



# 2026

Information for Leaders and Helpers

## **Detonate Children's Holiday Week**

**Monday 27 July – Friday 31 July**

**The Russell School**

**Brushwood Drive, Chorleywood**

**Detonate is organised by the churches in Chorleywood**

Detonate is a Christian venture and our prayer is vital. Please pray faithfully for all leaders, for the children, and God's blessing over the whole week.

**[www.detonate.org.uk](http://www.detonate.org.uk)**

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# WHAT IS DETONATE?

Detonate is a holiday week for children run by Christians from local churches. As Christians we believe that:

- God loved the world so much that He gave His only Son, Jesus Christ, so that those who believe in Him shall not die but have eternal life.
- the Bible is God's word to us and it shows us how to live.
- God is able to provide a peace and a hope which cannot be found anywhere else.

At Detonate our aim is for children to discover God's amazing love for us all.

We seek to:

- present God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit to the children;
- allow the children to explore the Bible;
- give children opportunities to accept Jesus as their saviour and special friend, allow the children to experience fun, acceptance, unbounded patience, fair discipline and unconditional love.

## TEAM STRUCTURE

The children belong in 3 Age Groups:

GREENS (School Year 1 & 2)

BLUES (School Year 3 & 4)

REDS (School Year 5 & 6)

Each is lead by a team of three Age Group Leaders (AGLs).

Within the Age Groups each child is allocated into a named Small Group of approx. 8-10 children, lead by a Small Group Leader (SGL) assisted by one or more Small Group Helpers (SGH).

# EXPECTATIONS & RESPONSIBILITIES OF LEADERS & TEAM MEMBERS

Each Small Group Leader must be a committed Christian, growing in a living relationship with God in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Each Christian team member is encouraged to have a daily quiet time, keeping close to God before, during and after Detonate.

Every team member is expected to:

- attend the 9.00 am Worship meeting
- be punctual for team events
- remain on site throughout the Detonate day
- seek to put the children's welfare before their own
- resist the temptation to chat with other team members at times when the focus should be on the children
- wear clothing suitable for an active week, i.e. trousers and trainers

Smoking and drinking alcohol are not permitted on site.

Use of offensive and inappropriate language is forbidden.

Every team member must take responsibility for the care of the equipment and general tidiness.

**Mobile Phones** should be used only for urgent messages whilst at Detonate. We should all be fully engaged with the children. **Do not** allow children to use your phone.

Detonate cannot accept any liability for personal property which is damaged or stolen whilst at the event.

# SMALL GROUP LEADER

**You are at the heart of the Detonate programme.** Children spend most of the day in their small group. Your job is to care for those in your group throughout the week. This entails:

- greeting them at your base and recording their attendance in the register
- taking them to the main marquee for the Main Stage presentation
- counting them (before and after moving from place to place). Use the register throughout the day to check them. Never leave them on their own
- going with them to the various activities
- helping them with Craft activities and Big Art.
- joining in with Games, Drama and Dance as appropriate
- encouraging them to participate
- being attentive to their welfare
- eating with the children at lunch
- taking them to the toilet where necessary
- leading a small group session for your group (see below)
- handing over each child to their parent or designated collector

## **What you need to bring:**

**Each day:** a watch and the daily timetable; Bible; tissues and/or wet wipes; packed lunch and water bottle.

**At the beginning of the week:** Two large cardboard boxes or plastic tubs are handy for storing the children's lunch boxes and craft work. A plastic-backed picnic blanket would be ideal for your base as the ground gets damp.

**Small group activities:** It is a good idea to have some easy and fun activities or games available to fill in a spare moment or a wet lunchtime. These need to be able to be done quickly within the space and without creating undue disturbance to other groups. Felt-tips, pencils, drawing paper, scissors, glue etc. are all provided.

**The Small Group Session:** Each Small Group Leader, assisted by their Small Group Helper, leads this daily session within their group. It's a time to talk with the children about the day's teaching theme, to find out what it means for them and to help them explore and apply it using the activities offered. It's also a good opportunity to talk about believing, trusting and following in ways appropriate to your group. Ideas for activities are devised by the Age Group Leaders who will brief their Small Group Leaders and Helpers beforehand.

**Be prepared to join in enthusiastically** with all the activities (craft, drama, stomp, and games) under the direction of the Team Leaders. For Craft, help might be needed to complete their project in the time available. For Games, remember to cheer on your group from the side-lines even if you are not part of the team game.

**If you have any kind of problem, your Age Group Leader is there for you to turn to.**

## **SMALL GROUP HELPER**

You play a vital supportive role in caring for the children in your small group. Under the leadership of your Small Group Leader, you will be looking after the children throughout the day, including at lunchtime. Your job entails:

- supporting your Small Group Leader in all the activities
- making sure the group keeps together and no one gets lost
- looking out for less confident children and helping them to fit in
- joining in **enthusiastically** with all activities
- encouraging the children to listen when your Small Group Leader or age Group Leader is speaking
- Stay with your group even at lunchtime. If you have to leave for any reason make sure your Small Group Leader knows.

## **CRAFT HELPER**

Your job is to set up and assist in the day's craft activities as directed by your Craft Team Leader. Your enthusiasm and help will encourage the children to enjoy being creative and making something special. Activities (often linked to the Detonate theme) are designed to be simple enough for children to carry out with minimal assistance, but they may need help to complete them in the time available. Encourage Small Group Leaders and Helpers to join in and assist with their group.

## **GAMES HELPER**

You will help set up and organise a wide range of team games and energetic activities including football, cricket, rounders, parachute games, as directed by the Sports Team Leader. All children should be encouraged to participate. Children can watch if they don't want to join in, but they cannot leave the group to join in a craft or other activity. Encourage Small Group Leaders and Helpers to be involved by joining in or by cheering on their team from the side-lines. You may be asked to help with general site duties.

## **DETONATE DISCIPLINE CODE: REF!**

**R Respect each other.**

**E Encourage each other**

**F Follow your leader**

**! Have fun**

# TOP 10 TIPS FOR LEADERS

1. **BE READY** - read the resources and make your plan. Which ideas will work best for your group?
2. **BE POSITIVE** - encouragement is better than criticism. Try to 'catch' children being great and tell them.
3. **BE INTERESTING** - what could you do to make your group time unexpected and fun?
4. **BE THE FOCUS** - find a quieter space with less distractions and noise. Sitting with your back to a wall/hedge means there are less distractions behind you! But do not be isolated!!!!
5. **BE A TEAM** - spread out around the group, encouraging them to listen and participate. Try taking turns to lead the session for greater variety and interest.
6. **BE FLEXIBLE** - have a back-up plan and be ready to change activity if necessary.
7. **BE A LISTENER** - listen to what the children tell you. Be interested in their stories and their worries. If it's not the right time to talk, remember to ask them later what they wanted to say.
8. **BE THE BOSS** - you are in charge! Detonate should be fun and positive but the children need to know the boundaries. Remember we want to see behaviour that follows REF! (Respect, Encourage, Follow, Fun!)
9. **BE YOURSELF** - you bring a unique set of gifts to your small group. Think about child-appropriate ways to share your own experience of your life and relationship with Jesus Christ. Be honest and real.
10. **DON'T BE A HERO!** - if you are having difficulties with your group then don't be afraid to ask for help. You can ask an Age Group Leader to back you up if you need support at any time. We can sit in on your group time or perhaps give a particular child a pep talk.

# CHILD SAFETY AND PROTECTION

**It is our clearly stated objective that no child should be harmed or endangered whilst at Detonate. It is important that all helpers should read this section. We rely on the care and vigilance of all our helpers to ensure that children are kept safe from harm.**

**Tabards and name badges** are issued to all leaders and helpers and should be worn by all team members whilst on site. Make sure the tabard is your top layer. Be ready to challenge (firmly but politely) any adult without a tabard (except parents delivering or collecting children), or notify Detonate Security, the Site Manager or Age Group Leader. Take care not to leave your tabard lying around, leave it at your base at the end of the day. **Do not** allow children to wear your tabard and badge.

**No leader or helper should take a child anywhere on site out of view of other adults: this includes accompanying children to the toilet.** Please do not give children shoulder rides or piggy backs.

**Touching – Be Aware:** Touch and the display of affection between Leaders/Helpers and children is a sensitive issue. This is particularly so in the light of the increased number of reported cases of child abuse (some involving Christians). We must be careful not to do anything that can be misunderstood by the children or their parents. We want to be naturally warm and reassuring, particularly if a child is upset for any reason, **but our response should be prompted by the need of the child, not by our own needs.** Younger children are especially affectionate. We must be careful not to encourage too much affection, yet not give the child any sense of rejection. The problem of children sitting on your knee, for example, is one of trying to avoid favouritism. Others will not want any physical contact. Each child must feel special, safe and secure.

# THE DISCLOSURE AND BARRING SERVICE (DBS)

All Detonate leaders and helpers aged 16 years and above should have an enhanced disclosure from the DBS as church children's club worker for St Alban's Diocese.

**If this is not the case, please could you get your DBS cover from your own church or if no church connection please contact Judith Palfreman (01494 763352 or 07759 163566) immediately in order to register.**

NOTE: If you are 16 years or older, you will be required to complete the on-line Safeguarding training by the Diocese of St Albans. C0 Basic Awareness for 16-18 year olds. C0 Basic Awareness & C1 Foundations for 18 years or older. This training is valid for 3 years.

Website link: <https://safeguardingtraining.cofeportal.org/>

Once completed, you should email the certificate to team@detonate.org.uk.

## FIRST AID

There will be a First Aider and first aid equipment available in the First Aid Room.

**An Incident Book** for recording any accident or injury, and any action taken, will be kept by the First Aiders.

**All medicines including EpiPens** will be kept in the First Aid room. If a parent requests, their child may carry an **extra EpiPen** in a bum-bag which **the child carries at all times**. EpiPens may not be stored in the Age Group tents or other locations, nor carried by the Small Group Leader/Helper.

If a child is sick or injured, he/she must be taken to the First Aid room by the Small Group Leader or Helper whilst the other remains with the group. If necessary, parents/guardians will be contacted to collect their child.

## CAR PARKING

There is limited parking within the school grounds and no parking on the main playground. Please walk or get dropped off if possible. Remember the 11 am - 12 noon parking ban. Blacketts Wood Drive above the roundabout and St Peters Way are unrestricted. We encourage lift sharing where possible. Please be mindful of the neighbours.

## EARLY BIRDS

Leaders' and Helpers' children will be looked after during the morning preparation meetings at **'Early Birds' from 8.50am**. Please make sure they are registered. This special arrangement is **not** open to other parents who want to drop their children off early.

## REGISTRATION OF CHILDREN

On the first day, children will be welcomed by their Age Group Leader in Reds, Blues or Greens and allocated to their Small Group.

Early Bird children will be delivered to their age group by an Early Bird leader. All children should already be registered **including team members' children!** We cannot accept children who just turn up at the gate unless we have spare spaces and the registration forms have been fully completed by the parent or guardian.

### **Afternoon Collection:**

At the end of the day parents or other designated collectors will come to the Red, Blue or Green bases to collect the children showing their passport. This needs to be orderly to make sure that children do not 'escape' before we have a chance to tick them off the register.

Please make sure that children take home their craft work and any activity sheets they have completed.

# DETONATE FRIDAY

**Family Afternoon:** We invite parents and friends to join with their children in a special fun-filled session in the Marquee. This gives them the opportunity to hear about what has been happening at Detonate all week and to be invited to the children's activities at the local Churches. **Please note that we will finish 15 minutes later on this day.**

**Detonate Take Down:** 4pm – please be there to help!

**Barbecue** for Detonate team and their families at 18.30.  
Sign up in the Team Areas if you would like to come.

**Plastic Badges & tabards:** please hand in before you leave the site on Friday or return them to Christ Church or St Andrew's Church office as soon as possible.

# SUNDAY AFTER DETONATE

You are very welcome to come and celebrate Detonate at either Christ Church and Connect at 10.30 am or St Andrew's Church at 11 am.

# THE RUSSELL SCHOOL

We are immensely grateful to The Russell School for permission to hold Detonate on their site. It is up to every single person to make sure we are welcomed back next year.