



# EDUCATION LIBRARY SERVICE

We hope everyone is coping as best they can in these unprecedented circumstances. Although we are currently unable to make deliveries or collections, ELS staff can still be contacted via email — [educationlibraryservice@cheshiresharedservices.gov.uk](mailto:educationlibraryservice@cheshiresharedservices.gov.uk) — to answer queries and provide advice on all aspects of library or reading provision. You can also follow us on Twitter @**CheshireELS** where we'll be sharing news, library tips and setting our own bookish challenges!



## Online resources to support children at home and at school

Social media has been brimming with brilliant ideas and activities to keep children engaged (and entertained) during the lockdown. We've put together a collection of some of our favourites so far. If you've come across any other helpful resources — or would like to share your own — please do get in contact. We love seeing the ingenious things parents, teachers and children are thinking up!

Let's stay #UnitedByBooks

## Author readings and talks



Weekly broadcast of 'Julia Donaldson and Friends' available on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/OfficialGruffalo/](https://www.facebook.com/OfficialGruffalo/)



Visit Sarah's [YouTube channel](#) for her delightful #DrawingWithSarah videos. For free activity sheets, including comic making guides, visit: [www.jabberworks.co.uk](http://www.jabberworks.co.uk)



David Walliams will be releasing a daily audiobook story for FREE! See his [Twitter](#) for details.



The Bookwanderers Club: author Anna James talks all things books with a host of children's authors. Past episode available on [YouTube](#). For upcoming guests see Anna's [Twitter](#).



Daily video available on Konnie Huq's [YouTube](#) channel. Recent episodes include performing magic tricks using household items and creating comic strips.



Cressida Cowell reads daily chapters from How to Train Your Dragon. Catch up on her [YouTube channel](#).



Don't miss out on Authorfy's 10-minute writing challenges on [Twitter](#). Find hundreds of free resources on their [website](#), including a new masterclass by Anthony Horowitz.



Join Kes Gray on [YouTube](#) as he reads out some of his best-loved picture books including our favourite, Oi Cat!

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/>



## Essential Twitter accounts to follow

Use the hashtags #FreeBookResources, #LearningAtHome and #UnitedbyBooks

@Literacy\_Trust

**LITERACY TRUST**

@Booktrust

**BOOK TRUST**

@UKLaureate

**CHILDREN'S LAUREATE**

@uksla

**SCHOOL LIBRARY  
ASSOCIATION**

@toppsta

**TOPPSTA**

@youthlibraries

**YOUTH LIBRARIES  
GROUP COMMITTEE**

@MrEPrimary

**THE READER TEACHER**

@WorldBookDayUK

**WORLD BOOK DAY UK**



### Public library buildings may be closed, but the library service lives on!

As well as audiobooks, ebooks and digital magazines, your public library service offers a host of fantastic online resources, including access to educational sites like World Book Online and Oxford Reference. Many libraries are now uploading videos of their storytelling and Rhymetime sessions to social media — ideal for entertaining little ones!

[Cheshire West Libraries](#)  
[Cheshire East Libraries](#)



Access hundreds of children's audiobooks for free via Audible. No need to register — just click and listen!

### J.K. ROWLING'S Wizarding World

Hogwarts is open! Harry Potter fans can now access a range of magical resources via Wizarding World's new online platform, Harry Potter at Home. Best of all, you can listen to the first book, The Philosopher's Stone, for free!



## (Some of the) publishers offering free resources



<https://www.andersenpress.co.uk/free-stuff/>



<https://nosycrow.com/activity-sheets/>



<https://www.barringtonstoke.co.uk/blog/2020/03/23/free-resources-from-barrington-stoke/>



<https://usborne.com/play-and-learn-at-home>



## Useful websites

**Authorfy:** <https://authorfy.com/>

Free resources based on the novels of some of the UK's most popular children's authors. Includes hundreds of author videos, reading guides and activities.

**BBC Teach:** <https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach>

Thousands of free educational videos, guides and audio clips.

**Bloomsbury Early Years:** <https://www.bloomsburyearlyyears.com/>

Free access to thousands of EYFS activities for the duration of the school shutdown.

**Books for Topics:** <https://www.booksfortopics.com>

Book recommendations by topic and key stage.

**Book Trust:** <https://www.booktrust.org.uk>

Reviews, book lists, reading tips and the rather brilliant Book Finder tool (great for finding read-a-likes and books to engage reluctant readers).

**Centre for Literacy in Primary Education (CLPE):** <https://clpe.org.uk/corebooks>

Hundreds of quality book recommendations and free resources.

**CILIP Carnegie and Greenaway:** <https://carnegiegreenaway.org.uk/cilip-greenaway-medal-shortlist-2020/>

Free high-quality reading resources for the picture books shortlisted for the Kate Greenaway Medal.

**Collins:** <https://collins.co.uk/pages/support-learning-at-home>

Free access to a wide range of Collins' learning resources while schools are closed.

**Great School Libraries:** <https://www.greatschoolibraries.org.uk/askalibrarian/ask-a-librarian>

Online forum where visitors can 'Ask a Librarian' for advice.

**Love Reading 4 Kids:** <https://www.lovereadings4kids.co.uk/>

Book recommendations by topic/key stage/year group. Reviews from children, teachers and librarians. Activities and competitions for children.

**Mr T's Phonics:** [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC7sW4j8p7k9D\\_qRRMUsGqyw](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC7sW4j8p7k9D_qRRMUsGqyw)

YouTube channel of teacher Mr Thorne and Geraldine the Giraffe.

**The Reading Agency:** <https://readingagency.org.uk>

Free resources, including discussion guides and activity packs. They also run giveaways and competitions for schools and libraries.

**The Reading Realm:** <https://thereadingrealm.co.uk/>

Free creative writing and reading resources.

**Scholastic Blog:** <https://www.scholastic.co.uk/blog/Top-50-places-to-find-FREE-teaching-resources-38551>

Links to high-quality teaching resources.

