sortd.



THE NOVEMBER GUIDE · 2026

What's on for kids in Dublin this November.

23 things to do, from free museum mornings to the first Santa visits, plus 12 weekly classes still taking kids this term.

23	12	9
things to do	free ones	rainy-day saves

Stick it on the fridge. Tick things off. **sortd-ireland.ie**

NOVEMBER AT A GLANCE

The dates worth knowing.

No bank holiday this month	The next one is Christmas Day, Fri 25 Dec. Midterm wrapped up on Fri 30 Oct.
Wed 4 – Sun 8 Nov	Dublin Book Festival, with a free family day on Sat 7 Nov
Sat 7 – Sun 15 Nov	North Dublin Science Festival (free events)
Sun 8 – Sun 15 Nov	Science Week across Ireland, theme: water
Thu 12 Nov	Light-trail season opens: Wild Lights at Dublin Zoo and Wonderlights at Malahide Castle
Sat 14 Nov	Elf Town opens at the RDS
Fri 20 Nov	TwinkleTown opens in Smithfield and The Helix panto opens
Sat 28 Nov	Santa season proper: Malahide Castle and Newbridge House open
Heads up	Some primary schools have extra closure days this year for new-curriculum training. Check your school's calendar.

How to read this guide

Everything's grouped by when it starts: **All month**, then **1–10**, **11–20** and **21–30 Nov**. Each card has the area (City, North, South or Fingal) and an age tag.

Free · Rainy day · ND-friendly · Book early

ND-friendly means the venue runs relaxed, quiet or sensory-friendly sessions. A dashed pill like Prices to be announced means the venue hasn't published that detail yet.

RUNNING ALL NOVEMBER

All month

City · All ages

The Dead Zoo Lab

Open 7 days, all month · Tue–Sat 10am – 5pm, Sun–Mon 1pm – 5pm

National Museum of Ireland, Collins Barracks

The stuffed animals from Merrion Street have a temporary home while the old Dead Zoo is fixed up. Free, dry and endlessly fascinating to small people.

FREE

Free · Rainy day

museum.ie

City · All ages

Sunday family drop-ins at the National Gallery

Every Sunday · 11:30am – 1:30pm

National Gallery of Ireland, Merrion Square

A weekly art session where you rock up, grab the materials and make something. On Sun 22 Nov it's drawing inspired by Hilma af Klint.

FREE

Free · Rainy day

nationalgallery.ie/whats-on

City · Big kids (8–12)

Hilma af Klint: Artist and Visionary

Until Sun 7 Feb 2027 · Gallery opening hours

National Gallery of Ireland

Huge, colourful abstract paintings made over a century ago. Big kids who like patterns and shapes will get a lot out of it.

Under-18s free Ages 8 to 12

Rainy day

nationalgallery.ie/node/4411

City · Little kids (4–7)

Children's storytime

Every Wednesday · 3:15pm

Cabra Library

A weekly after-school story session at your local library. Low effort, high reward on a grey Wednesday.

FREE (TBC) Ages 3 to 8

Free · Rainy day · Price and booking to be confirmed

dublincity.ie/events/childrens-storytime-cab...

BOOK FESTIVAL WEEKEND AND SCIENCE WEEK

1 – 10 November

City · Babies & toddlers (0–3)

Babies @ The Ark: Excitedly Resting

Until Sat 14 Nov (Wed–Sat) · 10:30am – 1pm and 2:30pm – 5pm

The Ark, Temple Bar

A soft, sensory textile landscape for babies to lie in, crawl under and explore. Wed and Fri mornings are for under-8-months only. No booking.

FREE Ages 0 to 2

Free · Rainy day

ark.ie/events/view/excitedly-resting-install...

City · All ages

Dublin Book Festival Family day

Sat 7 Nov · 11am – 3:30pm

Royal Irish Academy of Music, Westland Row

Treasure hunt, craft station and a children's book swap, all drop-in. Bring a book you've outgrown and swap it for a new one.

FREE

Free · Rainy day

dublinbookfestival.com/event_category/family...

City · Little kids (4–7)

Peng and Spanners: Dr Biscuits!

Sat 7 Nov · 12:45pm

Royal Irish Academy of Music

Comic author Steve Webb draws live, gets volunteers singing and finishes with bingo. Free, but tickets go fast.

FREE (book a ticket) Ages 6+

Free · Book early

dublinbookfestival.com/event/peng-and-spanne...

North · All ages

North Dublin Science Festival

Sat 7 – Sun 15 Nov · Various

DCU, The Helix, Deaf Village Ireland and riverbanks

Free, water-themed science all week. Drop into STEM in Irish Sign Language at Deaf Village Ireland (9–13 Nov), or see swimming films projected on The Helix on Wed 11 Nov, 5–8pm.

FREE

Free

dcu.ie/north-dublin-science-festival

THE LIGHTS GO ON

11 – 20 November

City · All ages

Wild Lights: Passport to Wonder

From Thu 12 Nov (to 5 Jan) · 5pm – 9pm

Dublin Zoo, Phoenix Park

The zoo after dark, lit up with giant lanterns across 9 zones themed on celebrations from around the world. Last entry 7:30pm. A sensory-friendly night runs Tue 1 Dec.

Adults €26.50, children €22, under-3s free

Book early · ND-friendly

tickets.dublinzoo.ie/category/75987

Fingal · All ages

Wonderlights

From Thu 12 Nov (to 29 Dec) · 5pm – 8:30pm

Malahide Castle & Gardens

An illuminated trail through the castle grounds. Wrap up, bring a flask and go early in the run for the quieter nights.

€17.50

Book early

wonderlights.ie/malahide-castle

City · All ages

The Dublin Double: EPIC + Wild Lights

From Thu 12 Nov · Museum by day, zoo by night

EPIC Museum, then Dublin Zoo

Interactive museum in the afternoon, lanterns at the zoo after dark. One combined ticket, booked through Dublin Zoo.

15% off buying both

Rainy day · Book early

tickets.dublinzoo.ie/category/77533

City · All ages

Elf Town Dublin

From Sat 14 Nov (to 23/24 Dec) · Timed sessions

RDS, Ballsbridge

A 90-minute Christmas journey (from €29 per child) that ends with a private chat with Santa, who knows a secret about your child. A shorter Santa-only visit is cheaper.

Santa visit from €18 per child

Book early

rds.ie/whats-on/view/57210

North · All ages

The Helix Panto: Neverland

From Fri 20 Nov (to 10 Jan) · Various

The Helix, Collins Avenue

Peter Pan, panto-style, on the northside. Earlier dates are usually the easier ones to get good seats for.

€33 to €45

Book early

thehelix.ie/thehelixpanto2026

City · All ages

TwinkleTown Smithfield

From Fri 20 Nov (to 31 Dec) · 11am – 9pm weekdays, 10am – 9pm weekends

Smithfield Square

Free to wander in: big wheel, funfair, 45-minute ice skating slots and a 20-minute Santo Panto on weekends. Sensory skating from Sat 28 Nov at 11am, and the 12pm weekend panto is ND-friendly.

FREE entry (Santo Panto €5)

Free · ND-friendly · Skating prices to be announced

twinkletown.ie

PANTO, MARKETS AND SANTA

21 – 30 November

City · All ages

Robin Hood: The Gaiety Panto

From Sun 22 Nov (to 3 Jan) · Various

Gaiety Theatre, South King Street

The big city-centre panto. Heads up for sensitive kids: the listing warns of flashing lights, loud bangs, smoke and pyro.

From €39.40

Book early

gaietytheatre.ie/events/robin-hood

City · Big kids (8–12)

A Christmas Carol

From Wed 25 Nov (to 30 Dec) · Sat & Sun 11am and 2pm

The Ark, Temple Bar

A 45-minute Scrooge made for children. Relaxed and ISL performances run in December if you want to plan ahead.

€18.50 Ages 7+

ND-friendly · Book early

ark.ie/events/view/a-christmas-carol-2026

City · Babies & toddlers (0–3)

Early Years Workshop: All The Red Things

Fri 27 & Sat 28 Nov · 10:15am and 11:45am

The Ark, Temple Bar

A collage and poetry session where toddlers and their grown-up make a little fabric book all about the colour red.

€14 per person Ages 2 to 4

Rainy day · Book early

ark.ie/events/view/early-years-workshop-red-...

City · All ages

TwinkleTown St Patrick's Park

From Fri 27 Nov (to 23 Dec) · 11am – 9pm weekdays, 10am – 9pm weekends

St Patrick's Park, Dublin 8

New this year: carousels, a lit-up park walk and carol singers beside the cathedral.

FREE entry

Free

twinkletown.ie/st-patricks-park

Fingal · All ages

Swords Castle Christmas Market

Fri 27 – Sun 29 Nov (and 5–6 Dec) · Fri 3pm – 7pm, Sat & Sun 12pm – 6pm

Swords Castle

A proper castle-courtyard Christmas market on the northside, free to get in. Hours are provisional, so check before you go.

FREE

Free

eventsinfingal.ie/events/swords-castle-chris...

Fingal · All ages

A Christmas to Remember

Weekends from Sat 28 Nov, plus 21–22 Dec · 10am – 4:30pm, timed slots

Newbridge House & Farm, Donabate

Hot chocolate, Mrs Claus making puddings, a walk through the farmyard and a fireside visit with Santa, plus a gift from the elves' toy shop.

Child €28.50, adult €15.50

Book early

bookings.newbridgehouseandfarm.com/Event/XMA...

21 – 30 November continued

Fingal · All ages

Santa at Malahide Castle

From Sat 28 Nov (to 23 Dec) · From 11am
Malahide Castle & Gardens

Meet Santa at the castle, with Christmas activities around the visit. Slots for the weekends nearest Christmas go first.

Varies

Book early · Prices to be announced

tickets.santaatmalahidecastle.ie

City · All ages

Quiet Hour at the museum

Sat 28 Nov · 10am – 11am
National Museum of Ireland, Collins Barracks

Lights softened and sounds turned down for an hour before the museum gets busy. Made for kids who find crowds and noise a lot.

FREE

Free · ND-friendly · Rainy day

November date to be confirmed

museum.ie

South · All ages

Christmas walking trails

From late Nov · 4pm – 8pm, Mon – Fri
Marlay Park, Rathfarnham

A calm, buggy-friendly lit-up walk through the park. The low-key alternative to the ticketed trails.

FREE

Free · 2026 dates to be announced

dlrcoco.ie/dlr-events/event/christmas-walkin...

ON SORTD THIS MONTH

Weekly classes still running.

A handful of the term-time classes on Sortd that are running through November. Most will let you join mid-term or try a taster. Ask.

Young Gaiety Drama Workshop
Gaiety School of Acting

Malahide, Temple Bar & Sandyford · Saturdays · Ages 8 to 10

€250 per term

Autumn term runs to 5 Dec

Kinsella School of Ballet
Kinsella School of Ballet

Malahide (Portmarnock venue) · Saturdays & Wednesdays · Ages 5+

From €100 per term

East Coast School of Ballet
East Coast School of Ballet

Malahide · Mon, Wed – Sat · Ages 3+

€95 to €140 per term

Preschool ballet from age 3

Butler Patrice Performing Arts
Butler Patrice Performing Arts

Malahide · Saturdays · Ages 4 to 13

See provider

Bricks 4 Kidz LEGO & STEM Club
Bricks 4 Kidz

Foxrock · Fridays · Ages 4 to 7

€180 for term 1

Sense of Wonder Forest School
Sense of Wonder

Killiney · Thursdays · Ages 5 to 10

€140 or €185 per 9 sessions

Current block ends 19 Nov

Kate Buckley School of Dance
Kate Buckley School of Dance

Dundrum · Tuesdays · Ages 3+

€165 per term

Project Fashion
Project Fashion

Dundrum · Thursdays · Ages 7+

€93.49 a month

Children's French Classes
Alliance Française Dublin

Dublin 2 · Wed – Sat · Ages 2+

From €269 per term

CoderDojo Digital Dún Laoghaire
CoderDojo DDL

Dún Laoghaire · Mondays · Ages 7+

FREE

Cubs & Kittens football
Cabinteely FC

Cabinteely · Saturdays 9:30am · Ages 4 to 7

Free for kids born 2022–23

Rugbytots
Rugbytots Dublin

13 venues across Dublin · Sat or Sun · Ages 2 to 5

€149.90 per 10 sessions

Autumn term wraps 7–8 Nov; ask about the next block

Scan any card to open that class on Sortd, or scan here for every weekly class, filtered by age, area and day.

sortd-ireland.ie/weekly-classes

sortd.

Find more on sortd-ireland.ie

Camps, classes and after-school activities across Ireland, filtered by age, area and day. Free for parents. No app.



Check with the venue before you go. Dates, prices and times can change after this guide went out, and popular things sell out. We checked everything against the venue's own page when we wrote it.

Got something for next month's guide? Email sortd.ireland@gmail.com · @sortd.ireland