



EDUCATION LIBRARY SERVICE

As schools begin to reopen, we're readying our service to help teachers and students to access resources safely and resume classroom learning. Information about how our delivery and collection service will work will be sent to schools within the next week. If you have any queries, or would like advice on any aspect of library or reading provision, please contact us via email at educationlibraryservice@cheshiresharedservices.gov.uk. You can also follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) where we'll be sharing news and resources, delivering online [#ELSSStoryTime](#) and craft sessions and setting our own [#homelibrary](#) challenges!



Online resources to support children at home and at school



It's (almost) here! [The Summer Reading Challenge](#) will run from June to September, launching on **Friday 5th June** with a virtual [Let's Get Silly programme](#) running from the Summer Reading Challenge's [Facebook page](#). The launch will feature special super silly readings, family activities and draw-a-longs from guest celebrities and authors! Keep an eye on the Reading Agency's [Twitter account](#) for more announcements.

Always a highlight of the summer, this year's digital challenge aims to deliver some much-needed fun and silliness, bringing children, families and communities together through the joy of reading. Parents and carers can find out more about the Challenge [here](#), while schools can read up on how to participate [here](#).

Public libraries will be running an exciting range of virtual events and activities to accompany the Challenge. Follow [@cwaclibraries](#) and [@CECLibraries](#) for the latest updates. We'll also be joining in on the silliness [@CheshireELS](#).

Children can sign up to the Summer Reading Challenge from Friday 5th June by visiting www.silysquad.org.uk. [#LetsGetSilly](#) [#SillySquad2020](#)



With [Bitesize Daily Lessons](#) back on our screens after the half-term break, we've picked a few of our favourite resources from across the BBC's online education offer.

First up is [Super Movers](#), a programme of active lessons designed to get children moving while learning. Help your students find their super move [here](#). We're fans of the glasses wiggle!

Explore traditional tales, Beatrix Potter and Shakespeare with the BBC's new [resource packs](#) for **KS1 and KS2 English lessons**. Many of the activities are also suitable for homelearning.

Catch up on [Making the Magic: From Stage to Screen](#), a special interactive programme that delves into the magic behind the movies. Ideal for Harry Potter fans and future filmmakers alike!



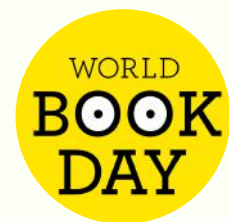
'Stay at Home! Poems and Prose for Children in Lockdown' is a free, illustrated anthology of poems and stories for children aged 8-12, comprising specially written lockdown-themed contributions by 40 writers based in Scotland. Download [here](#).



J.K. Rowling is publishing chapters of her new children's book, *The Ickabog*, [online](#) for free. Children can get involved by entering The Ickabog Illustration [Competition](#).



The Empathy Day [website](#) is full of brilliant resources to help children experience the power of empathy through reading, including empathy-boosting short stories and a free family [activities pack](#). Check out the Empathy Day programme [here](#).



World Book Day have extended their [free audiobook](#) offer, giving us all more time to listen to such wonderful books as Michelle Harrison's *A Pinch of Magic* and Abi Elphinstone's *Rumblestar*. A great way to engage readers in KS2 and beyond.



Author readings, workshops and podcasts

ROALD DAHL
**JAMES
AND THE
GIANT PEACH**
WITH TAIKA & FRIENDS



Listen to *James and the Giant Peach* as you've never heard it before as a Zoom-ful of celebrities, led by Thor-director **Taika Waititi**, read the entire scrumptious book.



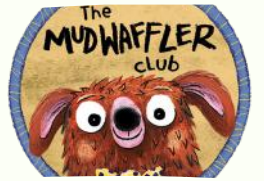
Meerkat Mail creator **Emily Gravett** is running draw-alongs on [Instagram](#) every Tuesday and Thursday at 11am. More activities are available to download on Emily's [website](#).



Catch up on the Hay Festival's [virtual programme](#) for schools. Highlights include Tom Gates author **Liz Pichon**, the always hilarious **Pamela Butchart** and Children's Laureate (and creator of dragons), **Cressida Cowell**.



BookTrust's Illustrator in Residence, **Ed Vere**, is posting weekly 'how to draw' videos on his [website](#). Use [#DrawWithEdVere](#) to see the brilliant work created by children so far. Ed has also launched a drawing competition for primary school children. Details [here](#).



Join *I Am a Tiger* author **Karl Newson** for the [Mudwaffler Club](#), where you'll be listening to stories, creating nonsense poetry and discovering more about the mudwaffler - a friendly, furry tree troll who loves stories.



Children's radio show, [Radio Blogging](#), continues to have a fantastic line-up of guests and interactive activities, with authors **Tom Palmer** and **SF Said** recently setting writing challenges.



[Guppy Aquarium](#) is home to a growing number of bookish videos from indie publishers Guppy Books, including drawing and haiku lessons from the very funny **Brothers McLeod**.



To mark its 80th birthday, Puffin will be hosting the **Puffin Festival of Big Dreams**, a week-long online celebration of reading, writing and following your dreams. You can download the event kit [here](#), and keep track of the latest news via Puffin's [Facebook](#) page.

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/>

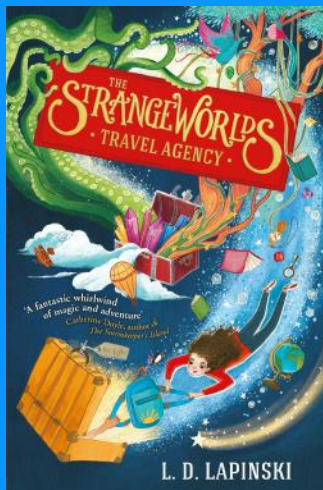


ELS Book of the Week

Information Book Award 2020

The StrangeWorlds Travel Agency

by L.D. Lapinski



The plot is set up so quickly, and with such good humour, imagination and verve, that it will sweep readers away, suitcases in hand! As well as being a hugely enjoyable story for children age 9 and above, *The StrangeWorlds Travel Agency*, offers a multiverse worth of material to unpick, making it an ideal choice for cross-curriculum study.

You can watch the author discuss her book and its many fantastical (and bouncy) worlds [here](#). Learning resources are also [available](#).



The [School Library Association](#) recently announced the shortlist for the 2020 Information Book Award. Now in its 10th year, the award celebrates the very best in information books, highlighting the importance of non-fiction in developing children's reading skills and interests. You can download resources for each book [here](#).



Local History

West Cheshire Museums

The Grosvenor Museum have a new page on their [website](#) especially dedicated to school children, their teachers and parents. The [page](#) contains links to curriculum-friendly films, worksheets and games for KS2 pupils learning about the Romans in Britain.

West Cheshire Museums are offering fun films for 2-4 year olds. Each film has a different theme and contains a craft activity. The films can be found on West Cheshire Museums' [Facebook pages](#).

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!

Cheshire Archives and Local Studies

The Family History Detective Adventure is a new digital children's activity pack produced by [Cheshire Archives and Local Studies](#) as part of their #KeepCurious series. The five-page activity pack, which has a detective theme, provides a fun way for children to stay connected with older relatives and learn more about their history. Children are encouraged to 'interview' an older relative (by telephone or video call!) to find out about their life, focusing in particular on their childhood. They can write their own interview questions or use the ones provided. By gathering clues from the interview and collecting evidence such as photographs, letters and postcards, they are able to draw their own family tree and solve their family history mystery. The pack provides step by step instructions for children and adults, and can be adapted for different age groups.

You can view the activity pack, plus other digital resources produced by Cheshire Archives and Local Studies, [here](#).



[Homeschool resources](#), including LEGO [colouring sheets](#) for EYFS.

Find more ideas on ways to use LEGO in the classroom [here](#). You can also download the LEGO Life [magazine](#) for free - ideal inspiration for young Master Builders!



"The LEGO Group and the [Natural History Museum](#) are challenging you to predict what life could look like in other parts of the universe". Build, share and be inspired with Lego Life Forms!



Step-by-step [instructions](#) for a range of canal-related builds. A fun task to incorporate into lessons on the local area or habitats.

LIBRARY LEGO CLUBS

Cheshire East Libraries

Thursdays at 2.30pm
on each branch's [Facebook](#)

Cheshire West and Chester Libraries

Saturdays at 10.30am
on [Facebook](#)



Useful websites

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

Audible

Until schools reopen, Audible will continue to offer free access to their range of children's audiobooks, including [Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone](#) and [Kid Normal](#).

Books for Topics (Storytime Online)

As well as topical and curriculum-linked book lists, including recent addition, '40 picture books to share with children [returning to school](#)', Books for Topics have created listings for online storytimes, with all books read by their authors and illustrators.

ChessKid

Chess in Schools and Communities are offering parents and schools free 3-month subscriptions to ChessKid, an online learning and playing zone designed for ages 5-11.

Hogwarts Digital Escape Room

Created by Peters Township Public Library in the US, this digital escape room is sure to be a hit with Harry Potter fans.

Kids in Museums

Kids in Museums are posting weekly lockdown activities for families, drawing from museum resources across the UK. Highlights include tracing the [history of chocolate](#) with the Chocolate Museum, [making a mammoth](#) with Museums Sheffield and playing [window bingo](#) with the Museum of Zoology.

Oak National Academy

Online classroom and resource hub created by teachers to support learning during the shutdown. Includes free access to video lessons, worksheets and quizzes. More information on their programme, and how it can help schools to deliver remote learning and plan for phased returns, is available in their [Schools Pack](#).

Oxford University Museum of Natural History

Featuring information and games about animals, insects, fossils and rocks, OUMNH's Learning Zone is a fun way to explore KS1 science topics. Find more craft activities and family trails [here](#).

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!

The School Trip

Free teaching resources, lesson plans, teaching ideas and other educational packs, videos and activities.

Toppsta (Reading Pack)

Free downloadable pack promoting reading for pleasure. Includes the 15 Minute Challenge, reading bingo, useful links, templates and tips for children to use when writing book reviews.

