



READING NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 1

Welcome to our first city-wide Reading Newsletter. This newsletter has been produced to help all schools with providing support for reading at home, as well as highlighting some great local events to support teachers in improving reading pedagogy.

We recognise that providing children with books can be difficult and so we have trawled the web to offer you an overview of ebooks that are free. We have also found some very effective resources that you could use to send to parents. Your feedback on our 'one-stop shop' for Remote Learning was strong and so we hope you and your staff find this newsletter as helpful. Just a small attempt from us to help reduce workload and to continue to work to support you all. Do give us feedback and we will continue to work to do all we can for you.



Access to Free Ebooks

Storyline Online

Storyline. An array of free ebooks being read aloud to children by famous people along with related activities for teachers and parents. Ideas could include creating children's book clubs with children: set a deadline for having listened to the book and then come together in a Zooms/Teams meeting to talk about the book or answer questions or create a joint book review.

[Click here](#) to access Storyline.



Oak National Academy and the National Literacy Trust have come together to provide the [Virtual School Library](#) to keep children reading during lockdown. Every week, a popular children's author will become their '[Author of the Week](#)' and provide a free book or audiobook and exclusive videos and activities aimed at Primary school children.

[Click here](#) to access the Virtual School Library.

Access to **ten free digital books** on the OU Reading for Pleasure website.

[Click here](#) to access digital books.

A couple of short stories written by Antony Horowitz.

[Click here](#) to access Antony Horowitz stories.



Audible is offering free access to children's audiobooks whilst schools are closed. There is a range, in six different languages, which can be streamed to a phone, tablet, laptop or computer for children (and you) to listen to.

[Click here](#) to access Audible.



Listen to David Walliams reading chapters of his book, *The Boy in the Dress*, aloud, with new chapters released periodically.

[Click here](#) to access The World of David Walliams.

The Reading Realm has daily activities based on books which they are providing online.

[Click here](#) to access The Reading Realm.

International Children's Digital Library has a range of online books in a range of different languages.

[Click here](#) to access International Children's Digital Library.

OxfordOWL

Oxford University Press have put together a range of free advice and activities to support with home reading. <https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk/>.

This includes access to a library of free ebooks: [Oxford Owls Free Ebooks](#). Unfortunately, their website seems to be struggling to cope with the number of users.

[Click here](#) to access Oxford Owl.



The Book Trust has top tips and lots of information about books, including a Book Finder tool and advice about which book your child might like based on the books he/she has enjoyed so far. There is a new Home Time section with online books, videos, quizzes, illustrator workshops, competitions and activities.

[Click here](#) to access Book Trust.

Researchify. Classic children's books in audio, PDF and Word formats.

[Click here](#) to access Researchify.

Poetry By Heart. A wide selection of poetry covering different topics.

[Click here](#) to access Poetry By Heart.





CLPE (Centre for Literacy in Primary Education) has lots of free resources, including poems and videos of poets reading their poems. You need to register to access some of their site, but it is free to do so.

[Click here](#) to access CLPE.



Get Epic! offers 30 days free access to lots of non-fiction books which you can read online. Some are also audio books which you and your child can listen to.

[Click here](#) to access Epic.

BBC Bitesize has plenty of reading activities, and there's lots of stories to listen to on [CBeebies](#).

[Click here](#) to access BBC Bitesize.

Julia Donaldson and Axel Scheffler Home Learning Packs. Free activity packs for 3-7 year olds to complete as you read the books.

[Click here](#) to access Julia Donaldson and Axel Scheffler.



The Story Time YouTube channel is growing every day and features teachers and trainee teachers reading books. You might even find your child's class teacher reading there!

[Click here](#) to access Story Time.



Reading CPD



Little Sutton English Hub.

Click [here](#) for phonics support and the latest offers, advice and resources from our very own Little Sutton English Hub.



Secondary Literacy for Learning Conference.

The National Literacy Trust is hosting a secondary school virtual conference from 21st - 29th January 2021, bringing together a range of academics, leading practitioners, award winning authors and champions from the business sector, with literacy at the heart of the conversation. Speakers include Alex Quigley, Geoff Barton and authors Alex Wheatle and Sarah Crossan.

Tickets cost £50 and will give your school access to all events for unlimited numbers of teachers and students. In recognition of the ongoing situation regarding COVID-19, all events are online and teachers and students will be able to access them from school or at home on Zoom. Further details about the conference and how to register can be found on their website [here](#).

Reigniting Reading Conference, Thursday 4th February 2021.

Join literacy experts from across the sector and discover the range of literacy support available across Birmingham. Hear from key-note speakers including leading literacy expert Teresa Cremin and bestselling children's author Katherine Rundell and attend high-quality workshops run by the Education Endowment Foundation, the National Literacy Trust and St Matthew's Research School.

The conference is free of charge to Birmingham schools and will explore how evidence-based guidance can support high quality teaching of reading, how reading supports social and emotional wellbeing, reading for pleasure and disciplinary reading to reinforce learning across the curriculum. Talks will have a local perspective on a national reading agenda, including the impact of COVID-19.

Please RSVP by clicking [here](#).

National Literacy Trust Primary Conference, 9th - 13 March 2021: Literacy by Stealth.

How can we harness the power of popular culture to support literacy, overcome barriers between school and home and raise attainment in primary schools?

At the NLT's inaugural primary conference, academics, writers and experts from across popular culture and technology will be exploring how sport, technology, comics and cultural experiences can enrich learning and raise literacy levels. Speakers will include:

- **Ian Livingstone**, founding father of the gaming industry
- **Hannah Berry**, the UK comics laureate 2019-21
- **Tom Palmer**, best-selling children's author and literacy champion

Just £75 per ticket – [book now!](#)



Resources and Support for Parents



The Words for Life area of the National Literacy Trust (NLT) website has a range of activities and support for parents: [Parent Support](#) and "Zone In" activities and tips for young people: [Tips for aged 13+](#).

And for lots of free activities and ideas for children aged birth–4, 5-8 and 9-12, including [The Book of Hopes: Family Zone](#).

[Click here](#) to access Words for Life.



Multi-lingual Home Learning Support.

Support from the NLT for multi-lingual families at home. This link provides information for supporting younger children at home in 12+ community languages.

[Click here](#) to access Multi-lingual Home Learning Support.

[Recommended booklists](#) for parents from the Birmingham Stories Literacy Hub.

[Click here](#) to access recommended books for children aged five to 13+.

[Love My Books](#) has lots of ideas to help children and parents/carers enjoy reading together.

[Click here](#) to access Love My Books.

COVIBOOK E-Book

[Covibook](#), from Birmingham Early Years Network, is an ebook by Manuela Molina, written to inform and offer reassurance to children under the age of seven. The book has been translated into over 20+ different languages.

[Click here](#) to access Covibook.



[The Open University Poster](#) for supporting reading at home.

The Open University Reading for Pleasure website has lots of resources and ideas for parents to support reading at home.

[Click here](#) to access Open University support for parents.

[The Education Endowment Foundation](#) provides a poster for parents for supporting reading at home.

[Click here](#) to access 7 Top Tips to Support Reading at Home.



Other Reading Opportunities for Teachers

St Matthew's Teaching and Research School in partnership with the Open University and UKLA invite you to join our



TEACHER READING FOR PLEASURE GROUP

We aim to develop tangible actions and projects to develop our Reading for Pleasure pedagogy



starts Tuesday 19th January 2021

This is part of a series of linked cpd specifically suitable for NQTs, RQTs and teacher trainees. There is no charge but members commit to attending all meetings.



[St Matthew's Teaching School](#) - Teacher Reading for Pleasure Group. If students or teachers want to sign up, the link to do so is on the [attached flyer](#) or [here](#).



Other Reading Opportunities for Pupils

Bournville BookFest

[Bournville BookFest for Schools | 1st-5th March 2021.](#)

A week of FREE online events celebrating World Book Day with some of Britain's best-loved authors and illustrators.

Bournville BookFest is bringing the best of British children's literature to school children for free this year – direct to classrooms, living rooms, libraries and mobile phones. Authors taking part include:

- Benjamin Zephaniah – Handsworth-born poet and novelist
- Michael Rosen – broadcaster, novelist and poet
- Cressida Cowell – children's laureate and writer of the How to Train Your Dragon and Wizard of Once books
- Katherine Rundell – The Explorer, Rooftoppers and The Good Thieves author
- Tom Palmer – author of the award-winning D-Day Dog explores writing about the things you love; in his case, football!
- Serena Patel – Walsall author of the Anisha Accidental Detective trilogy on writing funny stories
- Steven Butler and Steven Lenton – the author-illustrator duo behind the hilarious Nothing to See Here Hotel series
- Matt "Poet with Punch" Windle – the former Birmingham poet laureate does a quick introduction to writing acrostic poems
- Nick Sharratt – Bournville BookFest patron and brilliant author-illustrator – does a fun draw-along

Louise Chadwick of Everybody Reads CIC and the former director of programmes for BookTrust is creating downloadable resources so teachers (and parents) can make the most of each activity.

Bournville BookFest for Schools is aimed at children aged 7-11 (Years 3-6). Videos will drop onto the YouTube channel every day of March 1-5. To discover the timetable, video lengths and for updates please register by emailing your interest to: education@busyparentsnetwork.com.

All information is available on the website: www.bournvillebookfest.com/schools



CILIP Carnegie and Kate Greenaway Shadowing Scheme.

The CILIP Carnegie and Kate Greenaway Medals are the UK's oldest and most prestigious children's book awards, recognising outstanding writing and illustration in books for children and young people.

Every year, schools around the UK and internationally take part in an Awards' [Shadowing Scheme](#), 'shadowing' the judging process: they read, discuss and review the books on each shortlist selected by CILIP's panel of judges and engage in reading related activity online.

[Click here](#) to access the scheme.

Peters is the official book supplier for the CILIP Carnegie and Kate Greenaway Shadowing Scheme. Pre-order your longlist or shortlist packs for shadowing the 2021 Carnegie and Kate Greenaway Awards and receive 35% off plus free delivery. Check prices [here](#).





Opportunities for Secondary school pupils, through the National Literacy Trust (NLT) Birmingham Stories Hub:

Booker Squad.

This is a new programme that is now being offered to 100 young people (aged 12 – 16) across Birmingham schools. The Booker Prize Foundation is supporting this project with books for young people suggested by their prize-winning authors, funding books for the young people (and volunteers) and working to arrange for the young people to meet (virtually) with some of their amazing authors.

The NLT have been working with a really talented and creative group of students from the University of Birmingham to train them up to run virtual sessions which support young people to engage with reading, explore issues which affect them day-to-day and give them the tools and confidence to find their own voices. The volunteers, who have been trained in safeguarding, will ideally work with small groups/classes of young people for an hour a week over the course of 5/6 weeks. The sessions will be based on a toolkit of ideas which the volunteers and young people will refine and shape to their interests with ideas including creating podcasts, creative writing workshops (with support from a guest author) and online poetry slams as well as a wide range of activities to inspire young people around reading for pleasure.

The NLT are looking for schools who are interested in running this programme from February onwards and are open to different ways this could work for your school, so if you have groups/classes in mind please get in touch ASAP before the places go: mike.leyland@literacytrust.org.uk.

Connecting Stories.

Connecting Stories is the NLT's latest programme of fully funded, virtual events and activities to support children and young people's wellbeing and encourage reading and writing for enjoyment. They are offering schools a free recorded virtual author visit, which will link into an exciting community-wide creative writing competition. They will be working with national publishers to produce a published anthology of the students' work, alongside an exhibition showcase and further opportunities for book donations. More information about Connecting Stories can be found [here](#).

For more information, or to register your school's interest in taking part, please email: melissa.chedd@literacytrust.org.uk.



And Finally...



National Literacy Trust competition for Primary schools, with the winning school in Birmingham getting a piece of beautiful, signed artwork from The Book of Hopes, plus a set of Katherine Rundell's children's books including Rooftoppers and The Good Thieves. One of the winners nationally will also be chosen at random to win a virtual author visit from Katherine Rundell herself.

Scrapbook of Hopes - factfile

What: The Scrapbook of Hopes challenge invites you to fill in the scrapbook template with words and pictures that showcase the fantastic work you are doing to spread hope, inspiration and a love of reading in your school and local community.

Your Scrapbook of Hopes can be filled with activities you've done as a school since the start of the pandemic.

When: before the deadline of 31 January 2021.

How: 1. Download the editable template 2. Fill in with pictures and words describing your activity 3. Send back to bookofhopes@literacytrust.org.uk.

Where: <https://literacytrust.org.uk/competitions/scrapbook-of-hopes/>



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