Dear Parents

Although winter is still upon us I wish to share with you some suggestions for places to visit with your child that we enjoy visiting on educational visits with school, both indoors and outdoors.

**Outdoor Places**

**Parks to visit in Widnes:** Victoria Park, Hale Park, Hough Green Park, Crow Wood Park

**Parks to visit in Runcorn:** Castle Park, Phoenix Park

**Other Parks to visit**: Helsby Park, Sherdley Park, Walton Gardens

**Delamere Forest** – check their website for family fun activities such as seasonal trails including searching for the Gruffalo. <http://www.forestry.gov.uk/delamere>

**Cronton Pastures** – This is a lovely small playground with a sunken trampoline and a totem pole to climb for the more daring amongst us.

**Halton Miniature Railway** –This is situated in Town Park Runcorn. The Railway runs April to September. <http://haltonminirail.weebly.com/>

**Otterspool promenade** – Wrap up warm even if the day looks bright as the breeze from the river can be chilly. The café here is lovely and a good play area too. A walk towards Liverpool brings you to the Festival gardens which are beautiful whatever the season. <http://www.visitliverpool.com/things-to-do/otterspool-promenade-p91191>

**The pier head / Albert Dock** – There are many attractions and events here over the year but looking at the ships or boats on the water is a favourite pastime.

**Southport** – The promenade has had some renovations in the last few years and there is lots of family entertainment. The steam train is a wonderful trip too. For train enthusiasts there is a model railway in Southport. <http://www.southportmodelrailwayvillage.co.uk/>

**Farmer Teds** – This is a wonderful farm with indoor and outdoor play areas. There are activities including grooming and feeding the animals. <http://www.farmerteds.com>

**Acorn Farm** – This is a small farm in Kirkby that offer petting sessions and horse rides too, there is a café and outdoor play areas. <http://www.acornfarm.co.uk/>

**Sefton Park Liverpool** – there is a lake, beautiful gardens to search for the signs of the seasons and the palm house is worth a visit too and for a variety of events see <http://palmhouse.org.uk/>

**Indoor Places**

**Widnes Ice Rink** - has a diddy rink with sensory lights and sounds, skates do not have to be worn! There is also a soft play area situated within the centre. Wrap up warm! <http://www.silver-blades.co.uk>

**Ikea smaland** – Did you know the play areas here are very accommodating for children with special educational needs. Please contact them prior to your visit to see if your child’s needs can be supported whilst you shop. <http://www.ikea.com/>

**Jakes Sensory World** – This is in Netherton situated within the leisure centre and has a fabulous sensory room (with heated water bed), large soft play area and sensory garden. [http://jakessensoryworld.co.uk/](http://jakessensoryworld.co.uk/component/option%2Ccom_frontpage/Itemid%2C1/)

**Museum of Liverpool / World Museum Liverpool / MOSI** (museum of science and industry Manchester) – Museums have lots to see, interactive activities and often free entry too. Check their websites for attractions and features. [http://www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk](http://www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk/wml/) <http://www.mosi.org.uk/>

**Catalyst Discovery Centre** - There are many activities and interactive experiences for all ages with a good view on a clear day and an outdoor play area suitable for older children too. <http://www.catalyst.org.uk/>

**Chill factor** – Wrap up warm! There is a children’s area (mini moose land) where you can experience the slopes and interactive play too. <http://www.chillfactore.com/>

I hope these are of use to you. If you have any favoured places you like to visit with your children then please share the ideas so we can let other families know. A useful website is: **daysoutwiththekids.co.uk**

Thank you.

Shelley O’Connor