

## **Publishers Current Awareness**

**w/b 1<sup>st</sup> June 2020**

### **Literacy**

The National Literacy Trust (NLT) has teamed up with Morrisons and publishing partners to donate more than 175,000 children's books to families across the UK who are relying on food banks. The books will be placed in Morrisons food bank collection points in all 494 of its stores nationwide. Morrisons in-store Community Champions will then work with local charities to give the books to disadvantaged families.

<https://literacytrust.org.uk/news/we-team-morrisons-gift-175000-books-families-through-food-banks/>

NLT launches Zone In, with weekly activities and resources to help young people build new skills and improve their literacy during lockdown. Topics range from comedy writing and CV planning to freestyle football and beatboxing.

<https://literacytrust.org.uk/news/we-launch-our-new-zone-platform-young-adults/>

A new survey has revealed that people in the UK have almost doubled the amount of time they spend reading books since lockdown began, but instead of dystopian fiction readers are turning to the "comfort" of crime and thrillers. More than half (52%) of the respondents said they were reading more because they had more spare time, 51% said it was because they wanted to stay entertained, and 35% felt books were providing "an escape from the crisis".

<https://www.theguardian.com/books/2020/may/15/research-reading-books-surged-lockdown-thrillers-crime>

BookTrust will donate over 50,000 copies of picture book My Pet Star to help families during lockdown, via libraries, foodbanks, children's centres and refuge centres as part of its Pyjamarama campaign.

<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/news-and-features/news/news-2020/booktrust-gives-away-over-50000-copies-of-picture-book-my-pet-star-to-help-families-during-lockdown/>

Tiny Happy People campaign have a new weekly schedule, and a social media pack available.

[https://www.bbc.co.uk/tiny-happy-people/toolkit/znxmwt?dm\\_i=3YNL,14W68,5TQZZ5,409Y1,1](https://www.bbc.co.uk/tiny-happy-people/toolkit/znxmwt?dm_i=3YNL,14W68,5TQZZ5,409Y1,1)

British Library's Discovering Children's Books is aimed at primary school children, teachers and book-lovers of all ages, the site explores the history and rich variety of children's literature, through treasures from the British Library, Seven Stories, Bodleian Libraries and the V & A. It has a whole bank of creative activities for children of all ages, from creating your own comic to making a miniature book or inventing a superhero. <https://www.bl.uk/childrens-books/creative-activities>

Saturday 20 June is National Reading Group Day.

<https://readingagency.org.uk/news/blog/national-reading-group-day-2020.html>

## Education

University of Manchester, is hosting a series of free online advice sessions to support parents and practitioners educating student(s) with Down syndrome at home and/or in school during the coronavirus pandemic.

<http://www.lucid.ac.uk/news-events-blog/events/free-advice-sessions-to-support-teaching-children-with-down-syndrome-at-home/>

## Barrington Stoke

Have a new home schooling resource – they have created a free digital pack of advice, information and resources to support dyslexic children. The *Home schooling Help for Lockdown Pack* is aimed at those parents, carers and educators now supervising dyslexic students and contains a variety of tips on reading and home schooling during lockdown, ideas of how to engage dyslexic readers, access to activities and resources for all ages, and a range of organisations for where to find further support.

You can find the pack here: <https://bit.ly/2WwF5HZ>

## Scribe UK / Scribble

Have published *Extraordinary Parenting – the essential guide to parenting and educating at home* by parent educator and coach Eloise Rickman. The book aims to support parents in educating their children at home, whether they are doing it by choice or in response to the situation they find themselves in, such as we are in now. Scribe have also produced some printable resources for parents available as a download pdf here:

[https://a1b29423df1c76886901-30f50311cbe25c4d753e0084f1029763.ssl.cf4.rackcdn.com/Extraordinary\\_Parenting\\_Printable\\_resources\\_02-CB.pdf](https://a1b29423df1c76886901-30f50311cbe25c4d753e0084f1029763.ssl.cf4.rackcdn.com/Extraordinary_Parenting_Printable_resources_02-CB.pdf)

## People

Meryl Streep and Benedict Cumberbatch among stars narrating James and the Giant Peach to raise funds to help vulnerable countries tackle Covid-19 crisis.

<https://www.theguardian.com/books/2020/may/18/taika-waititi-meryl-streep-benedict-cumberbatch-charity-roald-dahl-readings-james-and-the-giant-peach>

'Has your bum ever come off?': Andy Griffiths answers children's questions – video.

<https://www.theguardian.com/culture/video/2020/may/15/has-your-bum-ever-come-off-andy-griffiths-answers-childrens-questions-video>

Garth Nix is collecting questions: about his books, characters, anything at all, for a video Q&A.

<https://www.theguardian.com/culture/2020/may/18/garth-nix-is-here-to-answer-your-questions-about-his-books-characters-anything-at-all>

Tom Palmer's Spitfire Fund is a five-part free story for the RAF Museum (where he is Children's Writer in Residence) using their artefacts to commemorate the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Britain. Feel free to read this aloud.

<https://www.rafmuseum.org.uk/cosford/schools-and-colleges/school-resources.aspx>

*Tom Palmer's After the War* – Summer 1945. The Second World War is finally over and Yossi, Leo and Mordecai are among three hundred children who arrive in the English Lake District.

More information and resources at [www.tompalmer.co.uk/after-the-war/](http://www.tompalmer.co.uk/after-the-war/)

Tom Palmer is available for virtual author visits offering:

- Presentations
- Q&A
- Workshops
- Writing competitions
- Writing a story together

Contact Tom on Twitter @tompalmerauthor or email [admin@tompalmer.co.uk](mailto:admin@tompalmer.co.uk)

Latest updated lists of online resources. Includes Taika Waititi and celebrity friends reading James & the Giant Peach, news of the Summer Reading Challenge & the National Shelf Service.

<https://www.theguardian.com/books/booksblog/2020/apr/09/from-harry-potter-at-home-to-the-national-shelf-service-bookish-fun-for-the-lockdown>

JK Rowling has announced that she will release her new children's book, Ickabog, for free online. There will also be a competition to illustrate the final published version.

<https://www.independent.co.uk/arts-entertainment/books/news/jk-rowling-ickabog-new-book-read-free-twitter-harry-potter-a9532811.html>

### **Stay-at-home with Wally**

Wally and his friends are back in a nifty, travel-sized book of thrills! Packed full of paper-folding activities, games and searches, *Where's Wally? Paper Pandemonium* will get your brain in gear for adventure! Create lots of exhilarating Wally fun from a fleet of paper aeroplanes to a host of fantastic fortune tellers, with clear instructions for assembly. Click here for Where's Wally? at Home – full of links and downloadables for you to watch and use at home. <https://wally.walker.co.uk/>

### **Stay-at-home with the Old Vic**

The Old Vic have announced a series of virtual activity to continue to promote their work through lockdown. Their first play to be streamed virtually will be the theatrical adaptation of Patrick Ness' *A Monster Calls*. The production, featuring the original cast, will go live at 7pm on Friday 5 June and will be available to watch until Thursday 11 June on The Old Vic's YouTube channel.

[https://www.oldvictheatre.com/whats-on/2020/your-old-vic?utm\\_source=Twitter&utm\\_medium=Your%20Old%20Vic&utm\\_campaign=Socials&utm\\_term=Your%20Old%20Vic&utm\\_content=Your%20Old%20Vic](https://www.oldvictheatre.com/whats-on/2020/your-old-vic?utm_source=Twitter&utm_medium=Your%20Old%20Vic&utm_campaign=Socials&utm_term=Your%20Old%20Vic&utm_content=Your%20Old%20Vic)

### **Stay-at-home with Alex Rider**

We are delighted to share the news that the Alex Rider TV series will stream on Amazon Prime in the UK from 4<sup>th</sup> June – the full trailer is available below. The series is a new, grittier take on the much-loved books aimed at both a teenage and an adult audience and stars Otto Farrant as Alex, [Stephen Dillane](#) as Alan Blunt, [Vicky McClure](#) as Mrs. Jones, [Brenock O'Connor](#) as Rider's best friend Tom Harris, [Ronke Adékoluéjọ](#) as Jack Starbright, [Ace Bhattii](#) as Crawley, [Marli Siu](#) as Kyra and [Andrew Buchan](#) as Ian Rider.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4HEzyvRBDhI>

### **Stay-at-home with Quentin Blake**

Send a lovely **Quentin Blake** rainbow eCard for free!

<https://www.quentinblake.com/news/quentin-creates-portable-rainbows-free-e-cards>

### **Get ahead in Physics!**

Tom Whipple, Science Editor at The Times and author of *Get Ahead in Physics*, introduces the science of radiation without the boring bits! Discover why glow-in-the-dark drinks were the trendiest cocktails of the 1920s and how some forms of radiation can't escape your bottom in this fun and informative video. This is the first in a series with Tom, featuring lessons from his Get Ahead in Physics and Chemistry books. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QWBMlozhq6w>

### **Stay-at-home with Petr Horacek**

Take a look at Petr's latest blog on how to draw an elephant, along with a reading of his latest picture book, *The Best Place in the World*.

<http://www.petrhoracek.co.uk/blog/>

### **Stay-at-home with Handa's Surprise**

Actress Alexandra Shipp read Eileen Browne's *Handa's Surprise* for Save the Children to help raise funds for their coronavirus appeal. You can watch here:

<https://www.instagram.com/tv/CASOfE9Bc5F/>

## **Awards & Prizes**

The shortlist for the annual BookTrust Storytime Prize released. Now in its second year and managed in association with the CILIP Youth Libraries Group, the prize celebrates and promotes the best books for sharing with children.

<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/news-and-features/news/news-2020/booktrust-storytime-prize-shortlist-unveiled/>

2020 Society of Authors Awards shortlists, including new Queen's Knickers Award, recognising a quirky, outstanding children's illustrated book for ages 0-7.

<https://www.societyofauthors.org/News/News/2020/May/SoA-Awards-2020-shortlist>

Shortlist Announced for School Library Association Information Book Award 2020.

<https://www.sla.org.uk/article/richard-leveridge/shortlist-announced-for-school-library-association-information-book-award-2020/2018>

The shortlist for the Klaus Flugge Prize, for the most promising and exciting newcomer to children's picture book illustration.

<https://www.klausfluggeprize.co.uk/>

## **Poetry**

Love reading 4 Kids Poetry Prize and free workshop in association with National Poetry Day – "See it like a Poet"

<https://www.lovereadng4kids.co.uk/submit-poem-entry>