

Your guide to what's **hot** on the high street

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**Siobhan McNally**

**DIARY OF A SINGLE MUM**

**Fleeced - and left feeling like I'm 114**

Half term is the ideal time to spend all day in your PJs, slumped in front of the telly, munching crisps and having burping competitions.

Sadly, my six year old, Jesse, had other ideas last week.

"Come on, Mummy, get dressed and let's go and do something interesting," she nagged. So I declared our pug Boris the winner and rolled off the sofa.

Trouble is, interesting days out can cost an awful lot of crisps.

Driving home from a trip to London recently, I wanted to show Jesse the beautiful autumnal trees in the world famous Kew Gardens. When I was a kid, it was a cheap day out and we would pack a picnic, hop on the train and climb all over the ancient trees.

This time, I paid £20 for the two of us, plus £7 parking charge, to watch workmen throwing scaffold poles at each other as they closed off the attractions for the winter.

So I was still feeling stiffed by Kew when we visited Milestones in Basingstoke, a living history museum.

Finding a parking space, we walked around looking for a ticket machine until we gave up and went inside. "It's free parking," said the lady on the desk, and then slapped us with a £15 entrance fee.

"That's a month's supply of crisps," I muttered to Jesse, but she'd already run ahead to find ye olde sweetie shop down one of the museum's streets.

"Was it like this when you were a child, mummy?" she asked, chewing on a bon bon.

"Er... no, this exhibition is set during the reign of Queen Victoria," I replied.

"Oh, I thought she died just before you were born," said Jesse, quite seriously.

"Well, that would make me about 114 years old," I said, testily.

Then, in the exhibit of homes interiors through the ages, Jesse found a wartime copy of the Daily Mirror. "Did you work for the paper back then?" she asked.

"That would make me 95 years old. I am not the living history part of this museum," I growled.

An old penny amusement arcade kept Jesse busy for a while, especially the peeling 'Madame Zasha' in her fortune-telling box. Jesse smirked as she read out her fortune card: "She says I will have many admirers."

"Let me see. Ha, yes, and she also says, 'Remember, becoming bald doesn't matter,'" I hooted.

"Come on, baldie, race you to the gift shop. I haven't been fleeced nearly enough today," I said and ran off laughing.

One day I hope to grow up.

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# orange!

Love it or loathe it, the future is bright this season - and it's orange. Here's how to wear this bold autumnal hue. **By style editor Dinah van Tulleken**

Fashion assistant: Anna Little



A cashmere jumper is well worth the investment. Team your knit with a mini skirt to show off shapely pins. Wear with black opaque tights if you're not brave enough or it's too chilly for bare legs. Cashmere jumper, £129, M&S. Pattern mini skirt, £34.99. White trainers, £44.99, both Mango. Black double-breasted coat, £139, M&S.

Wear a loose white top with a 70s inspired suede skirt to take your summer style into the season ahead. Team with ankle boots and have an oversized coat on hand to protect against the elements. White top, £25.99, Zara. Camel suede skirt, £75, Simply Be. Orange Bag, £30, TK Maxx. Suede boots, £69.99, H&M.

Slip into a stylish all-in-one for a fashionable day out with your friends. This oversized design hides a multitude of sins. Floral print jumpsuit, £55. Black heeled sandals, £52, both Topshop. Necklace, £9.99. Wide brim hat, £14.99, both New Look.

Be daring and step out in orange jumpsuit. Worn with a simple black blazer and block heeled shoes, it's sure to turn heads for all the right reasons. Orange bandeau jumpsuit, £27, Lavish Alice. Leopard print and black blocked heeled shoes, £79, Dune. Black fitted blazer, £60, Nine by Savannah Miller at Debenhams.

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Half term days out cost an awful lot of crisps