

Dear Parents/Carers

Thank you for everything you are all doing to support your children and the staff with the home learning during this challenging time. We very much appreciate all the time and effort that you are all putting into keeping learning going.

As you know, reading is essential to all learning and it needs to remain a priority even during these difficult times. The National Literacy Trust carried out some research after the first Lockdown and found that children's enjoyment of reading had increased with a third of children saying they were reading more. Half the children surveyed had read books that were new to them and many had discovered new and exciting books they had never tried before. Importantly, a third of children highlighted reading as being essential to their well-being and half explained how reading encouraged them to dream about the future. This is all very positive. We know how much our children love books and the wonderful life long experience of reading.

We want to encourage the children to continue to love their reading during Lockdown as much as we can and we know, with the libraries shut and schools closed to most children, this can be challenging.

The staff are enjoying seeing and hearing about all the different reading opportunities the children are making the most of, whether it be sharing stories with their classes during Zoom meetings, sending their teachers photos of themselves snuggled up with their favourite books or engaging in the year group Zoom reading sessions.

I thought it might be useful to make you aware of opportunities and resources that are available to children so that they may continue to enjoy books and love the experience of reading for pleasure at this time.

Reading on Zoom

All year groups are running Zoom sessions in order to teach reading. Links have been sent out for these sessions. If you experience any difficulty joining these sessions please get in touch with your child's teacher who will be able to provide you with the necessary details.

Below is the timetable for each year group.

| | EYS | Year 1/2 | Year 3/4 | Year 5/6 |
|-----------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Monday | 1pm-1.30pm Phonics/reading/story | 11.30am Year 1 phonics | 2pm Guided reading | 1.15pm - 1.45pm Guided reading |
| Tuesday | 1pm-1.30pm Phonics/reading/story | 11.30am Year 1 phonics | 2pm Guided reading | |
| Wednesday | 1pm-1.30pm Phonics/reading/story | 11.30am Year 1 phonics | 2pm Guided reading | 1.15pm - 1.45pm Guided reading |
| Thursday | 1pm-1.30pm Phonics/reading/story | 11.30am Year 1 phonics | 2pm Guided reading | |
| Friday | 1pm-1.30pm Phonics/reading/story | 11.30am Year 1 phonics | 2pm Guided reading | 1.15pm - 1.45pm Guided reading |

On line Reading Opportunities

Below are some online resources that you may find useful to support your child in reading.

Early Years

EYs children have been provided with logins for the following:

- Oxford Owls
- Teach Your Monster to Read

You may also like to look at the websites recommended for KS1.

KS1

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/stories> Children can listen to a range of famous faces reading books aloud.

www.vooks.com is an ad free streaming library of read aloud, animated story books. This website is offering 30 day's free subscription, and enables you to access books via Vimeo.

KS2

<https://readtheory.org/>

This is an American online reading tool, which provides levelled texts and comprehension questions. It's free to create an account and quickly assesses your child's reading level to select appropriate texts. The wide-ranging bank of texts is very interesting and informative and includes non-fiction as well as fiction. Comprehension is tested with fun multiple choice quizzes and pupils receive immediate feedback, which explains why answers selected are right or wrong. They earn points for correct answers and can move up levels as they progress. When we have used this in school, we have found that pupils find it motivating and enjoyable.

Suitable for all

<https://childrens.poetryarchive.org>

Children can listen to poetry by a whole range of poets. You can filter age group and themes. There are also fascinating interviews with a variety of poets, so children can listen to them talking about the poetry they like, why they like to write, the writing process from initial inspiration to the published book. It's great to put a face to some of the poets that children are familiar with and there are some great questions with fascinating answers.

www.oxfordowl.co.uk

Oxford Owl offers free online e books. For 3-11 year olds

www.booktrust.org.uk

There are interactive books and games available here. Older devices may not support these but they do also have a Storytime playlist on YouTube. These stories are also read by a range of celebrities.

For anyone with a library card there is a free app available at

<https://help.libbyapp.com/en-us/6144.htm> The Libby app allows you to borrow digital versions of books and to request books that are currently being borrowed by another reader. The range of books available is wonderful.

There are of course many other resources on line and the above are just a selection of the ones we use or have had recommended. If you are aware of any others, please email your suggestions to me at:

awibro@bgpschool.kent.sch.uk

School Library – Access to ‘real’ books

We would also like to invite the children from KS1 and KS2 to borrow books from the school library. If your child has worked their way through their books at home, then please email your child’s class teacher and put in a request. Books based on their Accelerated Reader Level when last in school, will be put together in an exciting bundle and arrangements will be made for collection/delivery.

Once again, many thanks for all the support you are providing. Happy reading!

Mrs Wibroe

Reading Subject Leader