

19 October 2021

## Celebrate October Half Term at the Official Residences of Her Majesty The Queen

This October Half Term, travel back to the time of medieval knights at Windsor Castle, hear spooky tales of witchcraft and magic at the Palace of Holyroodhouse, and find hidden details in paintings by some of the world's most famous artists at The Queen's Gallery, Buckingham Palace.

### Windsor Castle



#### **Knight Time**

23, 25, 28–30 October, 10:00–15:00

Families visiting Windsor Castle this Half Term will learn all the skills they need to become a medieval knight for the day with interactive storytelling sessions in the Castle's magnificent State Apartments. After marvelling at the impressive suits of armour on display at the Castle – including a suit worn by Henry VIII that was expandable to accommodate his ever-increasing size – children can head to the Learning Centre and design their own shields to take home.

### The Queen's Gallery, Buckingham Palace

#### **Masterpieces from Buckingham Palace Half Term Activities**

23–25 and 28–31 October, 10:30–17:00

What better way to introduce children to the joys of looking at art than by exploring the *Masterpieces from Buckingham Palace* exhibition at The Queen's Gallery? While discovering some of the finest paintings in the Royal Collection, including works by Rubens, Titian, Rembrandt, Vermeer, Van Dyck and Canaletto, families with young children can play an interactive 'Spot the Dog' game, looking closely at the artworks to match the dogs in the paintings with the dogs on their cards. Meanwhile, a spooky activity trail will lead older children through some of the more eerie and unusual elements in these world-famous paintings, and families of all ages will love creating their own masterpieces with colouring sheets inspired by the paintings on display.



# Palace of Holyroodhouse

## Family Activity Day: Witches, Healers and Kings

Saturday, 23 October, 10:00–15:00. Holyrood Herb sessions will also run every Thursday, Friday and Saturday until 30 October 2021, 11:00–14:00.

More than 400 years ago, a local ‘wise woman’ named Agnes Sampson was accused of witchcraft and brought to the Palace of Holyroodhouse for questioning by the King himself. In this day of fun drop-in activities and short talks, families visiting the Palace can find out what happened to Agnes, learn more about James VI’s interest in witches and have a go at creating their own magic spell, just like the three witches in Macbeth.



In ‘Holyrood Herb’ sessions in the Palace’s recently opened botanical garden, children will learn how people used plants and herbs throughout history in an attempt to prevent the spread of infection and disease through ‘bad air’, and can even make their own sweet-smelling bag of herbs to take home.

### Ends

---

**All activities are run on a drop-in basis and are included in the price of admission. Tickets and visitor information: [www.rct.uk](http://www.rct.uk), T. +44 (0)303 123 7339. Windsor Castle, the Palace of Holyroodhouse and The Queen’s Gallery, Buckingham Palace are open Thursday to Monday, remaining closed on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.**

**For more information and to request images please contact the Royal Collection Trust Press Office, [press@rct.uk](mailto:press@rct.uk), +44 (0)20 7839 1377.**



Enjoy free re-admission for a year by asking us to treat your ticket purchase as a donation.

### Notes to Editors

**Royal Collection Trust**, a department of the Royal Household, is responsible for the care of the Royal Collection and manages the public opening of the official residences of The Queen. Income generated from admissions and from associated commercial activities contributes directly to The Royal Collection Trust, a registered charity. The aims of The Trust are the care and conservation of the Royal Collection, and the promotion of access and enjoyment through exhibitions, publications, loans and educational programmes. Royal Collection Trust’s work is undertaken without public funding of any kind.

**The Royal Collection** is among the largest and most important art collections in the world, and one of the last great European royal collections to remain intact. It comprises almost all aspects of the fine and decorative arts, and is spread among some 15 royal residences and former residences across the UK, most of which are regularly open to the public. The Royal Collection is held in trust by the Sovereign for her successors and the nation, and is not owned by The Queen as a private individual.

Admission to Windsor Castle, the Palace of Holyroodhouse and The Queen’s Gallery, Buckingham Palace is managed by The Royal Collection Trust, a registered charity in England and Wales (1016972) and in Scotland (SCO39772).

---

**Press Office, Royal Collection Trust, York House, St James’s Palace, London SW1A 1BQ  
T. +44 (0)20 7839 1377, [press@rct.uk](mailto:press@rct.uk), [www.rct.uk](http://www.rct.uk)**