



words, 'I'm bored'. And with an extension planned later this year for even more high jinks, London's ultimate mini members' club is due to become even more impressive.

purpledragonplay.com

Wild things

If you have a little nature lover on your hands, you will earn serious parent brownie points by taking them to the WWT London Wetland Centre in Barnes. This wet and wonderful haven is dedicated to protecting wetland species in their natural environment and to teaching aspiring naturalists who are hungry for knowledge. They can stroll through the lush gardens as butterflies and dragonflies flit around them, go on a creepy-crawly hunt, see what they can 'catch' in either the real or interactive virtual pond, or head for one of the most popular attractions, Toad Hall. Here, budding Darwinians can handle frogs, newts and salamanders while listening to amphibian keeper Jay Redbond talk about these slimy but fascinating pond and river-dwellers' lives and habits.

wwt.org.uk

Young musicians

London's most popular classical music event, the BBC Proms, attracts thousands of people of all ages to the Royal Albert Hall (main picture) each year. With young enthusiasts in mind, the organisers have introduced a chance for learning musicians (from 7 years old), and their families, to play with the professionals as part of its Family Orchestra and Chorus Workshop. Led by Lincoln Abbotts, Teaching and Learning Development director for the Associated Board of the

Royal Schools of Music, every level of musical ability is welcome. And if your future Mozart doesn't yet play an instrument, they can join in with percussion or the chorus. Each session is inspired by a different composer or piece of music, and while some take place after a concert performed earlier that day or the previous day, others are held just before a performance, so that your understanding and enjoyment is greatly increased once you are in your seat and the lights are dimmed.

bbc.co.uk/proms

Mini fashionistas

Former fashion journalist Natasha Miller set up The Style Studio as a 'travelling atelier' in and around London, to give aspiring creatives aged between 7 and 19 the opportunity to try their hand at a wide range of different aspects of the fashion world. From printing T-shirts and customising clothes as a hobby, to taking their first steps towards becoming a designer, stylist, image consultant or perhaps a model or make-up artist, there's something for everyone. The studio often calls in the experts to give demonstrations, and collaborates with boutiques and high street stores so that students can gain insight into creating window displays, merchandising, and other areas of the industry. In the past, Style Studio attendees have even appeared on children's TV, Nickelodeon. As well as the regular courses and classes, there are holiday workshops and the chance to hold a fashion fabulous party – so mini Miuccia Pradas can practise that all-important air kissing! ☒

stylestudiokids.co.uk

Please ask your concierge to help you book any of these activities

wealth of seafaring and navigation history, you won't be going at high speed all the way, but just enough to keep adrenalin junkies happy. It's up to you and your charges whether you wear tuxedos or evening dresses à la Bond – you may get a little wet – but whatever you decide, you'll have the photos to prove that you were both shaken *and* stirred.

thamesribexperience.com

Private play

OK, so you need to be a paid-up member of this shrine-to-have-fun, but boy, is it worth it for anyone who comes to London regularly *en famille*. Aimed at zero to 12 year olds, no stone has been left unturned, or expense spared, when it comes to providing every possible diversion for the young and restless. An expansive 'imaginarium' playroom filled with giant dolls' houses, train sets, dinosaurs and volcanoes (pretend ones, of course) takes centre stage, surrounded by a kid's kitchen, design lab, pro-golf simulator and music room, which features a DJ booth, recording studio and baby grand piano – and they are just a few of the attractions. For water babies there's also a swimming pool with 'beach hut' changing rooms, and a special space for super hero fans (right), while 'adventures and experiences' are organised on a regular basis, so there's no excuse for uttering those dreaded

There can't be *many* things more **THRILLING** than *taking* to the RIVER for the **RIDE** of your *life*

