Smiling International School
An Extra Smile

# EVENTS IN FERRARA

## JANUARY 2026

### New Year's Eve around the Castle

*31st December*

*Free entrance to the firework display*

**From 10 pm** – Radio Bruno 'About That Night – 2000 a Tuono' Piazza Castello

**At 11.55 pm** – Countdown & firework displays at the Castle

**Until 2 am** – 'The Big Dance Party' with Radio Bruno Danceland

### Ferrara's Christmas Market

*Until 6th January 2026*

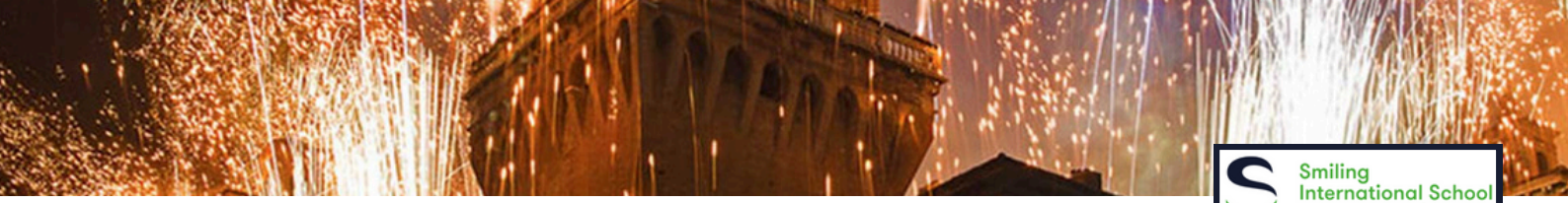
*Piazza Trento Trieste*

Six more days to have a last wander around Ferrara's Christmas market, eat a traditional 'Piadina', enjoy a glass of mulled wine or Bombardino and buy some crafts.

### Ferrara's Winter Park

*Parco Coletta*

The fairground attractions remain open until 6th January however, the ice-rink stays open until 1st February.



**Fairground attractions opening times:**

Weekends & public holidays: 10.30 am – 12.30 pm & 2.30 pm – 8 pm

Weekdays 3 pm – 8 pm

**The ice rink opening times:**

Weekends & public holidays: 10 am – midnight

Weekdays 2 pm – 10 pm

Admission to the park is free. Rides, ice-skating, food & drink are chargeable

## Celebrating Epiphany in Ferrara – The Arrival of Befana!

'Befana' is a kind, old witch who, on the night of the 5th January while the Italian children are sleeping, arrives on a broomstick and leaves a stocking full of sweets for them to open in the morning of the 6th. Legend has it that children who have not been good during this festive period receive a piece of black coal in their stocking instead! Here are some fun events for children:

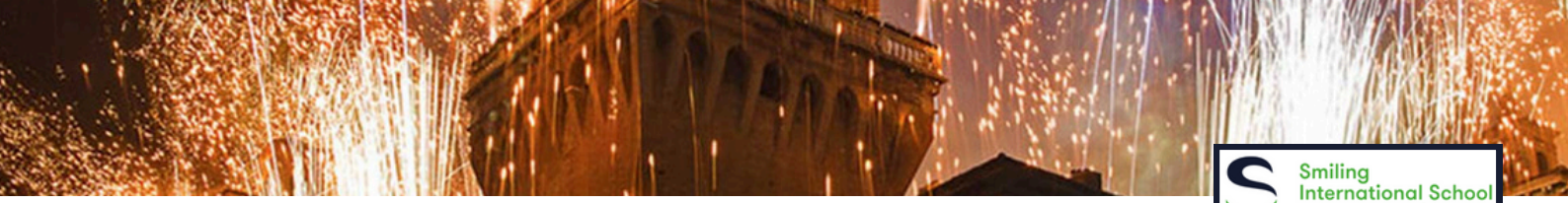
### 'Racconti dell'Epifania al Castello' / 'Stories about the Epiphany at the Castle'

*Castello Estense*

**Monday 5th January at 11 am**

**Tuesday 6th January at 3 pm**

An exciting guided tour for children around the most intriguing rooms of the castle including the prisons, towers and Orange Gardens with Befana. She has riddles to solve, rhymes to sing and tales to tell making this event the perfect way to celebrate the Epiphany at Castello Estense.



***Duration:*** *1hr 15*

***Cost of guided tour****: Children €8 (5-12 yrs), Adults €4 (13yrs +), Free for children up to 4yrs*

***N.B.*** *You need to also pay the entrance to the Castle (Family tickets available)*

***To book this event:*** ***www.inferrara.it/it/b/331/racconti-dell8217epifania-al-castello***

## The Arrival of Befana

*Tuesday 6th January 2026*

*Piazza Municipale, from 3 pm – 8.30 pm*

On Tuesday 6th January there will be dancing and entertainment for children and the eventual arrival of 'Befana' who will hand out stockings to all the children in Piazza Municipale. Usually around 6 pm (although no specific times have been given), following tradition, an enormous Befana doll will be put on a bonfire in Piazza Trento Trieste and burnt to get rid of horrible thoughts and to end the old year.

## Worth a Mention - Befana in Venice!

*6th January 2026*

Venice holds a race whereby 50 men dress up as Befana and row down the Grand Canal to the Rialto Bridge. The winner is the first one to reach the enormous stocking which is hanging from the bridge. If you would like to see it in person the actual race starts at 11 am although there are other events which precede the regatta which are interesting too.

## Casa Niccolini – Children's Library – 'Arriva la Befana!'

*Via Romiti, 13*

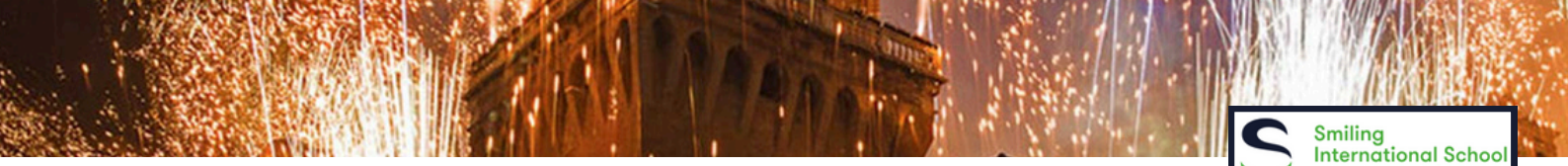
*3rd January at 11 am – 12.30 pm*

*For Information:* ***info.niccolini@comune.fe.it*** *Tel: 0532 418231*

Lots of magical stories to listen to together followed by a fun arts and crafts workshop.

***Suitable for*** *children aged 4-10*

*This event is free but you must fill in the online form if you would like to participate as places are limited:* ***https://archibiblio.comune.ferrara.it/event/1895/4772/arriva-la-befana***



## La Befana Arriva Prima da Noi! – Befana is Visting Us First!

*Sunday 4th January at 3 pm*
*Museo Archeologico Nazionale di Ferrara*
*Via XX Settembre 122*

Befana will arrive a day early at Ferrara's Archaeology Museum. She invites children to join her on an exciting tour of the museum to discover the gifts which the gods used to give people back in ancient times and how this tradition of giving gifts began. The children will also learn about other intriguing rituals originating from the past. The afternoon will end with Befana who will hand out a small gift to each participant.

*This event and entrance to the museum is free. Booking is compulsory so please telephone: 0532 66299*
***N.B.** The museum notifies its visitors that it is having technical problems with the building's central heating system at the moment. A heated room will be provided for the children. We suggest dressing up warmly as it would be a shame to miss such a fun event.*

## Celebrating the Arrival of Befana in the nearby town of Comacchio

Comacchio always provides excellent entertainment during the year and celebrating the arrival of Befana is no exception. It is also a great opportunity to visit this pretty fishing town.

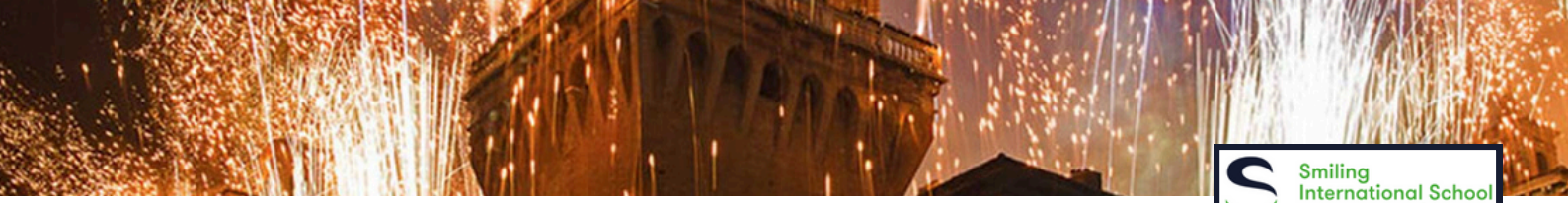
Here is the programme for 3rd - 6th January:

### Saturday 3rd January

***Historical city centre***
Befana's Market opens with arts and crafts, typical products, gift ideas & street entertainment

***Parcheggio Largo Cardinal Pallotta***
-From 3.30 pm Visit 'Villaggio Comacchioland' with 'Happy Land', 'Sweet Christmas' and 'Giant Bricks'

-From 3 pm – 5 pm: Workshops & entertainment & mechanical Nativity scene opens at 'La Casetta di Geppetto'



## Sunday 4th January – Party Preparations

***Historical city centre***

Befana's Market opens with arts and crafts, typical products, gift ideas & street entertainment

***Parcheggio Largo Cardinal Pallotta***

-From 3.30 pm Visit 'Villaggio Comacchioland' with 'Happy Land', 'Sweet Christmas' and 'Giant Bricks'

From 3 pm – 5 pm:

-Workshops & entertainment

-At the Christmas Show area 'Stories Held by a String' puppet exhibition

- Mechanical Nativity scene opens at 'La Casetta di Geppetto'

***From 4 pm – Piazzetta Trepponti***

If you are interested in taking part in the actual parade dressed-up as Befana, then casting takes place on this day. You can also enrol by telephoning: 338 2337977

## Monday 5th January – 'A Van La Vecie' Festival of the Befana Preview

***Parcheggio Largo Cardinal Pallotta***

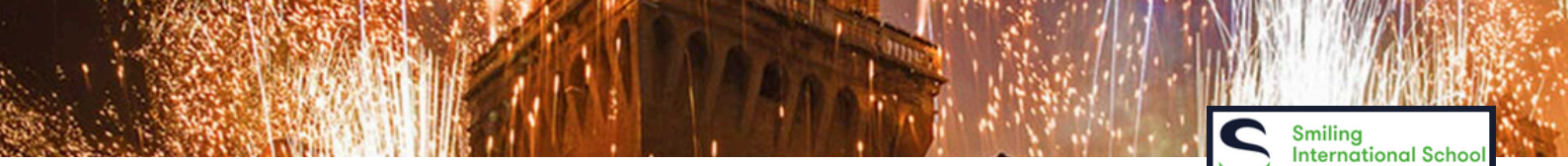
-From 10.30 am – 12.30 pm Visit 'Villaggio Comacchioland' with 'Happy Land', 'Sweet Christmas' and 'Giant Bricks'

***At 2.30 pm – Piazzetta Trepponti***

A parade of Befane with Minnie and Mickey Mouse (This is the parade which you can take part in if you wish, by enrolling the day before and possibly on the day itself)

***At 4 pm Historical City Centre***

'La Tamplà' – Watch a traditional and colourful parade of Befane with traditional costumes and songs performed by the locals



***At 4.30 pm at the Torre dell'Orologio***

Watch the Firemen's Befana as she climbs down the clock tower!

***At 5 pm Parcheggio Largo Cardinal Pallotta***

Villaggio Comacchioland & 'Sweet Christmas' open and the best Befana will be announced

***From 2 pm – 8 pm in Piazza della Rimemberanza***

Games and entertainment for children with Befana

## Tuesday 6th January – 'A Van La Vecie' Celebrating Befana

***At 9.30 am Historical City Centre***

Befana's Market opens

***From 10.30 am – 12.30 pm Parcheggio Largo Cardinal Pallotta***

Visit 'Villaggio Comacchioland' with 'Happy Land', 'Sweet Christmas' and 'Giant Bricks'

***From 10.30 am – midday at Manifattura dei Marinati***

Befana arrives and hands out stockings to children

***At 3 pm – Historical city centre & Villaggio Comacchioland***

Befana arrives and hands out stockings to children

***At 5 pm – Piazzetta Luca Danese***

Sweets & hot drink stand opens

***At 6 pm - Piazzetta Luca Danese***

Befana's farewell party with music, dancing fountains and a firework display

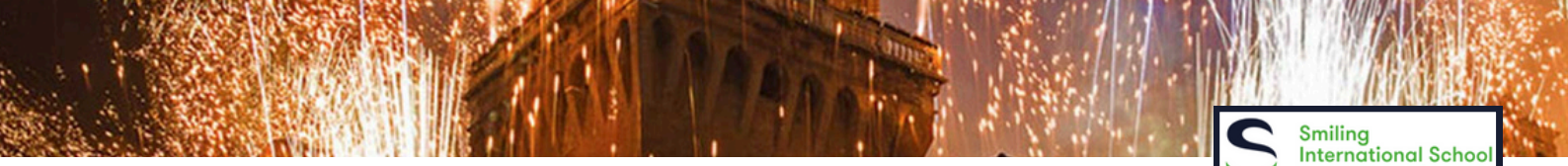
## Other Events in Ferrara

### Wednesday Concerts at Palazzo Naselli

*Via Borgo Leoni 28*

*Guided tour at 4.30 pm (meeting in the courtyard. No need to book)*

*Concerts start at 5.30 pm*



Enjoy a free guided tour of this splendid palazzo in the heart of the city centre followed by a free concert performed by students and teachers from the local music conservatory.

**14th January**- La Flute Enchantée / The Magic Flute (flute & piano)
**21st January** - Freedom Now Trio (piano, double bass, drums)
**28th January** – Lieder e Romanze (vocal & piano)

*It is recommended that you book in advance for the concerts as places are limited. You can do this by sending a* ***WhatsApp to 333 8043626****.*

## Palazzo Dei Diamanti – Chagall Art Exhibition

*Until 8th February*
***www.palazzodiamanti.it/mostre/chagall/***

In this busy period, it is worth booking tickets in advance for this exhibition just to guarantee your visit. The cost of the entrance fee includes an audio guide which is available in different languages.

It is also possible to book a guided tour which lasts about 1hr15. This must be booked in advance by emailing **raccontarearte@gmail.com** or telephoning 339 1969869 during the week from 3 pm – 7 pm.

***Cost of a guided tour****: Adults €10, Children €7 (aged 7-13), Children up to age 6 free*

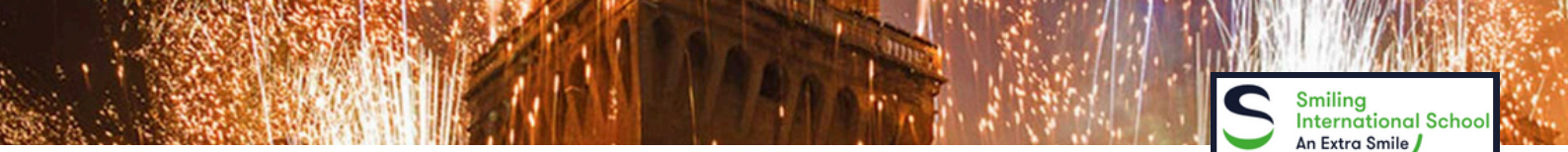
***N.B.*** *Participants need to arrive 15 minutes before the start of the tour, meeting in the courtyard, with their entrance ticket to the exhibition ready, which they have bought in advance either from the ticket office or online at* ***www.palazzodiamanti.it***

***Tour times:*** *Saturdays at 5 pm, Sundays and Holidays at 3.30 pm*

You may also be interested in taking part in the following workshop:

**'Un'altra storia ancora, signor Chagall'**
Chagall workshops for families with children aged 6-12 with the association "Senza titolo" (guided tour of the exhibition + workshop)

**Saturday 3rd January at 5.30 pm**
**Saturday 31st January at 5.30 pm**



**Cost:** *Children €7 for the guided tour/workshop with free entrance to the exhibition.*
*Accompanying adult free guided tour with reduced admission ticket to the exhibition €14*

Booking is compulsory. Write to: **info@senatitolo.net**

## What's on at Teatro Comunale?

*Corso Martiri della Libertà*
***www.teatrocomunaleferrara.it***

30th December at 8.30 pm & 31st December at 5 pm – **Swan Lake Ballet**

1st January at 4.30 pm – **New Year's Day Concert** (Orchestra Gino Neri)

9th January at 8 pm & 11th January at 4 pm – **La Cenerentola** ossia La bontà in trionfo ('Cinderella' Opera – by Gioachino Rossini)

10th January at 10 am & 11.30 am **'Dietro le Quinte dell'Opera' / 'Behind the Scenes' of the Opera'**
An exciting opportunity to discover the secrets behind putting on Cinderella the Opera with a special guided tour to take a look at its production, costumes, scenery & props.

***Ticket Office Opening Times:***
*Corso Martiri della Libertà, 21*
*Mondays – Saturdays (except for Thursdays): 10 am – 1 pm & 4 pm – 7 pm*
*Thursdays: 10 am – 1 pm* *Sundays: 10 am – 1 pm & 3 pm – 5 pm*
*Email:* ***biglietteria@teatrocomunaleferrara.it***
*Tel: 0532 202675*

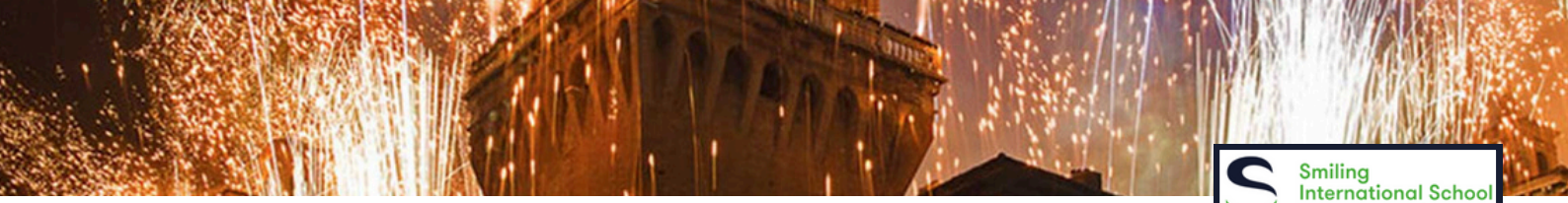
## Testaperaria Children's Bookshop

*Via De' Romei 19/A*

## 'Nuovi Inizi' / 'New Beginnings'

*Friday 16th January at 8.45 pm*

A crafts workshop for adults to explore new projects through illustrated albums with Sara Fabi – 'A wardrobe full of suggestions and new ideas.



***Cost:*** *€15*
***Duration:*** *1hr 30*
***To book:*** *0532 202823*
***Email:*** ***info@testaperaria.it***

## Book Club – Reading group for adults about literature for adolescents

*Friday 16th January at 6.15 pm (first meeting)*

An adults' book club which meets once a month with psychologist and teacher Alice Rugiero and Francesco Bedini, author of books for adolescents. It's an excellent opportunity for those who love books, who works with teenagers and who believes that stories don't have an age limit.

***Cost:*** *Free. You are asked to buy the book that will be discussed*
*For information & to book: 0532 202823*
*Email:* ***info@testaperaria.it***

## Book Club 13+ - Reading group for teenagers

Friday 16th January at 5 pm (first meeting)

Accompanied by psychologist and teacher Alice Rugiero and Francesco Bedini, author of books for adolescents, each month this reading group chooses a book to talk about and shares thoughts and ideas over a cup of tea.

*Cost: Free. You are asked to buy the book that will be discussed.*
*Suitable for teenagers aged 13+*
*For information & to book: 0532 202823*
*Email:* ***info@testaperaria.it***