

A CALM CHRISTMAS EXPERIENCE

for children and young people with SEND
and the 'young at heart'



IRONBRIDGE

Valley of Invention

A Calm Christmas for Groups



Dates & Times



Price



The Venue



Your Visit with Santa

This year we are offering 30 pre-bookable sessions to schools and organisations to bring their children with SEND to visit Santa in his grotto in a way that is fun and exciting but also safe and comfortable for them.

Each session can accommodate 10 people (there is flexibility for this number to be increased for additional carers) and will run for a maximum of 30 minutes.

Schools, support organisations and home schoolers can book into the Calm Christmas Grotto on the following dates:

Wednesday 11, Thursday 12, Friday 13, Wednesday 18 & Thursday 19 December, with six 30-minute sessions per day at the following times:

10am, 11am, 12pm, 1pm, 2pm & 3pm.

Children - £20

Adult carers and teachers are free

The Calm Christmas Grotto will be located in the Sawmill at Blists Hill Victorian Town. Situated at the top of the site it is close to the entrance and toilets. The Sawmill will have been dressed as a grotto for our Victorian Christmas Weekends (7, 8, 14 & 15 December) but will have some 'tweaks' to take into account sensory requirements.

Each group visit will be supported by two members of the 'Ironbridge Calm Christmas Team' to make sure that your time with us runs as smoothly as possible. Your session will be built around the needs of your children, based on the information provided on the booking form (see attached).



Your Visit with Santa (cont.)

Santa (and his Elf) will be briefed on each group to ensure that interaction with children in each session is appropriate for their needs. If no interaction with Santa is better for your children, this can be arranged; Santa and his Elf will be positioned away from children, busy packing presents for Christmas Eve delivery and talking to each other, rather than the children.

Santa and his Elf have been selected based on having experience of SEND.



Sensory Area

There will be a small sensory area within the grotto for children who may need a bit of time out.



Activity

There will be an optional activity within the grotto and children will be invited to help the Elf build a paperchain.

The story behind this is that the reins on Santa's Sleigh have broken and the only way he can deliver presents on Christmas Eve is for us to make a paperchain which the Elf will sprinkle 'magic powder' on to strengthen the chain so that Santa can use it for his sleigh.

Each child will be invited to write their name and a message to Santa on a link. The activity is completely flexible and if children want to make a paperchain to take home rather than as part of helping Santa, they can.



Present

Each child will receive a gift from Santa, an orange and chocolate. You are able to select whether your children would like to receive a 'traditional' gift or a sensory gift on the booking form.



Refreshments



Weather



Get in Touch

A Calm Christmas for Families

A Calm Christmas for the 'Young at Heart'



The Lady Forester Trust are pleased to support A Calm Christmas Experience with a donation to enable children and young people with special education needs and disabilities and those with dementia an enjoyable and safe visit to see Santa in his grotto.

Light refreshments are available from the café, or fish and chips can be purchased from the fish and chip shop at the top of the site.

Packed lunches can be pre-booked at a cost of £6 per child.

Blists Hill is an outdoor venue and visitors are advised to wear suitable warm clothing and sturdy footwear. The Calm Christmas grotto is under cover (within the Sawmill) but is not heated and therefore children and adults should come dressed for warmth.

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Although the information below does not apply specifically to schools, we thought it might be of interest for some of your parents and guardians and would be happy for you to pass the information on to them.

We are offering 12 pre-bookable sessions to families with children, young people, or the young at heart to provide a safe space for them to enjoy a family visit to a Christmas Grotto.

Available on **Saturday 21** and **Sunday 22 December**, six sessions per day.

Friday 20 December has been allocated as our 'Young at Heart' dementia friendly day with six sessions available for care homes and support organisations. These sessions can also be booked by families who have children with SEND and grandparents with dementia – a safe space for them all to get together to celebrate Christmas.