

January
2021

BOOK BITES

Tasty morsels from your Education Library Service

Resources and help for those educating children at home

This is the sixth newsletter we've produced and we're still keeping an eye out for resources and online help for those currently educating children at home. For previous editions, please visit this special page on our blog ([click link](#)).

We'll be sharing anything else we find via twitter, so make sure you take a look or follow us if you have access: www.twitter.com/norfolkels

Norfolk Museums Online

Norfolk Museums have regularly been updating their online resource pages with a wide range of curriculum and leisure topics for early years right through to KS3.

Norwich Castle in particular have a whole range of activity and ideas sheets for 3-7 year olds; find them here: www.museums.norfolk.gov.uk/norwich-castle/learning/learning-at-home

They also offer virtual school events ([click here](#)) and their learning hub has recently been updated with a full Spring 2021 offer: www.museums.norfolk.gov.uk/norwich-castle/learning

All ten of the County's museums offer education and learning resources; for a full look at their learning programmes, visit their website: www.museums.norfolk.gov.uk/learning

National Centre for Writing resources & courses

Teacher resource: Exploring and Writing Poetry for KS1/2

Commissioned by Young Norfolk Arts and the National Centre for Writing as part of the Young Norfolk Arts Festival 2020, 'The Wish' is a poem designed to be accessible for Primary age children. This resource has been designed to support KS1/2 teachers in the teaching of reading and writing poetry in the classroom. It contains sample exercises that you can use in your own classrooms, as well as extension activities for older or more capable students. Find it here: <https://courses.nationalcentreforwriting.org.uk/p/the-wish-cpd-resource-ks1-2>

Online courses

NCW's online, self-study courses offer young people the time to explore writing through fun, engaging prompts and activities – whether it's poetry, prose or any other kind of writing they want to develop!

Topics include:

- [Story Prompts for Young Writers \(click link\)](#)
- [All The World's A Stage \(click link\)](#)

There are a several more suitable for 9-12 year olds; find the full programme on their website: <https://nationalcentreforwriting.org.uk/working-with-schools/young-workshops/>



Norfolk County Council

BBC Bitesize daily lessons

BBC Bitesize have updated their programme of daily lessons available for all key stages, covering 3-16 year olds and post-16 students. It comprises of both an online and TV schedule, ensuring all children can access curriculum-based learning, even if they don't have access to the internet.

The daily Spring programme sees a three-hour block of primary programming on CBBC which includes BBC Bitesize as well as other educational segments like Celebrity Supply Teacher (featuring Marcus Rashford!) and other well-known titles such as Horrible Histories.

There will also be a programme of secondary school content on BBC Two, plus all episodes will be accessible via iPlayer and the BBC red button.

For more information and the full programme listings, head to: www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize

Words for Life from the Literacy Trust

Words for Life is the Literacy Trust's web portal for parents looking for extra resources for learning. Divided by age group, there are lots of ideas and guidance for a variety of activities as well as many more tips and activities to improve your child's chatting, reading, writing and listening at home.

To see what's on offer, visit: <https://wordsforlife.org.uk/>

BookTrust Home Time

BookTrust's HomeTime is jam-packed with lots of things to keep children occupied during this prolonged period of time indoors. Working with authors and illustrators, there are art and drawing tasks plus helpful signposting to other activities available online for children aged 4-11.

They even have a list of useful teaching resources. To see what's available, visit:

www.booktrust.org.uk/books-and-reading/have-some-fun/

Peters 100 books for Parents

Peters Booksellers have curated a handy list of the most popular children's books, all of which come with supporting activity sheets which can be downloaded to work on at home.

There are lists and sheets for all primary year groups, from reception through to year six.

Find them here: www.peters.co.uk/100-books-for-parents

Norfolk Library and Information Service Online

Norfolk Library and Information Service have a digital roster of events and activities to support families now spending time together at home so even though branches are closed, you can still get your library fix online!

If you have a library card, you can access eBooks, eAudio, newspapers and magazines via <https://norfolk.overdrive.com/>. If you don't have a library card, you can sign up online; more info here: www.norfolk.gov.uk/libraries-local-history-and-archives/libraries/coronavirus-update

Over on Facebook, there are weekly bounce and rhyme sessions every Tuesday, and on a Monday there are live-stream storytimes in which library staff read picture books you know and love— you don't have to be a library member to watch along! These stay up for the full week so you can come back and watch them again and again.

To stay up-to-date with anything else library related, visit: www.facebook.com/NorfolkLibrariesUK/ or give them a follow on Twitter: [@NorfolkLibs](https://twitter.com/NorfolkLibs)

Creative Fun with Animation

The link below takes you to the first of 3 'how-to' YouTube videos created in collaboration with public libraries, showing simple methods of creating stop motion videos for children and young people: [How to do Stop Motion Animation Video 1 Getting Started - YouTube](#) (click)

Online Drawing with Rob Biddulph

Lots of authors and illustrators are back entertaining and informing their young readers. For instance, Rob Biddulph who performed magnificently in lockdown in 2020 will be reprising some of those 'Draw with Rob' videos, and creating some new ones too. In this one, [#DrawWithRob 68 Odd Dog Out - YouTube](#) he reads the warm, funny story Odd Dog Out as well as showing us how to draw a sausage dog.

Online Storytime and Seven Stories

Andersen Press is starting up its online storytimes again, in partnership with Seven Stories, the National Centre for Children's Books, who also hold weekly workshops and talks for kids. This is a fantastic opportunity as in normal times we can't all get up to their lovely space in Newcastle, but online we can all join in! Take a look at [Seven Stories | What's On: Days Out In Newcastle](#)

The Literacy Shed

The Literacy Shed has some free to watch videos. For instance the Ancient Athens one brings Ancient Greece vividly to life, though it will be much better understood with accompanying reading about this civilisation. See [Athens - THE LITERACY SHED](#)

RSPB Bird Spotting

The RSPB carries out its annual bird survey on the last weekend of January, and families are strongly encouraged to take part. There are loads of helpful ideas and guides to birdwatching on their website [Birdwatching for Kids with Bird Spotting Sheet - The RSPB](#) and you can send for free resources. You don't have to have a garden to take part.

Children's Mental Health Week

Children's Mental Health Week is coming up at the beginning of February, with the theme of 'Express Yourself'. Families can find helpful information and guidance at [Parents and Carers - Children's Mental Health Week 2021](#). We will be suggesting some lovely stories on this theme over on our blog.

National Storytelling Week

By happy coincidence National Storytelling Week overlaps with Mental Health Week which seems appropriate!

There's nothing like cuddling up for a few quiet moments to enjoy a story together. Some parents have recently taken part in a small research project on just this topic, and you may be interested in the very positive responses. Carried out by Egmont Publishers in collaboration with Mumsnet you will find it at [THE-EGMONT-READING-CLUB-July-2020.pdf \(egmontbooks.co.uk\)](#)

AND: don't forget to visit our blog for news & book reviews!

www.norfolkels.wordpress.com