

Top resources to support reading for pleasure and progress at home

Shaftesbury School has a great reading culture. We're keen to support our students and families with ideas and resources to encourage reading during Lockdown so have put together the following list. We believe it's helpful to support the whole family, so many of the links and resources will be useful for younger children too.

You are probably aware that we use the Accelerated Reader program with all of KS3 in their library lessons to measure their reading progress. Therefore any books they chose to read should ideally be within their reading zone. Book levels can be checked on this website –

<https://www.arbookfind.co.uk/>. Any questions about Accelerated Reader or book levels please get in touch with myself or Mrs Sammons.

1. Public libraries are closed for browsing – but you can click & collect at many of the Dorset/Wiltshire/Somerset branches, or borrow eBooks or audiobooks for free.

You can find information on how you can click and collect through this page for Dorset libraries: <https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/libraries-history-culture/libraries/library-services-during-covid-19/dorset-libraries-order-and-collect.aspx>; this page for Wiltshire libraries: <https://libraries.wiltshire.gov.uk/web/arena/ordercollect> and here for Somerset libraries: https://secure1.somerset.gov.uk/forms/PortalShowForm.asp?fm_formalias=SLRRS.

EBooks and audiobooks are available here:

https://www.librarieswest.org.uk/client/en_GB/default.

If you don't yet have a library card, it is possible to join online via this link:

https://www.librarieswest.org.uk/client/en_GB/default/?rm=JOIN+THE+LIBRA0%7C%7C%7C1%7C%7C%7C0%7C%7C%7Ctrue

2. We have also provided some reading lists for each year group to help you choose your next read. These can be found on the Student Sharepoint site in the areas for their year group.

<https://sherborneareaschooltrust.sharepoint.com/sites/ShaftesburySchoolStudents>

You'll find the lists in the 'English' folder. All of the suggested titles are available from the school library.

3. Authorfy has interactive resources, videos and activities to support children's reading and writing <https://authorfy.com/about/>. These 10 minute videos with challenges by acclaimed children's authors are brilliant <https://authorfy.com/10minutechallenges/>, as are these Masterclasses (you can filter by age): <https://authorfy.com/masterclasses/>
4. The World Book Day site has an 'Author and Illustrator Academy' with videos, resources and book extracts for all ages and stages. <https://www.worldbookday.com/online-masterclasses/>. For KS2/3 students, I highly recommend Eoin Colfer (*The Fowl Twins*); Onjali Rauf (*The Boy at the Back of the Class*); Katherine Rundell (*The Good Thieves*); Matt Haig (*Evie and the Animals*); Matthew Syed (*You are Awesome* – about a growth mindset); and for older students, Malorie Blackman & Patrice Lawrence (*Noughts and Crosses & Orangeboy*); plus Muhammed Khan (*Kick the Moon*). The World Book Day site has also just started a 'Book Ideas Hub' with links and resources to encourage children (of all ages) to read, write and draw for pleasure. <https://www.worldbookday.com/2020/03/book-ideas-hub-brilliant-stay-at-home-ideas-free-resources/>
5. This site encourages young people to keep a 'Lockdown Diary' to help with mental health and to bring some fun into these stressful times. You can select the appropriate age (early years- age 7; 8-12; and teen- YA) and then you will find videos by authors and educators talking to young people and offering suggestions for their diaries. <https://www.ourcoronadiary.com/how-to-join-in>. For example, the author of the superb book *How to Be Extraordinary* has a video about the magic of questions -- perfect for KS2/3 children. <https://www.ourcoronadiary.com/post/rashmi-sirdeshpande-the-question-diary>

6. The Book of Hopes is a free eBook with short stories, poems & drawings. It is great for KS 1, 2 & 3. <https://literacytrust.org.uk/family-zone/9-12/book-hopes/>.
7. One unexpected advantage of the current situation is that literary festivals (which used to be expensive and involved travel) are now free and available to all. The Hay Festival had a wonderful series of talks for young people of all ages:
<https://www.hayfestival.com/showcategory.aspx?CategoryID=209&SEName=archive-hay-player&skinid=16&ManufacturerFilterID=0&VectorFilterID=0&GenreFilterID=58&SectionFilterID=0&pagenum=1>
8. There are several authors reading aloud their books on a daily basis (with recordings on YouTube) or providing free videos/books/resources:
 - Don't miss Cressida Cowell (Children's Laureate) reading aloud her books, including *How to Train Your Dragon* and *The Wizard of Once*.
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCe01xn13M8q2dslw0mvW9lg>
 - Piers Torday is reading aloud *The Dark Wild*, which is the story about a virus which has hit the animal world, and a vaccine that has just been developed...
<https://www.youtube.com/c/piersftorday/featured>.
 - Tom Palmer, known for his hugely popular football fiction (sometimes linked to war) has multiple free reads on his site <https://tompalmer.co.uk/free-reads/>. He also has engaging and helpful videos to support creative writing:
<https://tompalmer.co.uk/writing-tips/>. He also has a YouTube channel where he reads aloud extracts and offers tips. Palmer's new book, *After the War*, is about children who survived the Holocaust and who started a new life in the Lake District. It is well-researched and he has multiple resources linked to Holocaust Memorial Day, which was on 27th January. <https://tompalmer.co.uk/holocaust-memorial-day-resources-and-competition/>
9. The Oak National Academy has just started giving free access to a children's book each week: <https://library.thenational.academy/>. These are suitable for a range of ages. So far, *The Story of Tracey Beaker* by Jacqueline Wilson and *The Girl Who Stole an Elephant* by Nizrana Farook are available for free.
10. The Book Trust has a great page with loads of 'Hometime' resources – authors reading stories, drawing tutorials, activities to do together and general fun book things:
<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/hometime> They also have a page where you can access tons of reading recommendations - <https://www.booktrust.org.uk/books-and-reading/our-recommendations/> The resources would be suitable for KS1, 2 and 3.
11. Another way to find new book recommendations, read reviews and see 'lists' compiled by other readers is to have a look at <https://www.goodreads.com/>. You don't need to have an account to search for titles, authors or genres. However, if you have an account it can be used to interact with other readers by liking book reviews and leaving comments. It would need monitoring like any other social media site that your child uses.
12. My final suggestion for finding new books to love is to use the LoveReading4Kids website - <https://www.lovereadings4kids.co.uk/> This is suitable for all ages – KS1, 2, 3, 4 and 5.

We hope this helps.

Happy reading!

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