

Feb Half Term Holiday Guide

Monday 16th – Friday 20th February 2026

THE CHANGING SEASONS!



The
Conservatoire

EARLY YEARS | CHILDREN | ADULT

Providing exceptional, welcoming
and creative music and art tuition
to South East London since 1881.

Registered Charity No: 1072627

All courses
are drop off

February 2026 workshops

Prepare to Play!

One day instrument introductions running throughout the week

Our year-long **Play!** programme is a fantastic opportunity to learn an instrument in supportive small groups following our tailored curriculum. Perfect for those who have just completed **Roundabout**, or complete musical beginners who are just interested in finding out and trying out, these fun one day courses will give you a little taster of each instrument. Participants will come away with new skills, have fun and perhaps select the instrument they would like to continue on **Play!** Led by your expert tutor, each day will be composed of musical exercises and games, some music theory, and LOTS of playing! You will learn the basics of each instrument, perfectly setting you up for a year of further learning on our **Play!** course or individual tuition. All instruments will be provided.

£78 per day



Monday 16th February, 9.30am – 4.30pm (6–9)

Percussion Lyle Sauer
Flute Pauline Savage

Tuesday 17th February, 9.30am – 4.30pm (6–9)

Brass (using PTrumpets and PBuzz)
Gabriel Askew

Wednesday 18th February, 9.30am – 4.30pm (6–9)

Strings Ivan Illingworth

Thursday 19th February, 9.30am – 4.30pm (6–9)

Piano Eleanor Thompson

Friday 20th February, 9.30am – 4.30pm (6–9)

Guitar Elliott Morris

So that we can ensure our holiday courses are viable, we are unfortunately not able to offer refunds. Holiday courses are also not transferable between people. Please bring a packed lunch for full day courses and a snack for shorter ones. No nuts or seeds please!



Monday 16th February

Spring Birds

9.30am – 4.30pm (5–11)

Lilly Walker, £78

Darting swallows and warbling chiffchaffs returning to the UK in March herald the thaw of winter and return of spring! Inspired by nature and the art of Yayoi Kusama, participants will be guided to create their own stunning abstract (and perhaps dotty and colourful!) bird sculptures, using paper, wire and paint.



Chinese New Year

9.30 – 11.30am (3–5), Sue Harris, £27

It's not just the seasons which are changing, it's also Lunar New Year this week! As we enter the Year of the Horse, children will make fans, money envelopes, some blue and white willow-patterned china and celebrate the horse.

Stick Man and Woman

12.30 – 2.30pm (3–5), Sue Harris, £27

Stick man had a stressful time in the snow! Young Artists will make your own Stick men and also use traditional methods such as grasses, sticks and other natural materials to make more characters. Taking inspiration from the book, each participant will create somewhere safe for them to live.

Snow Circles

3.30 – 5.30pm (4–7), Sue Harris, £27

In this playful class, we will think about viewpoint. Using different-sized circles, we will create pictures of snowmen from different perspectives – straight on, bird's-eye view, and learn about perspective. Then we can make a 3D snowman to take home!

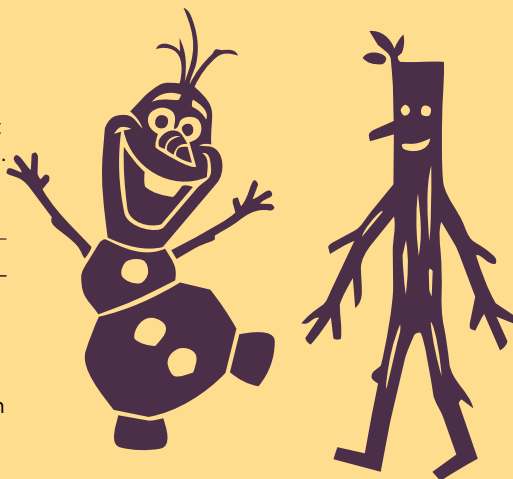
Tuesday 17th February

Linocut Landscapes

9.30am – 4.30pm (8–15),

Florence Tambini Cooper, £78

Favoured by Picasso and Matisse, linocut is a fabulously tactile and accessible introduction to printmaking, allowing students to create striking and evocative works, whilst learning different techniques to regular drawing and painting. Our older Young Artists will be guided by a skilled printmaker and designer to create artworks inspired by seasonal landscapes and creatures.





Casting Winter into Spring – Resin, Clay and Plaster creations

9.30am – 4.30pm (5-11), Clare Kendall, £78

Spend the day at the Conservatoire casting delicate wintery keepsakes that will keep you feeling cosy all year long. You can use your magical creations as drinks coasters, works of art to hang on your wall or even large pendant necklaces! Firstly, we will create a frosty February scene inside a resin circle with organic materials, icy coloured pigments, snowflakes and glitter. Then, looking ahead to the coming Spring we'll make a botanical decorative tile with what Winter has left behind – empty seed pods, berries and conifer – from clay and plaster.

Wednesday 18th February

Build your own Narnia

9.30 – 4.30pm (5-11), Fiona Berry, £78

Under the Wicked Witch it is always winter in Narnia. Young Artists will learn set design skills, including drawing, planning, mixed media and 3D textured work to create their own version of the magical world of the Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe. Will we meet Mr Tumnus or even Aslan?



Uke and You!

10.30am – 12.30pm (3-5), Jay Hammond, £27

Ukulele is a fantastic first instrument and a wonderful stepping stone to other string instruments. Our friendly tutors will help you play your first song, have fun making music with others and learn skills in rhythm, pitch and notation as part of fun musical games! All levels are welcome. Bring your own instrument or borrow ours!

A Whiter Shade Of Pale

9.30 – 11.30am (3-5), Sue Harris, £27

To create a snowy landscape picture, we need to mix lots of different shades of white. How many can we mix, and when does a colour stop being white? We can explore silhouettes and shadows. We will sculpt our own beautiful tree and make it glittery in the snowy landscape.

Whether the weather be cold...

12.30 – 2.30pm (3-5), £27

As the seasons change, so does the weather... sun, fog, rain, rainbows... I wonder what the weather will be like today? We will explore hot and cold colours and make our own rainbow art.

Spring Buds

3.30 – 5.30pm (4-7), Sue Harris, £27

We will make a pop-up garden to celebrate the start of spring and paint some pictures of spring buds and flowering bulbs, and decorate a beautiful container for them to grow. We can also paint our own flowerpots and plant some bulbs to take home and watch them grow.

Thursday 19th February

Winter Paper Worlds

9.30am – 4.30pm (5–11), Yukako Shibata, £78

Learn the skills to make exquisite paper sculpture! These paper cut, folded and layered artworks will be inspired by snow, frost and winter landscapes. Half term Young Artists will create snowflakes (cut, folded and modular), abstract paper sculptures inspired by ice, frost and crystals, and imaginative winter scenes using layering and relief. The focus is on playful exploration of paper, pattern, form and structure.

Chinese New Year – Lunar Horses

9.30am – 4.30pm (6–12), Clare Kendall, £78

To celebrate the changing of the seasons and the Lunar New Year of the Horse, participants will be looking at Xu Beihong's glorious ink paintings of wild horses in motion. Using image transfer and the more traditional Chinese materials of Ink Stone and rice paper, children will recreate these spirited and passionate drawings on a hanging scroll. We will also look at the incredible, 'Kelpies' sculpture by Andy Scott and recreate these magnificent beasts in clay.

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Friday 20th February

Come onboard the Polar Express!

9.30am – 4.30pm (5–11), Tash Mok, £78

Christmas has passed, but it's still cold (and sometimes!) snowy outside, so children can embark on their own extraordinary journey crafting their own Polar Express! Participants will create a diorama of a scene (or two) from the story, using mixed media artistic techniques (paint and mark making and texture for the scenic background, card and cardboard for the train, clay for the people) making it come to life in 3D by using mixed media. Come along to help bring the magical train to life!

From The Tiny Seed

9.30am – 12.30pm (4–7) Sue Harris, £39

Looking at the work of the acclaimed author Eric Carle, we will paint some papers with effects just like he does. We can use these as collage materials to create images from the book.

Polar Bear, Polar Bear What Do You See?

1.30 – 4.30pm (4–7), Sue Harris, £39

We can make a snowy environment for a Polar Bear and make a polar bear puppet. Using paint and printing, we'll explore the footprints animals make in the snow.



Adults

Monday 16th February

Painting Winter Light: Snow Landscapes in Oil

6 – 9pm Sophie Cook, £39

Students will explore how to translate reference photographs of local winter scenes into expressive oil paintings. Drawing inspiration from artists such as Ivan Shishkin, Claude Monet, Fred Cummings and Nikolai E. Timkov, we will focus on identifying essential elements; dominant colours, major shapes, skies and the overall lighting scenario. The course begins with quick, small colour studies that emphasise value, colour temperature, and atmosphere. These studies will serve as preparation for a larger, finished painting, allowing students to make confident decisions before committing to the final work.

Throughout the process, we will examine key visual questions:

- Should the value range be expansive or compressed?
- How much atmosphere is present, and how does it affect distant forms?
- How can subtle shifts in value, colour, and edges convey cold air and winter mood?

By studying both historical and contemporary landscape painters, students will learn how artists use complementary colour, monochromatic palettes, and contrasts of saturation to create focus and mood—whether through a glowing winter sun or a striking landscape feature. Winter, with its quiet colour and nuanced light, offers a powerful opportunity to deepen one's understanding of atmosphere, mood, and painterly expression.



Wednesday 18th February

Make your own Bridgerton-Style fan!

6 - 9pm Victoria Ajoku, £39

Fancy an entirely different creative session? This informative and vibrant fan-mounting workshop is a lovely way to meet like-minded people. This workshop will be conducted by experienced fan making tutor Victoria Ajoku, founder of the award-winning small business 'Fan The Glory With Tori', who will guide you through the making process. With the fan-art form listed as a 'critically endangered craft' in the UK, this unique experience includes a brief introduction to fan history. Participants will be given the materials and taught the skills to construct a folding hand-fan to take home. In our historic Victorian buildings imagine yourself in a Bridgerton ballroom with your fan! The session will touch upon elements from 'The Language of the Fan', the secret, non-verbal code used primarily by women in Regency and Victorian times to communicate feelings like love or disdain through fan movements. Suitable for all levels.

Find us at

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Stay in touch

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Friday 20th February

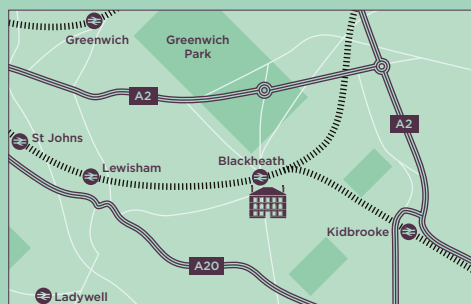
Drink and Draw

6 - 9pm Sue Harris & Lilly Walker, £39

The perfect way to end week creatively, with friends, or alone as respite! Our expert art tutors will guide you step by step as you mix paint and prosecco and create your own A3 masterpiece. No matter what your experience you will come away with a stunning piece of work. This session will look at doing things differently - negative painting! Working on the textured background first with paints, brushes and other tools, participants will then paint the space around the object/subject to define it, creating depth and contrast. We will be inspired by the springlike works of Sarah Robey and Michelle Bradley.

Local Buses

54 - 89 - 108 - 202 - 380 - 386



Sign-up to the newsletter to be the first to know when the new events launch: www.conservatoire.org.uk/newsletter

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ADULT ART WORKSHOPS!



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