

15TH JANUARY 2021

EDUCATION LIBRARY SERVICE

ELS is still operating a full delivery and collection service for all subscribing schools. Please continue to request resources [online](#) or by ringing **01606 275801** and our drivers will deliver them to your school as normal. A service update is available on our [website](#).

Although ELS remains closed to visitors, staff can be contacted via email – educationlibraryservice@cheshiresharedservices.gov.uk – to answer queries and provide advice on all aspects of library or reading provision.

Online resources to support children at home and at school



BBC Bitesize (Parents' Toolkit)

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.

BBC Teach

Thousands of free educational videos, guides and audio clips.

Chester Zoo

Is your home feeling like a zoo at the moment? Experience the real thing with Chester Zoo's virtual zoo tours!

Children's Mental Health Week

Website for Children's Mental Health Week, running from 1-7 February. Free resources relating to this year's 'Express Yourself' theme, including assembly guides, class activities and fundraising ideas.

Code for Life

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

DK Find Out!

Safe, accessible and easy to use, DK's Find Out! website is an ideal research tool for children working independently.

Duolingo

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



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 reading for pleasure, just let us know and we'll prepare a (book bundle) takeaway!



EDUCATION LIBRARY SERVICE: USEFUL LINKS



Google Arts and Culture

Discover some of the world's most impressive museums and galleries, including the British Library's unmissable exhibition, Harry Potter: A History of Magic!

Macclesfield Museums

Macclesfield Museums have added new materials to their website linked to Ancient Egypt, the Victorians, the Silk Industry and WWII.

National Geographic Kids

Teaching ideas, activities, games and trivia linked to the National Curriculum.

Premier League Primary Stars

Football-themed activities, physical challenges and curriculum-based resources.

School Library Association (SLA)

Comprehensive and wide-ranging list of online learning resources. Frequently updated with new content and links.

West Cheshire Museums

There are plenty of family-friendly activities to be found on the West Cheshire Museums website, including instructions on how to make a Viking shield, a Roman toy horse and a paper plate space rocket.



Are you a member of your local public library? Cheshire East Libraries and Cheshire West and Chester Libraries have made it even easier to sign up! You can now register yourself and your family online. Once you've received your library card number, you'll be ready to access a brilliant range of digital resources, including thousands of **free** eBooks and audiobooks, eMagazines and eResources!

With library buildings closed, public library staff have been working extra hard to deliver family favourites and exciting new projects via their social media pages. For more information about what's on offer, visit Cheshire East Libraries and Cheshire West and Chester Libraries or follow them on Twitter

@CECLibraries and @cwaclibraries.



Cheshire East Libraries From Home For Kids!
All available for free on our Facebook Page

Mondays 10:30am Rhymetime	Tuesdays 10:30am Storytime	Wednesdays 10:30am Storytime
Thursdays 10:30am Rhymetime	Fridays 4:00pm Family Craft Challenge	Saturdays 10:30am STEAM Project
Libraries From Home 	7:00pm Bedtime Story	4:00pm LEGO Challenge

Cheshire East Council
your Library
www.facebook.com/CrewelLibrary

Free children's ebooks via your local library service

Cheshire West & Chester Council
Libraries



And us!
www.elscheshire.org.uk



Essential Twitter accounts to follow

Use the hashtags #FreeBookResources, #LearningAtHome and #UnitedbyBooks

[@CheshireELS](#)

**EDUCATION LIBRARY
SERVICE**

[@CECLibraries](#)

**CHESHIRE EAST
LIBRARIES**

[@cwaclibraries](#)

**CHESHIRE WEST AND
CHESTER LIBRARIES**

[@uksla](#)

**SCHOOL LIBRARY
ASSOCIATION**

[@Booktrust](#)

BOOK TRUST

[@readingagency](#)

THE READING AGENCY

[@Literacy_Trust](#)

LITERACY TRUST

[@bbcbitesize](#)

BBC BITESIZE

[@OpenUni_RfP](#)

**READING FOR PLEASURE
(OPEN UNIVERSITY)**

[@youthlibraries](#)

**YOUTH LIBRARIES
GROUP COMMITTEE**

[@UKLaureate](#)

CHILDREN'S LAUREATE

[@WorldBookDayUK](#)

WORLD BOOK DAY UK

[@booksfortopics](#)

BOOKS FOR TOPICS

[@authorfy](#)

AUTHORFY

[@MrEPrimary](#)

THE READER TEACHER

[@whatSFsaid](#)

**SF SAID
(AUTHOR)**

Sharing Stories

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](#). You can also follow the SLA's handy [Wakelet](#) on updated permissions or consult [Libraries Connected's](#) spreadsheet of publishers with digital offers.



And us!

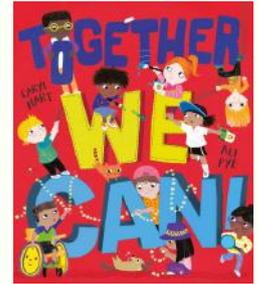
www.elscheshire.org.uk



Authors

Caryl Hart

As well as activity sheets and lesson plans based on her own books, Caryl Hart has compiled a growing list of free resources created by other authors and illustrators.

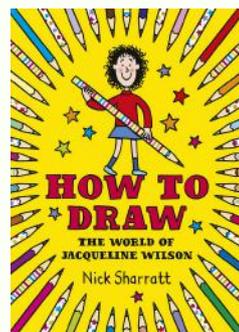
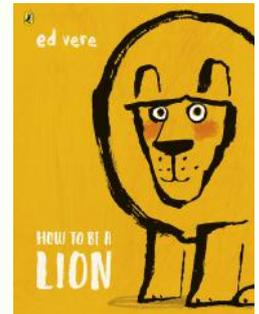


Chitra Soundar

Find learning resources, plus a collection of fun activities, book trailers and storytelling videos, based on Chitra Soundar's award-winning picture books. Ideal for KS1 topics on India and traditional tales.

Ed Vere

Catch up on author and illustrator Ed Vere's Draw with Ed video series. Ed's video on how to draw a real lion will be of particular interest to children studying African animals or wildlife conservation.

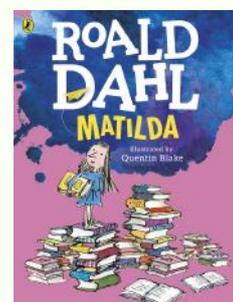
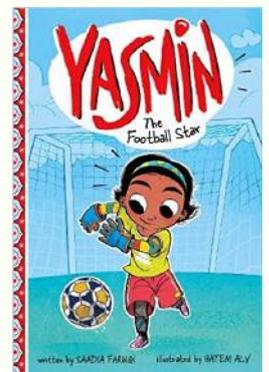


Nick Sharratt

Draw along with the ever-popular Nick Sharratt! Jacqueline Wilson fans can recreate such beloved characters as Hetty Feather and Clover Moon.

Saadia Faruqi

We love Saadia Faruqi's bright and empowering Yasmin series for early readers. Join the Yasmin Fan Club for free activity kits, posters and a reader's guide.

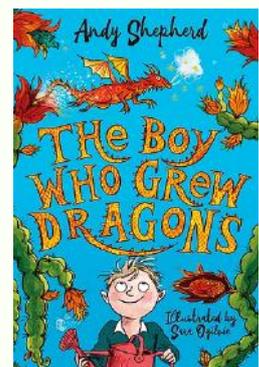


Roald Dahl

Be inspired by a phizz-whizzing range of lesson plans, puzzles, stories, experiments and quizzes based on Roald Dahl's most well-loved books. Guaranteed to make you feel hopscotch!

Andy Shepherd

There's plenty of dragon-related fun to be found on Andy Shepherd's website, including instructions on how to grow your own dragon. Perfect for dragon fans in Y3 and Y4!



 Find hundreds of bookish activities over on BookTrust's HomeTime hub, including the latest event listings

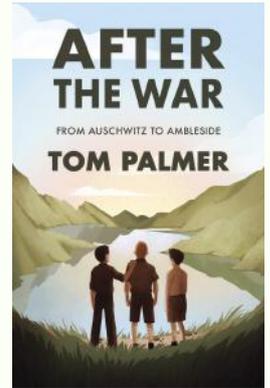




Authors

Tom Palmer

Free resources based on Tom Palmer's popular books, including activity sheets, reading guides, videos and short stories. Engaging and informative, Tom's books are ideal for reluctant readers in KS2, as well Y5/6 students studying World War Two.

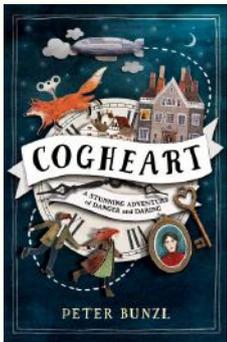
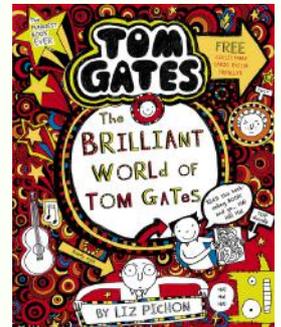


Anna James

The Bookwanderers Club: Anna James talks all things books with a host of brilliant children's authors, including Robin Stevens, Sharna Jackson and Katherine Rundell. Episodes available on [YouTube](#).

Liz Pichon

Fans of Tom Gates can find heaps of *totally brilliant* activities, games and doodle ideas on author Liz Pichon's [website](#).

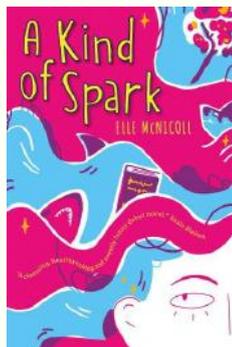
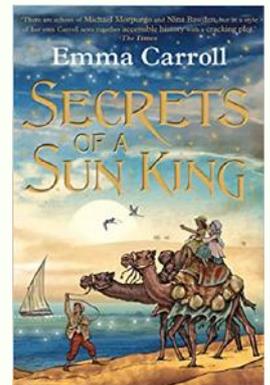


Peter Bunzl

Explore the Victorian-era with free [resources](#) inspired by Peter Bunzl's incredibly popular Cogheart Adventures series.

Emma Carroll

Pens at the ready for Emma Carroll's online writing workshop! Join in every Tuesday and Thursday at 10.30am on Emma's [Instagram](#).



Elle McNicoll

Since its publication in June 2020, *A Kind of Spark* has won the hearts of readers everywhere. An immensely compassionate and honest exploration of autism, identity and family, we described it as an '[essential addition](#) to KS2 and KS3 empathy collections (and bookshelves everywhere).' Young writers can now pick up tips from author Elle McNicoll in her lockdown writing class, every Monday and Friday on [YouTube](#).

 Find hundreds of bookish activities over on BookTrust's [HomeTime hub](#), including the latest [event listings](#)





Publisher resources

Barrington Stoke

Free homeschooling [pack](#) full of advice, information and free resources for parents and carers of children with dyslexia.

Bloomsbury Early Years

Free access to thousands of EYFS activities during the coronavirus pandemic.

Chicken House

Crack open Chicken House's Schools' Hub for a range of fantastic story sessions from leading children's authors.

Collins

Free access to a wide range of Collins' learning resources while schools are closed.

Flying Eye Books

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

Home learning activities and teaching notes based on a variety of new and popular books.

Little Parachutes

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

Nosy Crow

Find free resource packs for books such as Catherine Bruton's award-winning *No Ballet Shoes in Syria*.

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.

Puffin

Puffin have a brilliant selection of downloadable resources, including a *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* activity pack for KS2 students.

Usborne (Quicklinks)

Links to websites with videos, quizzes, games and activities, chosen to support the information in Usborne books.



Looking for more? Topsta have collated hundreds of book-related resources on their [blog](#)





Reading and Literacy

Authorfy

Free resources based on the novels of some of the UK's most popular children's authors. Includes hundreds of author videos, reading guides and activities.

Books for Topics (Storytime Online)

As well as topical and curriculum-linked book lists, including recent addition, Books for Topics have created listings for online storytimes, with all books read by their authors and illustrators.

BookTrust

Reviews, book lists, reading tips and the rather brilliant Book Finder tool (great for finding read-a-likes and books to engage reluctant readers).

Centre for Literacy in Primary Education (CLPE)

Hundreds of quality book recommendations and free resources.

Children's Poetry Archive

Listen to the world's best poetry read out loud. Searchable by theme and age suitability.

Discovering Children's Books (British Library)

The British Library's online exhibition is a fascinating and wide-ranging exploration of children's literature through the ages. Children can make their own pop-up books, invent a superhero and collect stories from around the world. Unmissable!

Hay Festival

As part of the festival's Programme for Schools, watch over 50 author events, including the ever-popular Cressida Cowell, Kiran Millwood Hargrave, and Michael Rosen.

Love My Books

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.

Love Reading 4 Kids

Book recommendations by topic/key stage/year group. Reviews from children, teachers and librarians. Activities and competitions for children.

Peters

Book recommendations, author Q&As, library tips and useful literacy advice from one of Britain's biggest suppliers of children's books.



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





Reading and Literacy

PhonicsPlay

Free access to the PhonicsPlay website. Children can practise their blending skills with fun, interactive games while teachers and parents can access lesson plans and further help.

The Poetry Society

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

The Reading Agency

Free resources, including discussion guides and activity packs. They also run giveaways and competitions for schools and libraries.

Reading Zone (Children's Zone)

Children can discover the latest books, play games and read up on their favourite authors.

Scottish Book Trust (Authors Live on Demand)

Catch up on videos of children's authors such as Chris Riddell and Jacqueline Wilson.

Virtual School Library (National Literacy Trust)

Free platform for primary schools, offering pupils access to free books and activities from the most popular children's authors. Recent authors include Lauren Child, Tom Palmer and Bali Rai.

World Book Day

A fantastic range of free resources, including book extracts, reading lists and author masterclasses, for primary and secondary school students.

Words for Life (National Literacy Trust)

Created by the National Literacy Trust, Words for Life provides parents, children and young people with activities and support to improve their language, literacy and communication skills from home.

ONLINE CPD AND TRAINING FROM ELS

Our experienced team are always on hand to offer help and advice on your school library and reading corners, as well as ways to boost reading for pleasure in the classroom. While we may not be able to conduct advisory visits in person just yet, ELS will be running a series of free online CPD and training events, beginning with:

Making the Most of the Education Library Service Tuesday 26th January, 3.45pm-4.30pm

Please see our [website](#) for further details and booking information.



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

