

Big Gaming Weekend – Q&A

Our first ever Big Gaming Weekend has been designed based on the feedback we have received from members and attendees at our events... "*There is never enough time to play the extra games we bring along and just hang out with other children and families.*" So, here's your chance...!

What is Big Gaming Weekend?

A gathering of the existing Potential Plus UK members, as well as the opportunity to welcome and support any new-comers to our community and its activities. We will have exclusive use of a rural retreat, so that children and families can socialise with each other, share experiences and renew existing friendships or establish new ones. Our focus will be on enjoying games together. This is an event where parents will be in a supervisory capacity of their children at all times (*except for possibly for the Saturday evening pre-dinner activity – details are still being clarified – more information to follow*).

When will Big Gaming Weekend take place?

Saturday 22nd October and Sunday 23rd October. Our Residential Package option offers you the chance to stay from Friday night for the whole weekend. Daytime only tickets are also available.

What age group is this suitable for?

Most probably from 4+ years. The main thing for families to consider is that the event is primarily focussed on playing (and learning to play) board games, so your child needs to want to do this.

Where will Big Gaming Weekend be held?

Windmill Farm Retreat Centre, Main Street, Bampton, OX18 2SN
<https://www.windmillfarm.online/>

Windmill Farm is run by Adventure Plus, a charity that exists to help children and young people reach their potential and make positive life choices. Their 80 acres home at Windmill Farm welcomes young people, families, youth groups, churches and businesses as they develop their Adventure Base, with exciting long-term plans dependent on their fundraising efforts. Many of their organised activities and retreats focus on families being able to spend quality time together. They are delighted to be able to host our first Big Gaming Weekend and have gone out of their way to try and help us put together an affordable package supporting our aims and objectives and to learn more about Potential Plus UK.

How is the site structured?

Windmill Farm is made up of a collection of buildings once functional as a farm. The main reception building houses **Wellspring** where one set of accommodation lies along with a lounge area. We will also be using the **Conference Hall**, **Windmill Barn**, the **Sports Hall** and the **Dining Hall**, all set around a courtyard area. A short walk up a track and there is a sizeable field (for play and **camping**) and a glamping village made up of **yurts and cabins**.

How can we travel there?

Windmill Farm is situated between Oxford and the Cotswolds. It is 90 minutes by car from London and Birmingham, 80 mins from Bristol, 60 minutes from Gloucester and 40 mins from Oxford and Swindon. There is ample parking available. Nearest train stations are in Oxford, Finstock, Hanborough and Charlbury. There are bus services from Clanfield.

Can we submerge ourselves in the occasion and stay on site?

Most definitely! We are offering daytime tickets for those who can only make one day or who live or wish to stay elsewhere locally, but we are delighted to be able to offer a **limited number of rooms on site** to our families. We expect these to be very popular, so please **act immediately** if you wish to secure these.

Onsite accommodation is available as a two-night package only, with arrivals from 5pm on Friday and departures at the end of Sunday's activities. The residential package includes evening meals on both nights and lunches and full English breakfasts on Saturday and Sunday.

There are three accommodation options:

- ⇒ **Wellspring** – ensuite rooms each with tea and coffee making facilities, towels and bedding; double, triple and a couple of rooms sleeping up to 5/6. Our communal lounge area is also found in this building. Only 14 rooms available. *This option includes bed linen and towels provided.*
- ⇒ **Glamping village** – the 'indoor camping' experience. We have 6 yurts and 8 cabins that each sleep up to 8 (but we have been given permission to offer as low as 2-person occupancy with no penalty). Beautifully fresh and new facilities, with toilet blocks at the Glamping village and use of the shower block down at the farm. A communal cabin with tea and coffee is also available for use. *This option requires families to bring all their own bedding and towels.*
- ⇒ **Camping** – for the very hardy! Bring along your own tent and pitch it close to the Glamping village, accessing the same toilet and shower facilities. *This option requires families to bring all their own bedding and towels.*

If you are interested in the residential package, first contact Liv on events@potentialplusuk.org to discuss your family's needs, confirm availability and receive allocation of your room, cabin, yurt or camping place. You will need this to register.

What if we live nearby, can only be there for one day or would prefer to stay in accommodation off-site?

As well as a residential package, daytime only tickets are available. There is a discount for a two-day ticket. A daytime ticket includes access to all the gaming activities, a two-course lunch and refreshments throughout the day.

Daytime guests can also purchase tickets for the Saturday evening meal if they want to stay longer onsite to enjoy this meal and associated activities. There are

numerous hotels and B&Bs in the area, at varying rates, some of which can offer family rooms.

What are the prices?

One huge reason we are not holding a Big Family Weekend with multiple activities for differently aged children and a separate parents' programme is the increase in costs that we faced – for venue, accommodation, children's activity providers and parental speakers and workshop leaders. In the years before Covid-19 this event was attended by up to 500 parents and children, but the costs this year were spiralling and many of our previous activity providers have also had to increase their fees or have turned to other modes of income.

The Big Gaming Weekend enables us to try to hold costs as much as possible and provide a variety of ticket options. Full details of the various options are given at the end of this document.

What is the Saturday evening entertainment?

This is currently under discussion with the venue, but we aim to put on some dedicated entertainment for the children and give parents a chance to socialise separately. The Saturday evening entertainment and meal are included in the residential packages, and Daytime Only ticket holders can choose to book and pay for this as an additional session.

Who will look after our children over the weekend?

Throughout the whole weekend parents have responsibility for their own children at all times. The only possible exception to this is for the Saturday evening entertainment, which we are currently in discussion about – more information will follow asap.

What type of activities will be available?

Pop-Up Board Game Café

A wide selection of board games will be available to play on request in the Conference Hall.

Never quite get round to playing those board games as a family? Bored of those that you have and want to experience some new ones? Or just want to bond with some potential new friends over an old favourite? While away the hours with your familyor set the adults to one side and hang out with your friends and game-away with pals.

Chess Barn

We know we have our chess devotees out there from our online vPlus clubs – and we wanted to give you the chance to meet up in person! Or perhaps you have always wanted to play and would like to learn how to? The whole of Windmill Barn is dedicated to this popular pastime.

Cubing Cubbyhole

Seek out this special little hideaway to work on some speed cubing.

Sports Hall

Need to move a bit more? Why not take some time away from the board and have a game of table tennis or table football in our Sports Hall.

Outside Space

If the weather behaves, make the most of our outdoor space to try some outdoor games using our equipment or just introduce your friends to some new ones you know.

Wellspring Lounge & Cabin Lounge

Relaxing, flexible spaces with a chance to grab some refreshments and chat or play some individual or small games.

Games Tutorials

Led by experts and enthusiasts, there will be sessions over the weekend designed to help you start or progress in a selection of board games, such as Settlers of Catan.

And more...

Information will be added over the coming days. If you have any specific questions, please email Liv on events@potentialplusuk.org.

What is Skills Builder?

Potential Plus UK works in partnership with **The Skills Builder Partnership** <https://www.skillsbuilder.org/> aiming to build the essential skills which children and young people need for success. Our annual programme of in-person and online events and activities offer lots opportunities to help children and young people develop their abilities in the eight key areas - Teamwork, Leadership, Creativity, Problem Solving, Aiming High, Staying Positive, Listening, Presenting. Our Big Gaming Weekend is a particular opportunity for children to challenge their problem-solving, listening and staying positive.

What is the draft schedule for the weekend?

Key

All guests
Residential guests only
Dinner guests and residential guests only
Non-residential Dinner Guests

Friday

From 4pm	Residential Arrivals
7pm	2 Course Hot Dinner

Saturday

8.00am	Full English Breakfast
9.30am	Daytime ticket holder arrivals and registration
10am	Games Rooms Open
12pm	Lunch
4.30pm	Games Rooms Close
5.30pm	Evening Activity - children
7pm	2 Course Hot Dinner
9.30pm	Non-residential dinner guests leave site by this time

Sunday

8.00am	Full English Breakfast
9.30am	Daytime ticket holder arrivals and registration
10am	Games Rooms Open
12pm	Lunch
4.30pm	Games Rooms Close
5.30pm	All guests off site

Ticket Options and Prices

Every family must purchase an initial ticket for '1 adult + 1 child'. This ensures that all children and young people have a responsible adult on site with them. Further children, young people and adults can then be added on top of this.

This event is suitable for children aged 4+ who are happy to play board games.

- **For this event and in line with the venue requirements, a CHILD is defined as 12 years and younger. However, the first ticket for a family of e.g. one parent and one child aged 13+ remains a '1 adult + 1 child' ticket**
- **All additional young people aged 13+ years are described for ticket purposes as ADULT for this event.**
- **If families with one or more 13+ years attendees wish to clarify their ticket choices, please contact Liv on events@potentialplusuk.org before registering**

There are two types of ticket available – Residential and Daytime.

Residential Tickets

This includes:

- Friday evening meal, Friday night accommodation
- Saturday Full English Breakfast, Saturday Lunch, Saturday Evening Meal + entertainment, Saturday night accommodation
- Sunday Full English Breakfast, Sunday Lunch

- Refreshments across the weekend.
- 5-6 hours access to games rooms and activities on Saturday and Sunday.

To book a Residential Ticket, you must first contact Liv on events@potentialplusuk.org in order to establish room availability. Once a room has been allocated, you can proceed to registration.

There are three options for accommodation:

- 1) Wellspring** – ensuite rooms each with tea and coffee making facilities, towels and bedding; double, triple and a couple of rooms sleeping up to 5/6. Our communal lounge area is also found in this building. Only 14 rooms available. *This option includes bed linen and towels provided.*
- 2) Glamping village** – the ‘indoor camping’ experience. We have 6 yurts and 8 cabins that each sleep up to 8 (but we have been given permission to offer as low as 2-person occupancy with no penalty). Beautifully fresh and new facilities, with toilet blocks at the village and use of the shower block down at the farm. You need to provide bedding and towels. Communal cabin with tea and coffee also available for use. Please state whether you would prefer a YURT or a CABIN in your booking enquiry. *This option requires families to bring all their own bedding and towels.*
- 3) Camping** – for the very hardy! Bring along your own tent and pitch it close to the Glamping village, accessing the same toilet and shower facilities. *This option requires families to bring all their own bedding and towels.*

Daytime Only Tickets

This includes:

- 5-6 hours access to games rooms and activities
- Refreshments all day
- 2 course lunch
- For each day booked

You can buy tickets for just one day or a ticket for both days.

If you wish to attend the evening meal and entertainment on Saturday, you must purchase an additional meal ticket for each person attending.

Ticket Prices: Residential

	Member £	Non-Member £
Wellspring		
Initial 1 Adult + 1 Child ticket	380	440
Additional Adult	220	250
Additional Child	160	190

Glamping		
Initial 1 Adult + 1 Child ticket	350	410
Additional Adult	175	205
Additional Child	175	205
Camping		
Initial 1 Adult + 1 Child ticket	275	335
Additional Adult	160	190
Additional Child	115	145

Ticket Prices: Daytime Only

	Member £	Non-Member £
One Day Daytime ticket For initial 1 Adult + 1 Child	100	140
Additional Adult One Day Daytime ticket	55	75
Additional Child One Day Daytime ticket	45	65
Two Day Daytime ticket For initial 1 Adult + 1 Child	180	260
Additional Adult Two Day Daytime ticket	100	140
Additional Adult Two Day Daytime ticket	80	120

Saturday Evening Meal + Entertainment (for daytime attendees)

	Member £	Non-Member £
Adult Saturday Night Dinner	25	30
Child Saturday Night Dinner	12.50	15

Please note that all the above prices include VAT. On the booking website they are initially shown without VAT. 20% VAT is added at check out.

Financial Support to Attend this Event

Due to Potential Plus UK's own financial constraints, we are unable to provide concessionary rates for this event.

However, if your family is struggling to meet the costs of this event, The Potential Trust (a separate charity www.thepotentialtrust.org.uk) offers bursaries for events suitable for young people with high learning potential. Please contact Anna Comino-James to discuss by phone on 01844 351666 or by email at thepotentialtrust@clara.co.uk and forward Anna's email response to Liv.