



# EDUCATION LIBRARY SERVICE

In line with advice from the UK Government, we are now operating a collection and delivery service. We remain committed to providing high-quality resources to our subscribing schools safely and efficiently. More information on how this service will operate can be found on our [website](#). If you would like to request resources, either for this term or the next school year, please use the [online order form](#) or call us on 01606 275801. If you have any other queries, or would like advice on any aspect of library or reading provision, please contact us via email at [educationlibraryservice@cheshiresharedservices.gov.uk](mailto:educationlibraryservice@cheshiresharedservices.gov.uk). You can also follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) where we'll be sharing news and resources, delivering online [#ELStoryTime](#) and craft sessions and setting our own [#homelibrary](#) challenges!

## Online resources to support children at home and at school



The Princess in Black takes on the coronavirus in this free booklet. Using a familiar character, it delivers essential advice in a fun and accessible way - social distancing is measured in Frimplepants (the horse). Download [here](#).



Alex Rider fans can walk in his stealthy footsteps with this new online [game](#). Young spooks will also find activity packs, top secret MI6 datafiles and a spy story masterclass from author Anthony Horowitz.



Have you joined the Silly Squad yet? Children can sign up to the Summer Reading Challenge on the Silly Squad [website](#). Schools can find resources, including a school assembly PowerPoint and teachers' toolkit, in the [School Zone](#). If you need any books (silly or otherwise) to kick-start the Challenge, get in touch!



Visit publisher Egmont's [#14stories14days website](#) for a fortnight (or more!) of book recommendations, videos and boredom-busting activities. Further Egmont resources, including lesson plans and posters, are available [here](#).

## Author readings, workshops and podcasts



Catch up on the [Barnes Children's Literature Festival](#). With six days of events, including talks with authors Jeremy Strong, Katie and Kevin Tsang, Emma Carroll and Andy Griffiths, there's something for everyone to enjoy!



Head over to the National Literacy Trust website for [Dan Freedman's Football Challenge](#). Fans can download [The Kick Off](#), the first in Freedman's popular Jamie Johnson series, for free!



Little Tiger Press have a great selection of book readings on their YouTube [channel](#). Fans of mystery stories can listen to [Annabelle Sami](#) read the opening chapters of her new book, [Agent Zaiba Investigates](#). Find more resources from Little Tiger [here](#).



Relive the dreamy fun of Puffin's [Festival of Big Dreams](#). Highlights include a draw-off between illustrators Nadia Shireen and Ed Vere, storytime with Jacqueline Wilson, a mystery-making workshop with Robin Stevens and a tour of Wimpy Kid author Jeff Kinney's writing studio! Watch the full playlist [here](#).

- Find hundreds of bookish activities over on BookTrust's [HomeTime](#) hub, including the latest [event listings](#)
- Visit Toppsta for [daily schedules](#) of online author events
- Follow the hashtags [#UnitedByBooks](#) and [#FreeBookResources](#) on Twitter and Instagram



## EXPLORING PICTURES

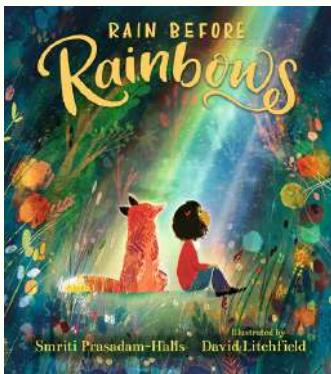


### IN PICTUREBOOKS

If you're looking to discover more about the history and impact of picturebooks, lecturer Matthew Tobin's [webinar](#) (and accompanying [blog post](#)) is an excellent place to start. Rich in detail, Tobin uses examples from new and classic picturebooks to explore the way imagery and composition express emotion, shaping the reader's interpretation of the text. The OU also has a [free course](#) on the relationship between words and pictures in children's fiction.

## The Power of Reading Aloud

Reading aloud is a wonderful way to connect with children, establishing a positive and collaborative reading environment while also being a lot of fun (we're big fans of "doing the voices"). BookTrust has put together a list of [tips](#) to help parents and carers to share books with their children, as well as [pointers](#) for teachers reading aloud in the classroom. For those sharing stories remotely, author Ali Sparkes has some [great ways](#) to keep children engaged. We especially love Ali's idea of choosing extracts from books that feature food, such as *James and the Giant Peach*, so that the children can eat, as well as read, along with the story. If sharing videos online, make sure to check copyright restrictions. Caryl Hart has a guide to publisher permissions [here](#).



'Friends who will help us, courageous and kind. A rope to hold on to... and treasure to find.'

Walker Books has released *Rain Before Rainbows* by Smriti Halls and illustrated by David Litchfield as a free eBook to raise awareness for Save the Children's Save with Stories campaign which is helping children most affected by the coronavirus pandemic. Download [here](#).

There are hundreds of fantastic storytime channels to choose from online. Here are some of our favourites.



EYFS and KS1 Storytime  
Highlight: [My Pet Star](#)  
by Corrinne Averiss



KS2 Storytime  
Highlight: [Little Badman](#)  
by Humza Arshad



KS2 Storytime  
Highlight: [The Ice Bear Miracle](#)  
by Cerrie Burnell



## ELS Book of the Week

### A Kind of Spark

by Elle McNicoll



Told from the perspective of 11-year-old Addie, *A Kind of Spark* is an immensely compassionate and honest exploration of autism, identity and family. Addie's quest to honour the women killed in her village's historic witch trials, challenges the preconceptions of those around her, the people who deem her too "different" to count. It is Addie's difference, her blazing, unique and unchanging self, that the book most celebrates. A must-read for KS2 empathy collections.

You can listen to the author discuss her (wonderful) book [here](#).

## Books for Every Child

With as little as [4% of children's books](#) published in the UK in 2018 featuring BAME main characters, it's clear that the publishing industry needs to include a wider range of voices, giving all children the opportunity to see themselves reflected in the books they read.

The links below feature children's books that celebrate diversity and inclusivity, as well as those that confront the realities of racism.

Books for Topics: [Black Lives, Anti-Racism & BAME Characters](#)

Book Trust: [Black Lives Matter booklist](#)

Guardian: ['No reader is too young to start': anti-racist books for all children and teens'](#)

LoveReading4Kids: [Diverse Voices - Children's Books that Celebrate Difference](#)

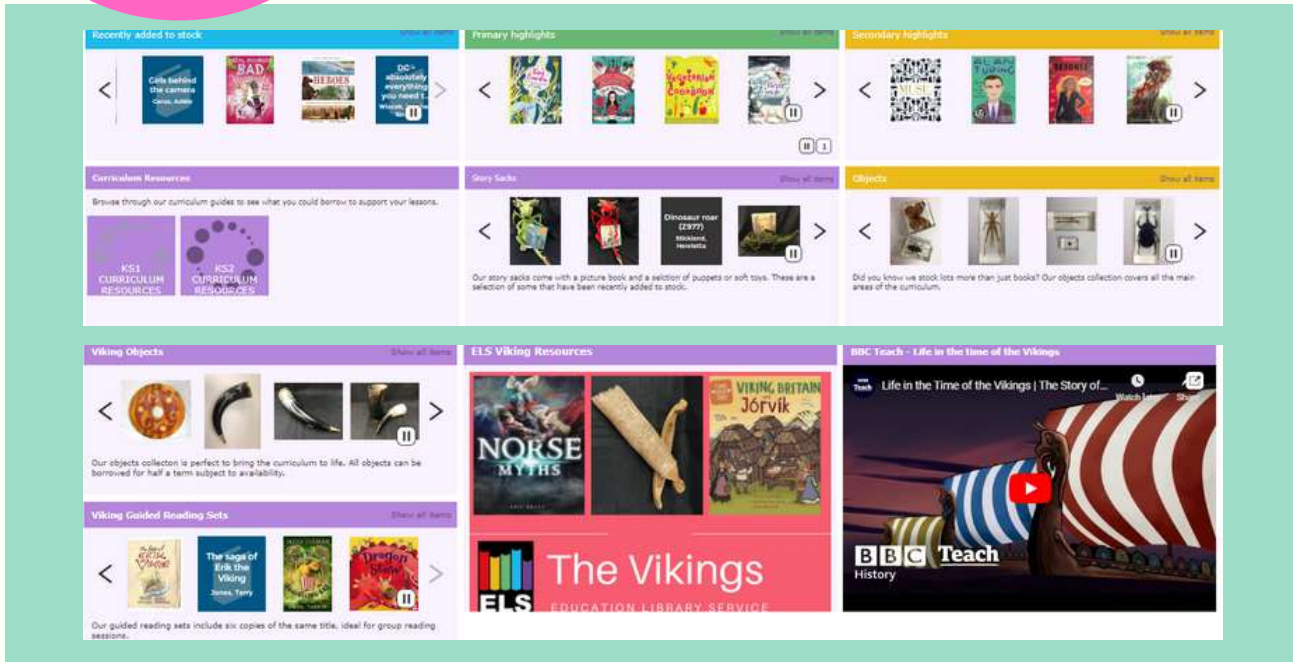
Pen & Inc: [Diversity & Inclusion in Children's Books](#)





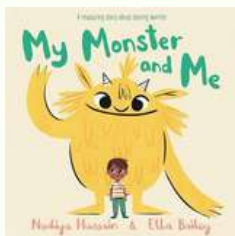
WE'RE OPEN!

To request resources, please use our online order form or call 01606 275801



Although ELS is currently closed to visitors, we've been busy updating our online catalogue, adding new books, objects and story sacks for you to browse through at home. Our new 'Curriculum Resources' feature allows you to see a variety of subject-linked resources in one place, saving you time, as well as highlighting our growing object and guided reading collections. On our catalogue, you'll also find many useful reading lists, including themed picture books and book-banded fiction and non-fiction. If you're looking for books on a topic not currently featured, please do get in touch - we'd be happy to send a custom list of recommendations!

Books of the Moment



As ever, please feel free to send ELS books home with your students. We don't charge subscribers for damaged or lost books so there's no need to worry about any the-dog-ate-my-book situations. If you need additional resources, i.e. fiction books to encourage children to read over the summer, just let us know and we'll prepare a (book bundle) takeaway!

Are you looking to reopen your school library? The School Library Association and CILIP's School Library Group have issued a thorough set of guidelines to help schools to assess risk and establish safe procedures. The guidance, as well as sample risk assessments and resources, can be found here. If you need help with this, or other any aspect of your library or reading corners, please do get in contact with us.



# Useful websites

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

## **Barnaby Festival**

Macclesfield's annual arts festival will be taking place online on Saturday 20th June. Families can join in with the [homemade parade](#) to celebrate the festival's 'Vision' theme. On Sunday, local comic artist Marc Jackson will be running two live drawing [workshops](#) for children.

## **Children's Bookshow**

The [Bookshow at Home](#) series features a lovely selection of author videos and activities. As well as reading [handwritten letters](#) from authors, children can enter their own letter into the Letters from Lockdown [competition](#).

## **Code for Life**

Teach children to code at home with [Rapid Router](#), a free online game and lesson plan for children aged 5-14.

## **Duolingo**

Learn a language for free with bite-size lessons and games. Duolingo have created a [quick guide](#) to introduce parents and teachers to their programme.

## **Fun Palaces**

With their [Tiny Revolutions of Connection](#) campaign, Fun Palaces are "sharing practical suggestions [that] anyone can take to connect a little more in their local community or simply pass time creatively in self-isolation." Download the full collection of ideas [here](#).

## **Little Parachutes**

Little Parachutes collate picture books on a variety of sensitive subjects, including grief, family separation and self-esteem.

## **Macclesfield Museums**

Macclesfield Museums have added new materials to their [website](#) linked to Ancient Egypt, the Victorians, the Silk Industry and WWII. There are 'Mystery Object' worksheets linked to Ancient Egyptian artefacts, copies of letters written by children evacuated to Macclesfield during WWII, Victorian playground games and online jigsaws.

## **Otter-Barry Books**

A range of free book resources from inclusive publisher Otter-Barry, including activities based on *Hello! A Counting Book of Kindness*, a counting book that follows a refugee child's journey to a new home.

## **Six Towns Storytelling**

Explore the rich cultural history of nearby Stoke with Six Towns Storytelling, a series of videos and activity sheets based on local folklore, buildings and industry.



Keep up to date with the latest homeschooling and educational resources on the SLA [website](#)



And us!

[www.elscheshire.org.uk](http://www.elscheshire.org.uk)