

Reading Newsletter

Spring 2021

Welcome to the Spring term newsletter! Alongside the letters that are being sent through to your email addresses, and the remote learning taking place, we want to do all that we can to support you at home during these difficult times. This reading newsletter therefore contains links to useful materials (phonics and reading), offers new book recommendations, and gives ideas to promote mindfulness and calm reflection time.

Online Phonics Support

Letters and Sounds



www.youtube.com/channel/UCP_FbjYUP_UtldV2K_-niWw

This channel offers daily phonics lessons, designed and delivered by experts, using the Letters and Sounds programme.

RWI



www.ruthmiskin.com/en/find-out-more/parents/

A schedule for January is outlined on this website, with daily speed sounds lessons. There are also supporting videos to guide parents and carers.

Phonics Play



www.phonicsplay.co.uk/

During the period of school closure, Phonics Play is free. Under the 'Resources' tab, there are lots of great interactive games, supporting children in blending accurately and organising real/nonsense words.

Username: jan21 Password: home

Alphablocks



www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/shows/alphablocks

Watch as the letters of the alphabet tell stories and make words using phonics to help them.

Online Reading Materials

Book Trust



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

Here you can access lots of interactive books and videos online. There are classic children's stories that we think you and your family will love, including *Hairy Maclary from Donaldson's Dairy* by Lynley Dodd to *Owl Babies* by Martin Waddell and Patrick Benson, along with newer favourites such as Chris Haughton's *Oh No, George!* and *Everybunny Dance!* by Ellie Sandall.

Oxford Owl



www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home/find-a-book/library-page/

Here you can access a free e-Book collection, for children aged 3-11 years old. You can register for free and then login to begin reading. You are able to filter the choices by age and story type.

Read-Alouds



www.weareteachers.com/virtual-author-activities/

With children at home and parents looking for educational activities, lots authors are offering online read-alouds and activities on social media. This website has rounded up over 50 of the best virtual author activities.

Video Recordings



www.storylineonline.net/

This is an amazing resource offering video recordings across a range of text types and themes.

Audible



www.audible.co.uk

Offering a free 30-day trial for audio books and some free materials.

Storytime Online

<https://www.booksfortopics.com/storytime-online>

Books for Topics

With access to libraries, classrooms and bookshops limited for many, we've been busy finding some of the best online story times for children to access freely at home. The QR codes and links in the document link to story readings on Youtube and all of the books we've chosen are read aloud by their fabulous authors and illustrators.



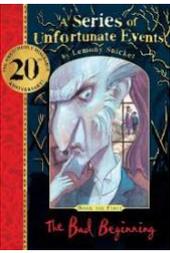
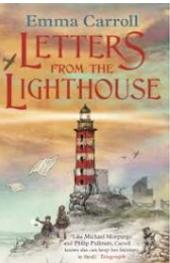
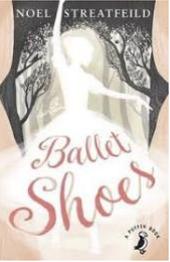
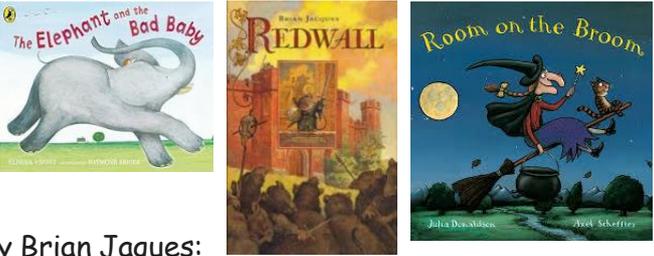
January Book Recommendations

www.booktrust.org.uk/books-and-reading/our-recommendations/best-new-books/

Each month, BookTrust review lots of books for children and teenagers. Here are the ones that they liked best in January. They are organised into age ranges and there is a brief description for each title.



Book Recommendations from children and staff at Holy Trinity

<p>Billy Rickard</p> <p>Year 6</p>	<p>I would recommend the Series of Unfortunate Events books because they are very exciting and intriguing, and all 13 books have something different to offer the reader. The Baudelaire orphans are being terrorised by the eccentric Count Olaf, who is determined to get his undeserving hands on their fortune. I like Klaus Baudelaire because he is the only boy of the 3 orphans and is very different to his siblings. He reads a lot and is very clever at getting out of sticky situations.</p>	
<p>Honour Nolan</p> <p>Year 5</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Letters from the Lighthouse</p> <p>This incredible book is so well written. It has a massive mystery that gets you so interested you don't want it to stop. It is set in World War 2 but isn't scary or sad. I would definitely read it over and over again. My star rating is 5/5, but if I could it would be 100/100!</p>	
<p>Mrs Clay</p>	<p>My favourite childhood book which I read time and time again, was 'Ballet Shoes' by Noel Streatfeild. As a child, (and even now as an adult) I adored dancing and anything to do with the theatre. This book really drew me into the lives of the three main characters, including a child called Posy who was destined to become a ballerina and another, Pauline, who dreamed of acting on the stage. I recently read this story again as it is part of 'The Book Trust 100 Best Books' list for 9-11-year-olds and a challenge which I had set for the year 5s and I loved it every bit as much now as I did then.</p>	
<p>Mr Kinahan</p>	<p>My favourite book is Giggler Treatment by Roddy Doyle.</p>	
<p>Mrs Bates</p>	<p>For younger readers, one of my favourite books that I enjoyed reading with my children was 'Room on the Broom' by Julia Donaldson. It has wonderful rhythm and rhyme, and builds to an exciting ending!</p> <p>As a child, I read and re-read 'Redwall' by Brian Jaques: it has fantastic animal characters, adventure, quests and an epic battle between good and evil.</p>	

Mrs McGeehan

One of my favourite books is *The Shadow Forest*, which I am reading with my class at the moment. It is funny in many places, but also has a great air of mystery and suspense. The reader meets some very interesting characters along the way! A beautiful book of poems inspired by words and nature, is *'The Lost Words'*. I am also a very big fan of the Harry Potter series!



As a child, I loved all Enid Blyton Stories. The characters always seemed to have such exciting adventures, as well as the best picnics! When I was young, my mum and dad would often read me the story of *The Boy Who Cried Wolf*, as well as *Alice in Wonderland*. *'Guess How Much I Love You'* is one of my favourite stories to read with my godchildren.

Mrs Rickard

I was a huge Roald Dahl fan as a child and read *Matilda*, *The BFG* and *The Witches* over and over again. I never tire of his stories and it is such a treat to be able to share them with my children now. As soon as we are allowed, my family plan to go and visit the Roald Dahl Museum and Story Centre. I'm also rather addicted to Harry Potter.

Action for Happiness

www.actionforhappiness.org/happy-january

How can we start this new year happier? Things have certainly not been easy over the last year, and we are still in difficult and uncertain times. The best way to try to handle our difficult emotions and experiences is by focusing on what we can control. This month, we're encouraging everyone to focus on small steps to try to boost happiness - for ourselves and others around us - to spread kindness and hopefully inspire others to do the same.



ACTION CALENDAR: HAPPIER JANUARY 2021

MONDAY **TUESDAY** **WEDNESDAY** **THURSDAY** **FRIDAY** **SATURDAY** **SUNDAY**

"Happiness is when what you think, what you say, and what you do are in harmony" - Gandhi

4 Write a list of things you feel grateful for in life and why	5 Look for the good in others and notice their strengths	6 Take five minutes to sit still and just breathe	7 Learn something new and share it with others	1 Find three good things to look forward to this year	2 Make time today to do something kind for yourself	3 Do a kind act for someone else to help to brighten their day
11 Switch off all your tech 2 hours before bedtime	12 Connect with someone near you - share a smile or chat	13 Be gentle with yourself when you make mistakes	14 Take a different route today and see what you notice	8 Say positive things to the people you meet today	9 Get moving. Do something physically active (ideally outdoors)	10 Thank someone you're grateful to and tell them why
18 Focus on what's good, even if today feels tough	19 Get back in contact with an old friend you miss	20 Go to bed in good time and give yourself time to recharge	21 Take a small step towards an important goal	15 Eat healthy food which really nourishes you today	16 Get outside and notice five things that are beautiful	17 Contribute positively to a good cause or your community
25 Decide to lift people up rather than put them down	26 Say hello to a neighbour and get to know them better	27 Challenge your negative thoughts and look for the upside	28 Ask other people about things they've enjoyed recently	22 Try out something new to get out of your comfort zone	23 Plan something fun and invite others to join you	24 Put away digital devices and focus on being in the moment
				29 Use one of your personal strengths in a new way	30 Count how many people you can smile at today	31 Write down your hopes or plans for the future

ACTION FOR HAPPINESS 

www.actionforhappiness.org
Learn more about this month's theme at www.actionforhappiness.org/happier-january Happier · Kinder · Together

Mindfulness

Peace Out – Guided Meditation



www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL8snGkhBF7njO0QvtE97AJFL3xZYQSGh5

In these guided relaxation and meditation videos, we learn suitable breathing techniques and take time out for ourselves, to help us feel calmer and happier.

Cosmic Kids - Yoga



www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL8snGkhBF7njuEi8V642ZeFwcbVRRPFLG

Interactive adventures which build strength, balance and confidence – and gets children into yoga and mindfulness early. Each episode provides its own story, so you can enjoy the Cosmic Kids series in any order you like.

Draw with Rob



www.robiddulph.com/draw-with-rob

During the first lockdown, Rob Biddulph developed weekly video tutorials for children (and parents) to draw-along and produce lovely pictures. All of these are available on the link above.