

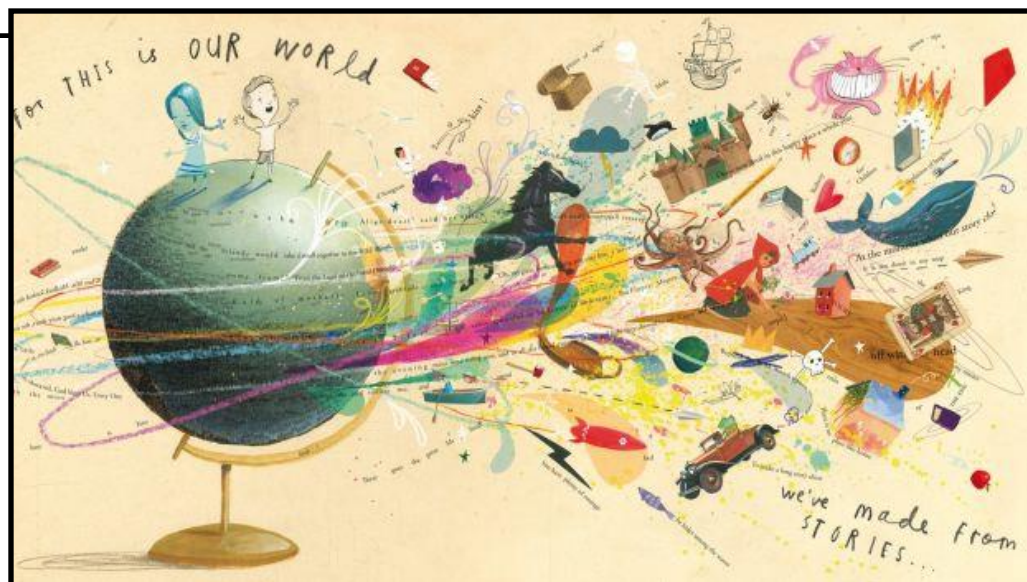
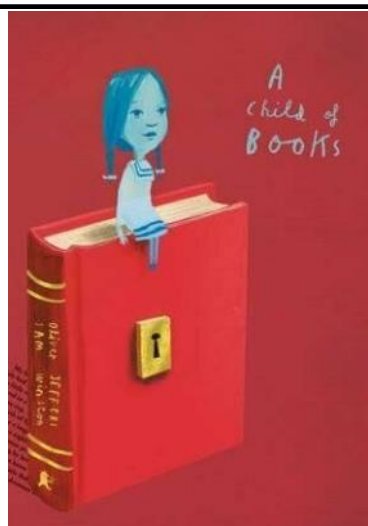
Reading Newsletter

February 2021



All about books!

Thank you for going above and beyond this term to enable the children to learn remotely during school closure. During this lockdown, we want to ensure that our pupils maintain their love for reading and encourage the children to read as often as possible. This will help to support their learning across the curriculum and ensure that they don't lose any fluency. All children, whether at school or at home, need to be reading daily. The idea behind this newsletter is to give you some ideas and links to be able to access quality reading materials, in just a few clicks, as well as providing you with some hints and tips on how to help encourage a love of reading at home.



There are now lots of stories available on line where authors or others read the books and your child can read along with them:

Oliver Jeffers: A Child of Books—the book is shared here:

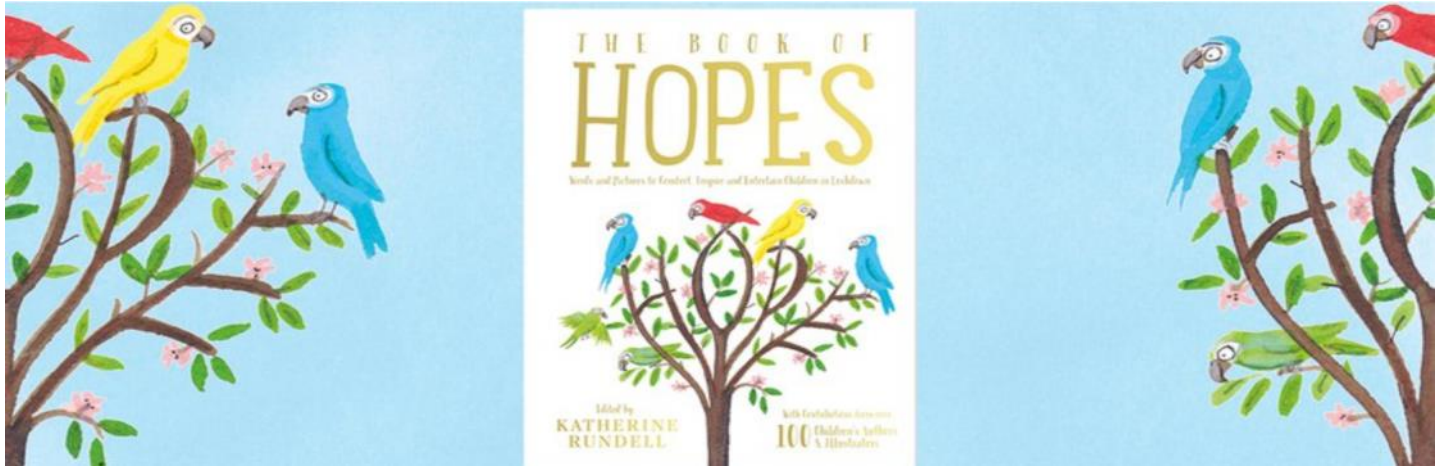
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tb5EZdyJ3V8>

Or <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GrmtChS6SZU&t=35s>

<https://youtu.be/W-cTRnVeg-I> with Oliver Jeffers

Get Epic

Hopefully you will all have received details of how to log into <https://www.getepic.com/> this is a fantastic sit with a wealth of reading material that children can read, or use as audio books. We hope they enjoy using it. This can be used on a laptop or a mobile device (you just need to download the free GetEpic App if you use it on a phone or a tablet). If you have any issues getting onto GetEpic please contact your child's teacher.



The Book of Hopes

This project was put together during the lockdown last year and is a fabulous book for everyone to enjoy.

Completely free for all children and families, the extraordinary collection of short stories, poems, essays and pictures has contributions from more than 110 children's writers and illustrators, including Lauren Child, Anthony Horowitz, Greg James and Chris Smith, Michael Morpurgo, Liz Pichon, Axel Scheffler, Francesca Simon, Jacqueline Wilson – and Katherine herself.

The Book of Hopes aims to comfort, inspire and encourage children during lockdown through delight, new ideas, ridiculous jokes and heroic tales. There are true accounts of cats and hares and plastic-devouring caterpillars; there are doodles and flowers; revolting poems and beautiful poems; and there are stories of space travel and new shoes and dragons.

The collection is dedicated to the doctors, nurses, carers, porters, cleaners and everyone currently working in hospitals.

You can access it online for free here: <https://literacytrust.org.uk/family-zone/9-12/book-hopes/>

Or if you buy the book the proceeds go to NHS Charities Together

Looking for some different challenges?

The Literacy Trust is offering a selection of different games and activities to engage your child in reading and writing: <https://wordsforlife.org.uk/>



Spark a love of reading
book list

[Read now](#)



Write about your
lockdown experience
with poet Laila Sumpton

[Read now](#)



Make an inspirational
speech

[Read now](#)



Karl Nova's top tips to
get children into poetry

[Read now](#)

Listen to a good story

A variety of authors are sharing their brilliant stories online. This is a fantastic way of sharing high-quality literature with every child, regardless of their confidence as a reader.

Please see below a (non-exhaustive) list that can be used for story time:



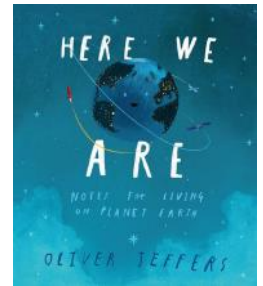
The **Books for Topics** website provides links to a range of books being read aloud. All your child needs to do is scan the QR code of the book he or she wants to listen to.

<https://www.booksfortopics.com/storytime-online>

Other authors:

Piers Torday: the Dark Wild: https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=piers+torday+the+dark+wild

Cressida Cowell: How to Train your Dragon https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DyUNZa7_Gjo&list=PLBHPLU9xAmxfoJvqBzllGLTypOm-cy8Tu



Oliver Jeffers: a different story every day <https://www.oliverjeffers.com/books#/abookaday/>

Audible are also offering plenty of fantastic stories for free on their platform for a limited period of time:

<https://stories.audible.com/start-listen>



Read at home together

On the hunt for a new book but don't know where to start?

Try one of these websites to find a selection of delightful reads, targeted by age and/or interest.

<https://www.thereaderteacher.com/>

<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/books-and-reading/our-recommendations/great-books-guide/>

<https://clpe.org.uk/library/booklists>

<https://www.lovereadings4kids.co.uk/>



Where to buy them?

With lockdown, independent bookshops are suffering and need your help!

Local bookshops are amazing, and the staff have a wealth of knowledge to help you find the perfect book.

The Norfolk Children's Book Centre has a fantastic range of books and supports many schools and children in the Norfolk and Suffolk area: <https://www.ncbc.co.uk/>

If you can't find a book you like on their websites, the Bookshop website (<https://uk.bookshop.org/>) sells books under the flags of more than 130 independent booksellers.

Where to borrow them?

If you are a member of the library you can borrow books using the online library service at <https://suffolklibraries.overdrive.com/> all you need is a library card and you can borrow books and ebooks for free. There is even a free ereader app so you can download the books and read easily on a phone or tablet: <https://www.overdrive.com/apps/libby/>

SUFFOLK LIBRARIES

Become an artist!

Never have we had such a wealth of fantastic children's literature at our disposal. Illustrators are vital to help the stories come to life and several of them are sharing their skills online, helping to develop children's drawing skills.

Rob Biddulph:

<http://www.robbiddulph.com/draw-with-rob>

Steve Lenton: Draw Along A Lenton

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MosN5TavQig>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Li8tdRB028c>



Creative challenges:



Authorfy have some great 10 minute challenges from a selection of top authors. There is everything from creating your own villain, through to imagining different recipes, all the way to designing the contents of a backpack to defeat a witch.

There is even more book fun on their website. You can sign up for a free account.

<https://authorfy.com/10minutechallenges/>

10 MINUTE CHALLENGE
WITH... ALI SPARKES



Extra! Extra! Read all about it!

During Lockdown, First News are offering children the chance to read their publications for free. This is a great way to engage them in world events.

<https://subscribe.firstnews.co.uk/free-downloadable-issue/>

FirstNews
NEWS TO GET YOUNG PEOPLE TALKING

Welcome to BookTrust HomeTime

Looking for something fun as a family? Enjoy storytime with their free online books and videos, play games, win prizes, test your knowledge in some book-themed quizzes, or even learn how to draw some of your favourite characters.



Become an author:

Is your child interested in writing his or her own stories?

This is the perfect time for your child to settle down and write/illustrate their very own story. If they would like to, make sure they share it with their teacher on Goggle Classroom!

There are plenty of platforms to help children create their own stories online:

<https://www.storyboardthat.com/storyboard-creator>

<https://www.mystorybook.com/>

There are also authors who are offering top tips on how to write the perfect story.

Elle McNicholl: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2zcOWJVd25E>

Emma Carroll: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZjkYshzUnGI>

7 Top Tips to Support Reading at Home

Shared reading is a great way to develop children's language and communication and to boost their reading skills. Regular reading routines can offer lots of opportunities for learning during school closures.

1 Concentrate on reading quality (it isn't all about reading lots!)



Don't worry too much about the 'what' and 'how' of reading each day. Books are great—but leaflets, comics, recipes and instructions on a webpage can all be great too. Following a recipe to make some cupcakes is valuable reading. Be on the lookout for reading, wherever it is!

2 Ask your child lots of questions



All reading matters. Shared reading is about 'reading with', not just 'reading to' (even for older children). So, ask lots of 'Wh' questions, such as Who? What? When? Where? Why? Try them when talking about books: for example, 'what do you think Harry is feeling?'

3 Ask your child to make predictions about what they have read



If it is a book, look at the front cover—or the last chapter—and talk about what might happen next. Look for clues in the book and be a reading detective! For example, 'can you see the bear on the front cover? Where do you think he will go?'

4 Ask your child to summarise what they have read



When you've finished reading, talk about what happened. Acting out the things that happened in the story or describing the big idea of a chapter is really fun and maximises learning. For example, 'can you remember all the things that happened on the bear hunt?'

5 Ask your child to write about what they have read



Write, or draw pictures, from anything you've read! Big writing and pictures are even more fun. For example, use an old roll of wallpaper to make a treasure map with clues from the stories you've read together.

6 Read and discuss reading with friends or family



Make books a part of the family. Encourage your child to share them with a relative or friend, over a video call. Laugh about them when you are making meals together. For example, 'I hope the tiger doesn't come to tea today!'

7 Maintain the motivation to read



Talk about the joy of reading whenever you can. Your child is on an amazing journey to becoming a reader. Put them in the driving seat and have fun on the way! For example, 'choose your favourite story for bedtime tonight.'