



TIME TO READ

To help your children improve their literacy skills, we've collated a few resources and links that we hope you will find useful and fun.

Book of Beasties

Book of Beasties is a psychologist endorsed early intervention card game for schools and parents that aspires to raise emotional literacy, teach empathy, resilience and normalise the open conversation about mental health, whilst practicing alternative simple exercise to help cope, should issues arise.

The Summer Reading Challenge

The annual event for children aged four to 11 is running **from 5 June to September** to keep children reading over the summer. With a theme of "Let's Get Silly", the website will host virtual events with celebrities and authors, games, quizzes, and downloadable activities, all to encourage children to read whatever makes them happy.

Small Town Superheroes

The BBC Bitesize Small-Town Superheroes have an urgent mission for you! Join them as they solve the problems and mysteries that occur in Small Town.

You'll need to use your KS1 English skills to help the heroes complete all the missions.

James and the Giant Peach with Taika and Friends

Oscar-winning filmmaker Taika Waititi has teamed up with the Roald Dahl Story Company to perform Dahl's classic book in 10 instalments to raise money for health workers. Actors including the Hemsworth brothers, Eddie Redmayne, Meryl Streep, Benedict Cumberbatch, Lupita Nyong'o, Mindy Kaling and Ryan Reynolds are performing different roles, with Waititi as narrator.

Puffin Storytime:

Children's publisher Puffin is offering regular readings and draw-alongs from its list of authors on **Mondays and Fridays at 3.30pm BST**. It has also launched a Puffin podcast with comedian and children's author Humza Arshad, packed with

“laugh-out-loud stories, games and jokes guaranteed to give you the giggles”.

Letters from Lockdown

The Children’s Bookshow has launched a project where authors and illustrators are sending handwritten letters to children in lockdown to inspire them to write their own. Names including Quentin Blake, Posy Simmonds, Roger McGough, and Costa children’s book award winner Hilary McKay are among contributors. A new letter will be posted online each weekday.

National Shelf Service

UK librarians have launched a **live daily YouTube broadcast at 11am BST** featuring book recommendations for children and families, at a time when some library services are reporting increases in online book lending of up to 700%.

Julia Donaldson and Friends

Every Thursday at 4pm BST the Gruffalo author broadcasts a show for families on her Facebook page.

Authorfy

The website is offering **daily 10-minute creative challenges** for children from writers including Abi Elphinstone, Anna James and Lucy Worsley.

BookTrust Home Time - Digital Hub

#UnitedByBooks

This hub is packed with reading advice, ideas, activities and resources. From 6 April the Northern Ireland page will be live which will feature local authors, illustrators and initiatives to help showcase local talent.

BookTrust and BookTrust NI Facebook

Enjoy storytime with free online books and videos, play games, win prizes, test your knowledge in book-themed quizzes, or even learn how to draw

some favourite characters. Facebook will allow BookTrust to share the work that authors and illustrators post online so you can keep up to date with what’s going on.

BookTrust

Bookfinder – looking for brilliant books? Explore suggestions of great reads for every age from 0 to 11 and use the Bookfinder tool to find books by age and theme.

Place to Wonder

Immersive storytelling and theatre for children and their grownups, designed to lower anxiety and increase wellbeing and connection.

Wizards World – Harry Potter at Home

J.K. Rowling and her Wizards World partners have launched Harry Potter at Home today to help children, parents, carers, and teachers confined at home during the Covid-19 outbreak.

Barnardo’s

Barnardo’s have four short bedtime books for little ones to listen to

National Literacy Trust – Reading Miles Global Challenge

It’s not that easy to travel now but we are thinking about people all over the world. Why not read your way around the world with the Reading Miles Global Challenge. Collect 500 reading miles for every 10 minutes you spend reading, either alone or with a parent, carer, or your brother or sister. You could even video call your relatives and read aloud to them. Collect reading miles in a special reading passport on your very own reading world tour - a whopping 33,000 miles (or 11 hours) in total!

Libraries NI

Even though the libraries are closed you can continue to access reading and learning material through the website, eBooks, audiobooks, eMagazines and eNewspapers service. Take time to Read, Listen, Learn or Watch some of Libraries NI's recently enhanced online offerings, from storytelling, Rhythm and Rhyme, craft sessions, worksheets for children and so much more. You can even download the LibrariesNI app

Ladybird Books

Connect the world with the words that matter, through books that spark thoughts, dreams, conversations, and learning.

Floella Benjamin's Storyland

Watch Floella Benjamin's Storyland YouTube channel #playschool

Journey with Story

Global Player have released Journey with Story - A storytelling podcast for kids

#SaveWithStories

In partnership with Save the Children #SaveWithStories is offering stories on Instagram, read by some famous faces to provide fun and education to kids and parents currently staying home. Also on [Facebook](#)

Oxford Owl

E-book Library and Phonics Guide

YouTube – Storyteller

Listen to the stories read by some well-known voices and follow the words

Audible

Listen to 1000's of different audio books with a 30-day free trial for all children's books

World of Stories

World Book Day's World of Stories, where you can listen to audiobooks of your favourite books.

World Book Online

Download the World Book eBooks app on your devices now read anywhere you want.

See astronauts read from space

Reading to kids is wonderful and everything but reading to kids from space is super awesome.

Accelerated Reading

Lots of great material for independent, self-directed reading.

myON

To help support teachers, students, and parents to 'Keep the UK and Ireland reading', myON are offering access to thousands of enhanced digital books through myON and articles from myON News.

Metacognition

How Can Thinking About Thinking Help Children Learn? Take a step back and consider a child's perspective of an activity. Ask kids WHY we might be doing an activity the way we are doing it. Ask WHAT they think is the easiest and hardest parts about it. In short . . . get kids thinking! (attachment – Metacognition)

Ladybird Books

Every single day during lockdown, Ladybird Books is sending a pair of matching books to a separated duo so they can still settle down for story-time together, over the phone or on a video call. Because even when we're apart, stories can be a virtual hug.

Irish Times Recommendations

Books to help children cope in crisis

The British Library is encouraging you to [make your own miniature book](#). A number of children's authors have created their own to inspire you – here is [Axel Scheffler's miniature book](#). Alex is an illustrator and animator best known for his cartoon-like pictures for children's books, The Gruffalo and

The Gruffalo's Child. He has also authored/illustrated the Pip and Posy series of books for children. Please send your photos or videos of your creations to [British Library Learning Twitter account](#).

WATCH ONE OF OUR LATEST STORYTIME READINGS BELOW . . .



[CLICK HERE](#) to watch Tim McGarry read Shifty McGifty & Slippery Sam by Tracey Corderoy



[CLICK HERE](#) to watch Claire Gordon read The Gruffalo, by Julia Donaldson



[CLICK HERE](#) to watch Samantha Porciello read Dream a Little Dream – her own book

To find out more about our Time to Read programme, or to volunteer for the new school term, please contact: Ciara Mulgrew, ciara.mulgrew@bitcni.org.uk.