



EDUCATION LIBRARY SERVICE

Thank you for reading our latest newsletter. If you would like to suggest items for future editions, or share good news stories from your own school (or living room), please do get in contact. Although ELS remains closed, staff can still be contacted via email – educationlibraryservice@cheshiresharedservices.gov.uk – to answer queries and provide advice on all aspects of library or reading provision. You can also follow us on Twitter @**CheshireELS** where we'll be sharing news and resources, delivering online [#ELSStoryTime](#) and craft sessions and setting our own [#homelibrary](#) challenges!



LEARNING THROUGH NATURE



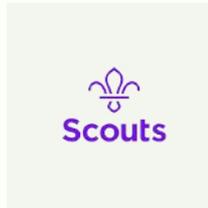
Take a break from the screen and become a nature detective with the RSPB's Spot It! [activity sheets](#). You can also learn to build [simple homes](#) for nature, like this [beetle bucket](#). Lesson plans [here](#).



If you're looking to get out of the house, or bring a little of the outdoors inside, take a look at the Woodland Trust's [suggestions](#) for simple and inexpensive nature-based activities. You could be leading a scavenger hunt or making a toilet roll bird feeder in no time!



While it might not always be possible to see much wildlife from our bedroom windows, the Wildlife Trust's collection of [webcams](#) can transport us to some of Britain's most beautiful natural habitats. We recommend "visiting" the [peregrine falcon nest cam](#).



The Scouts have put together a wonderful selection of [indoor activities](#) to engage and entertain children, including creating a 'fruit salad solar system'. You can search over 200 activity ideas [here](#).



On Saturday 23rd May, [Girlguiding](#) will be hosting, Adventures at Home, their own online festival (for free!). You can view the programme [here](#). With acts involving comedy, science, magic, game design and den building, it promises to be a **lot** of fun!



Online resources to support children at home and at school



[Barrington Stoke](#), publishers of super-readable, dyslexia-friendly books, have compiled a [free homeschooling pack](#) full of advice, information and free resources for parents and carers of children with dyslexia.



Encourage reading for pleasure with these mini-reading [challenges](#). Created by a team of teachers, the challenges are 'underpinned by OU research which shows that reading for pleasure is supported by reading aloud, time to read and to chat about reading in a social environment.'



Author readings, workshops and podcasts



Mac Barnett, writer of picture book classic *Sam & Dave Dig a Hole*, hosts the brilliantly funny Mac's Book Club Show on [IGTV](#). For a taste of what to expect, check out the "world's first ever live cartoon".



Anna James has interviewed an incredible line up of children's writers for her Bookwanderers Club, including **Katherine Rundell** (*The Explorer*) and **Onjali O. Rauf** (*The Boy at the Back of the Class*). Watch new interviews live every Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 2pm.



You'll never look at a banana the same way again after dancing along to **Michelle Robinson's** joyful picture book, *The Day the Banana Went Bad*. Find more of Michelle's videos [here](#).



BookTrust continues to feature a fantastic array of authors in their [Story Time](#) videos. Recent editions include **Floella Benjamin** reading her classic picture book, *My Two Grannies*. We especially love Sue Hendra and Paul Linnet's reading of their book, *Egg*.



Learn to draw with author and illustrator **Tom McLaughlin** in his YouTube vlog, [Doodle Do-It!](#) Tom covers everything from drawing comedy eyebrows to his experience of being a dyslexic author.



Stay at Home Story Time with **Oliver Jeffers**. The author and illustrator reads his own books, including the ever-popular *The Day the Crayons Quit*, and discusses the creative process behind them.



Catch up on the fun of this year's **Pyjamarama**. Highlights include a dance along with the [PJ Masks](#), live drawing session with [Chris Riddell](#) and a host of bookish activities to try at home.



Weekly podcast for children created by 11-year-old Zoe Giles. Recent episode, 'Finding (Not Losing) the Plot', focuses on helping children to write during the lockdown and features acclaimed children's authors **Holly Smale**, **Ross Welford** and **Frank Cottrell-Boyce**.

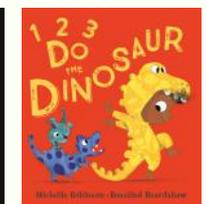
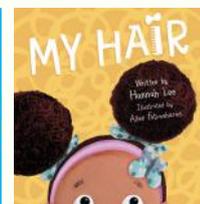
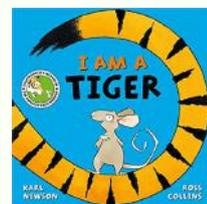
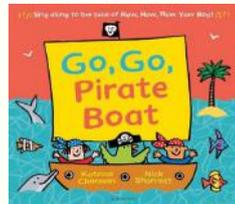
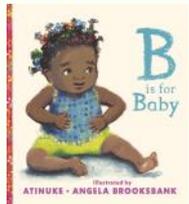
For an updated schedule of events visit:

<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/books-and-reading/have-some-fun/fun-at-home-with-authors-and-illustrators/>



Sharing stories

As May is [National Share-a-Story Month](#), there's no better time to pick up a book and share the joy of reading with your family or class. You can find resources relating to this year's theme - 'The Planet we Share' - [here](#). If you need the perfect book to read to a young child, try one of the lovely picture books nominated for the [2020 BookTrust Storytime prize](#). If you're unable to read the book in person, each author has filmed a video of themselves reading their stories (links below). After watching, we think you'll agree that each book is a gift worth sharing!



Once you've shared a story (or three), how about inspiring children to write their very own! There are loads of great writing competitions for young people to enter, including Authorfy's [A Write Laugh](#) and ALCS' Carnegie and Kate Greenaway (CKG) [writing competition](#). For inspiration, check out Chicken House's [Create a Story](#) writing challenge - there are tips aplenty from authors like Maz Evans and Christopher Edge. If you're still stuck for ideas, head over to *Claude* author Alex T. Smith's [Twitter page](#) and look for his #StoryStarters prompts. You can also catch up on [Authorfy's 10 minute challenges](#). If you're feeling especially ambitious, try making a miniature book using the British Library's [step-by-step guide](#).

With so much creativity on display, you'll be set for National Writing Day on 24th June. Download resources [here](#).



Useful websites

For more useful links, please see our [previous newsletters](#) and the [ELS website](#).

BBC Bitesize (Parents' Toolkit): <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/znsmyxc>

Tips on how to support children's physical and emotional wellbeing during the lockdown, including a [toolkit](#) of resources for children with special educational needs and disabilities.

ClickView: <https://www.clickview.co.uk/free/>

Free access to ClickView's most popular educational videos. Supporting resources, such as lesson plans, activities and worksheets, are also available free of charge.

Flying Eye Books: <https://flyingeyebooks.com/blog/>

Activity packs, family art projects and colouring sheets based on Flying Eye books, such as the *One Day on our Blue Planet* series and the ever-popular *Shackleton's Journey*.

Hachette Schools: <https://www.hachetteschools.co.uk/>

Home learning activities and teaching notes based on a variety of new and popular books. Look out for Hachette's collaboration with [Reading Rocks](#) - online lessons are posted every Monday, Wednesday and Friday on the Hachette Schools [YouTube channel](#).

Jolly Phonics: <https://www.jollylearning.co.uk/>

Support for teachers and parents during the school shutdown, including free access to Jolly Phonic's interactive whiteboard software until 31st July.

The Literacy Company: <http://www.theliteracycompany.co.uk/free-resources/>

A range of free home learning packs for EYFS to Year 8, focusing on spelling and phonics, writing, and poetry. For further resources follow the Literacy Company's [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#) pages.

Love My Books: <http://www.lovemybooks.co.uk/>

Love My Books is a great resource for finding new books, either to share as a family or to use in the classroom. Each book has its own page of activities and suggested links, with books grouped thematically and by age group.

Off School: <https://offschool.org.uk/>

Off School is an active online community, containing hundreds of free teacher-created videos, downloadable resources and recommended links to help families and teachers during the shutdown.

The Poetry Society: <https://poetrysociety.org.uk/education/learning-from-home/>

A growing collection of free poetry resources for teachers, families and students. Lessons plans are searchable by [key stage](#).

Teachit Primary: <https://www.teachitprimary.co.uk/>

Free access to selected home learning resources. Teachers can also sign up for [free individual subscriptions](#), allowing unlimited access to all content while schools are closed.

