwood.org.uk or call 01277 212784.



Pirates Bay Adventure Golf

What a great day out with family or friends! Pirates Bay Adventure Golf in Promenade Park, Maldon features a beautifully landscaped adventure golf course with waterfalls, talking pirates, exploding canons, sharks and crocs and a pirate ship where you can all come aboard! All clubs and equipment are supplied; no pre-booking is necessary and if you're 3 to 93 you will enjoy a great family friendly experience with wonderful memories to share! After your game, there are freshly cooked meals and snacks, drinks and ice-cream and a delightfully decked terrace up high overlooking

the course. Get down and experience all the fun! You'll be hooked! Check out the birthday party options too, ranging from £9 per child. Let Pirates Bay do all the work for you including party bags, invites, certificates, catering and an exclusive party room. Why not have it in the evening and test your game under floodlights?

For more information, call 01621 854095 or go to www.piratesbaymaldon.co.uk. Exclusive hire and corporate packages also available.



10% off birthday party packages for 10 or more kids when you quote code PTimes10% when booking (Expires 31.10.19)

THRIFTWOOD SCOUT CAMPSITE



YOUR NEXT ADVENTURE...

Children's Parties
Holiday Clubs
Fishing Clubs

For more information
Email: enquiries@thriftwood.org.uk
Visit: www.thriftwood.org.uk
Call: 01277 212 784

Nuclear Races Wild Forest Obstacle Activity Centre

Let the adventure begin at Nuclear Races Wild Forest Obstacle Activity Centre! Birthday parties to remember where all muddy little dare-devils have the best time! 90 minutes of wild fun, games, team and individual challenges on loads of obstacles, set on a fast and twisted forest wonderland. Then it's time to pump those legs and get your jumping shoes on for #lovemud, water, high and long jump in the 32 revamped mega Jumps Course. Hot outdoor showers and changing rooms are available at the end of the party and each child receives an achievement certificate. Stay on and hire the party room - there are a number of options for party food and they also offer party bags. For more details call 07970 739037, email sam@nuclear-races.co.uk or visit www.wild-forest.co.uk



Bricks 4 Kidz

Give your child the best birthday party on the block! Using theme-based project kits, kids play and learn using LEGO® Brick model plans that are like no other, designed just for Bricks 4 Kidz®, and reinforce S.T.E.M. based principles. Sit back and relax while they encourage the kids to tap into their potential by sparking their curiosity and creativity, while having a great time creating awesome builds. Call Nicky on 07496 808377 or visit www.bricks4kidz.co.uk/essex



Off Road Kids

Off Road Kids is a new off-road driving experience for children aged 3 to 10. Kids drive tough lookalike mini-Landrovers and complete a range of challenges. For younger children, simply enjoy driving around the farm and tackle various obstacles; for those aged 5 and older, paintball shooting at static targets can be included. Children love the off-road driving experiences, and Off Road Kids now offer the opportunity for private drives, private events and parties.

To enquire about a birthday party or private drive, please email info@offroadkids.co.uk or call on 0737 832 0495

BIRTHDAY PARTIES

Our fun packed parties continue to be a huge hit!

Lots of LEGO® models to build including Technic, 3D and Mosaics - each party can be themed to your choice.

T: 07496 808377 W: bricks4kidz.co.uk/essex

Suitable for Ages 5-10



THE BIRTHDAY PARTY TO BEAT IN 2019

NO ONE GETS OUT CLEAN
ALL MUDDY LITTLE DARE-DEVILS HAVE THE BEST TIME!

LET THE ADVENTURE BEGIN AT AWARD WINNING NUCLEAR RACES OBSTACLE COURSES



ALL AGES
6+

CAR PARKING - HUB - TOILETS - HOT SHOWERS
DBS CHECKED | COMPREHENSIVE RISK ASSESSMENT | FULLY QUALIFIED HOSTS
CONTACT SAM@NUCLEAR-RACES.CO.UK
WILD-Forest.CO.UK
07970 739037



Outdoor landrover driving adventures for kids aged 3+

Birthday Party



driving adventures!

Chelmsford Equestrian Centre, Carlton Farm, Beehive Lane,
Chelmsford, Essex CM2 8RL

NEW ATTRACTION!



19 HOLE PIRATE THEMED ADVENTURE GOLF COURSE

- Landscaped adventure golf course with waterfalls, talking pirates, exploding canons, sharks and more!
- Floodlit and open 'til late!

Birthday party packages from just £9 per child! Please see website for more details

Tickets*
Pirates £7.50
Buccaneers £5.50
Family £22.00
*Pirates are ages 14+.
Buccaneers are aged 5-13.
Discounts for seniors & under 5s

10% off
a birthday party package
with 10 or more children
Quote code PTimes10%
when booking.
Expires 31.10.19

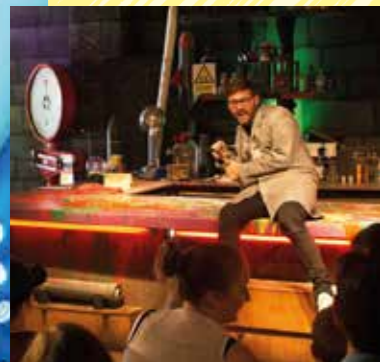
www.piratesbaymaldon.co.uk
Promenade Park, Maldon, CM9 5JQ | 01621 854095

It's time to PARTY!

Royal Gunpowder Mills

Royal Gunpowder Mills offers a fantastic party experience for children. Meet Professor Nitrate and crew as they guide you on a day full of super cool science and experimental fun! As part of your party at the Royal Gunpowder Mills you will receive the following...

- Your own party room to decorate as you wish
- Your very own birthday party leader
- VIP seating at Professor Nitrate's Science Show
- A cold buffet selection consisting of sandwiches, crisps, sweets, fruit, cake and juice
- A military truck tour taking you into the parts of the site that are top secret!
- Your own VIP Rocket Making or Slime Making session



Pricing for birthday parties is £18 per child. The birthday party program runs within the school holiday events. For full details visit www.royalgunpowdermills.com/birthday-parties or email birthdayparties@royalgunpowdermills.com for further information.



Dive Odyssey

An unforgettable birthday party for children from 8yrs. They will be introduced to scuba in a safe and fun environment in the warmth and clarity of a swimming pool. Participants learn how to breathe and move underwater as well as playing games. PADI approved courses are also available, so whether you're looking to test the water or further your education, you can be sure that Dive Odyssey will be able to accommodate you with the best tuition available. For more details call 01702 542759 or visit www.diveodysea.net



Belchamps Scout Activity Centre

With many different adventures to choose from, you will be sure to find the perfect party at Belchamps in Hawkwell. The parties range from hitting the gold on archery, to starting fires and building shelters in a bushcraft party. An absolute favourite for parties is running wild and getting mega muddy on the assault course. You can mix and match any of the activities and packages, and with the option to have all the party food taken care of as well, you can just sit back and watch them enjoy their special day.

For more information or to start planning your next party, call 01702 562690, email info@belchamps.org.uk or visit: www.belchamps.org.uk



The Clay Cottage

The Clay Cottage offers a great party for any age as well as hosting hen do's, baby showers and family gatherings. There's always something to celebrate at The Clay Cottage with a wide selection of ceramics to choose from for all occasions. They have a new bigger, brighter studio with plenty of party painting options between £7.50 and £12.50 fully inclusive with free parking and complimentary refreshments. Clay Cottage parties are creative and fun, whilst relaxing for parents! For more information call 01268 786162 or visit www.claycottage.co.uk



Old MacDonald's Farm

There's so much fun to be had at Old MacDonald's Farm and Fun Park in Brentwood, whatever the weather.

Rides and amusements:

The farm is packed with the best family rides and amusements and there's always something new being added. All the rides are included in the admission cost and you can ride as many times as you want!

Farm favourites and exotic animals:

There are over 30 different species of animals including meerkats, pigs, wallabies, rabbits, ponies, cows, sheep and wonderful Annie the European Eagle Owl plus many more!

Indoor & outdoor soft play fun:

There's not one but two

fantastic indoor soft play areas that your kids can go crazy in, while you grab yourself a cuppa and something to nibble on. There are also lots of outdoor play areas to keep the kids entertained.

Kids birthday parties: It's the perfect venue for parties! For just £19.99 per person (min 10) the party will include: admission to the farm, free entry for the birthday child's parents plus one free adult for every child, unlimited access to all attractions on the farm, party meal and ice cream, invitation cards for guests, party bag and a fully themed party room.

For more information visit www.omdfarm.co.uk



Harlow Leisurezone

Looking for an exciting birthday party that will be remembered for years to come? There's a fantastic range of parties at Harlow Leisurezone. Choose from a Go Kart party, Multi-Sports, Aqua Kidz pool parties, Trampoline, Football, Fancy Dress, Games Galore, Mini Mayhem parties and lots more. You can even party with Leisurezone's very own mascot 'Rocky the Rhino'. The party hosts will ensure your kids have a great time during their session, after which you have your own party room, where food can be supplied or bring your own. Alternatively, book a party at Kidzz Kingdom, a medieval, fairy tale themed play

centre, with three levels designed to engage and stimulate the imagination. Older ones can test their nerve on the UK's highest Step Tower, or let them take flight on the Leap of Faith at Vertigo, Leisurezone's vertical climbing adventure, both options are available exclusively too! Parties at Leisurezone are an affordable way to celebrate birthdays in style with no mess at home! Visit the website - www.harlowleisurezone.co.uk/ parties or call Deana on 01279 621502.

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01268 786162

www.claycottage.co.uk



A birthday to remember enjoying the underwater world of scuba

- Watch as your child has their first breath underwater.
- Professional, friendly, PADI approved instructors.
- Underwater games.
- School/youth groups also catered for.

Suitable from 8+ years

Call Dive Odyssey on 01702 542759
www.diveodysea.net

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Old MacDonald's FARM & FUN PARK
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CELEBRATE YOUR DAY AT THE FARM

Themed party rooms

More value when you party at the farm!

- One adult free, with every child
- FULL ACCESS ALL DAY TO THE FARM INCLUDING UNLIMITED RIDES!
- Party meal and ice lolly included
- Minimum party booking: 10 children
- Themed Party Rooms

Jct. 28/M25
omdfarm.co.uk

* Published opening times, height restrictions and health & safety procedures apply. Does not include coin operated attractions.

BELCHAMPS SCOUT ACTIVITY CENTRE

LET'S PARTY

It's your party - do it your way.

ASK ABOUT HOLIDAY CLUBS AND AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

Visit www.belchamps.org.uk for more info or call Guest Services on 01702 562690.

It's time to PARTY!



Hazle's Pottery Barn

Looking for a creative party? Try pottery painting! Hazle's Pottery Barn at Barleylands Craft Village, Billericay, is the perfect place. This warm, welcoming studio and friendly staff will make your party a winner! Perfect for children's and adults' birthdays, family get-togethers, hen parties, baby showers and retirements. Kids of all ages love choosing and designing their own pottery, while adults love the sociable side of

being able to chat while enjoying an activity together. If you are not 'arty' don't worry! There are plenty of ideas on show, plus a few 'tricks of the trade' to learn! You can also add a 'Potter's Wheel Experience' to your party at selected times... and have your own 'Pottery Throw Down'! Party packages start from just £14.25 per person, and include a personalised gift to mark the special day. For more details, visit www.hazlepotterybarn.co.uk or call 01268 270892.



Laser Mayhem parties

Why not try Mini Paintball? Laser Mayhem's new low impact paintballing is perfect for birthdays and special events for 8-13yrs.

Battle around Russian tanks, planes, and armoured personnel carriers, just like Call of Duty, with the latest low impact paintball equipment. All-inclusive packages include body armour, gloves, full head shield, goggles, and two hours of fully supervised action, playing 5-7 games with all your paintballs included.

Plus, they also offer outdoor laser tag from 6yrs. A variety of outdoor

laser tag equipment with awesome M9 pistols, submachine guns and assault rifles with scopes are perfect for every age, with even bigger guns for adults. With 9 specially designed different playing fields, full of land rovers, helicopters, armoured personal carriers, planes, forts, Russian battle tanks and much more. Another option is archery tag, suitable from age 10+. Includes equipment, two hours of fun, tutorial, target practice, arrow catching and the hunger games experience. For more information visit www.laser-mayhem.co.uk

The Detective Project

The Detective Project CSI kids' parties are aimed at girls and boys aged 7 years upwards. They challenge your children to investigate a crime scene in your own home or party venue. They work their way through a series of clues using the same forensic techniques as real detectives to solve the crime, hopefully in time for tea and cake. There is even a 'gory' version for older children. Kids are happily entertained for about 1 hour 15 minutes, so it fits in well to a two hour party. Included in the price are white investigators' suits (to keep!), party bags and invitations to download. For more details call 07957 701942 or 01268 204382 or visit www.thedetectiveproject.co.uk



THE DETECTIVE PROJECT
CRIME SCENE INVESTIGATION Parties & Workshops

The children work through a series of clues and use a variety of techniques to solve the crime and earn their reward...

TRY A DIFFERENT PARTY THIS YEAR...

- Suitable for girls & boys aged 7+
- FREE party bags included
- Dress up in crime scene suits
- Suitable for home or party venue

Llorien Walsh & Louise Giles
01268 204382 & 07957 701942
southessex@thedetectiveproject.co.uk
www.thedetectiveproject.com

Little Scrummers Rugby

Would your child love a rugby themed party? Little Scrummers come to your venue and provide a 60 minute fun, exciting and sporty party where the birthday boy/girl and their friends play rugby themed games, win prizes, have a lot of laughs and are left happy having had their 'best party ever'! The parties are for children of all ages and are totally non-contact. Parties are available in all of the areas Little Scrummers operate clubs

in and can travel further afield too. Parties include: • A 60 minute rugby games session • Professional tutors • A personalised trophy for the birthday boy/girl • Rugby themed game prizes • Medals & stickers for all the children attending the party • Print@Home personalised invitations. For more information about Little Scrummers Rugby visit www.littlescrummers.com or call 0330 088 1172.



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Barleylands Craft Village
Billericay CM11 2UD
01268 270892

OPEN Tuesday to Sunday 10am-5pm & every day during school holidays

Rope Runners

The original and biggest high ropes in Essex includes two and a half hours of fun for anyone aged 8+ and includes the Climbing Wall and Big Zip. The continuous safety system means you don't have to worry about the safety of your own or other people's children. Don't fancy ropes? Choose instead from It's My Party - Get Me Out of Here, a Bushcraft Party for the next generation

of budding Bear Grylls, or an Army Style Assault Course Party for a different challenge. Dedicated party leaders will ensure your group all have a great time. Rope Runners is situated at the Secret Nuclear Bunker at Kelvedon Hatch, near Brentwood in Essex. For more information call 01277 364470 or visit www.roperunners.co.uk



For ages 8+

HIGH ROPES PARTY

- ROPES COURSE PARTY
- SHARP SHOOTING SHOWDOWN
- IT'S MY PARTY - GET ME OUT OF HERE!
- ASSAULT COURSE PARTY
- HIGH ROPES AND SHARP SHOOTING COMBO
- BUSHCRAFT PARTY

All parties can be booked via www.roperunners.co.uk or by calling 01277 364470

ROPE RUNNERS
Based at the Secret Nuclear Bunker
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FOR KIDS, 8-13 YEARS OLD

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