



EDUCATION LIBRARY SERVICE

As we enter the fifth week of the school shutdown, our thoughts remain with the teachers, support staff and parents who are working so hard to keep children feeling happy and secure in these uncertain times.

Although we are currently unable to make deliveries or collections, ELS staff can still be contacted via email – 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](https://twitter.com/CheshireELS) where we'll be sharing news and resources, delivering online story times, and setting our own bookish challenges!



Online resources to support children at home and at school



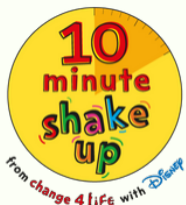
Daily from 9AM on [BBC iPlayer](https://www.bbc.com/iplayer)

With over 150 new lessons published every week, [BBC Bitesize Daily](https://www.bbc.com/iplayer) is set to be the most comprehensive homeschooling programme in our history. Combining 20 minutes lessons, podcasts, videos and games, it aims to cover the core curriculum, including lessons on wellbeing. You can find weekly schedules on Twitter [@bbc_bitesize](https://twitter.com/bbcbitesize)



Daily from... whenever you like!

Discover some of the world's most impressive museums and galleries with [Google Arts and Culture](https://artsandculture.google.com/). Studying Van Gogh? Take a closer at '[The Starry Night](https://artsandculture.google.com/exhibit/the-starry-night)'. Interested in footballers of the past? Visit Manchester's [National Football Museum](https://www.nfmuseum.com/). Best of all, you can now apparate to the British Library's unmissable exhibition, [Harry Potter: A History of Magic!](https://www.britishlibrary.org/exhibitions/harry-potter-a-history-of-magic)



Can you master Timon and Pumbaa's power moves? Get children active with these [Disney-inspired exercises!](#)



Is your home feeling like a zoo at the moment? Experience the real thing with Chester Zoo's [virtual zoo tours!](#)



Explore the International Space Station (and other amazing new worlds) with [Minecraft: Education Edition](#). Free until 30th June.



Tracy Beaker has a [podcast](#)? Listen in to see what Tracy gets up to next!



Author readings and drawalongs



[Facebook page](#) sharing recordings of author readings and online events. Recent additions include Benji Davies reading his wonderful picture book *Grandma Bird*.



Creative writing classes from [Zanib Mian](#), author of the hilarious *Planet Omar* series. Available on [YouTube](#).



[#DrawWithRob](#) every Tuesday and Thursday at 10am. Catch up with the drawalongs so far on Rob Biddulph's [website](#).

On Friday 24th April at 7am, [Steven Lenton](#) will be completing a 24 Hour Drawathon in aid of the NHS. For anyone who'd like to sharpen up their skills before the Drawathon, Steve has posted a series of 15 minute doodle sessions on [YouTube](#).



Clara Vulliamy, author of the *Dotty Detective* series, presents [#ArtWithClara](#) on [YouTube](#). In episode 3, Clara shows us how to make our own unbreakable code!

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/>

Poetry Corner

No matter if it makes you laugh, cry or scrunch your nose up and think 'Huh!', there's something special about poetry and its ability to reach people, especially children. Here are just two of the amazing poets sharing their work during the lockdown.



[Joseph Coelho](#) is a passionate advocate of libraries, literacy and – of course – poetry! You can watch Joseph in action [here](#). Follow him on [Twitter](#) for the latest news and poems.



Children (and adults!) love [Matt Goodfellow's](#) high energy, madcap poetry. Watch Matt's videos on [YouTube](#) for poetry writing tips and readings.

Guest Review

by [The Literacy Company](#)

Tad by Benji Davies



We have loved using this book with EYFS&KS1 children as the words lend themselves so well to the application of phonics (gulp, frog, swish, pond, Blub) and spelling rules for plurals and suffix endings (biggest, faster, tails). There are also some lovely Science links with nature, lifecycles, habitats and growth as well as the PSHE focus on how we are all unique and different. The images alone, will provide plenty of discussion and exploration of life below the surface of the pond.

Read the full review [here](#).



Essential Twitter accounts to follow

Use the hashtags #FreeBookResources, #LearningAtHome and #UnitedbyBooks

[@bbcbitesize](#)

BBC BITESIZE

[@readingagency](#)

THE READING AGENCY

[@cwaclibraries](#)

*CHESHIRE WEST AND
CHESTER LIBRARIES*

[@CECLibraries](#)

*CHESHIRE EAST
LIBRARIES*

[@booksfortopics](#)

BOOKS FOR TOPICS

[@OpenUni_RfP](#)

*READING FOR PLEASURE
(OPEN UNIVERSITY)*

[@authorfy](#)

AUTHORFY

[@whatSFsaid](#)

*SF SAID
(AUTHOR)*



(Some of the) publishers and organisations offering free resources

Click on the logos to be taken to the free stuff!





Useful websites

For more useful links, please see our [previous newsletter](#) and the [ELS website](#).

Beano: <https://www.beano.com>

Pitched at children, the Beano website is full of boredom-busting activities and games.

Caryl Hart: <https://www.carylhart.com/special-projects/free-book-resources>

As well as activity sheets and lesson plans based on her own books, Caryl Hart has compiled a growing list of free resources created by other authors and illustrators.

CBeebies Bedtime Stories:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episodes/b00jdlm2/cbeebies-bedtime-stories>

Archive of recent episodes.

Children's Poetry Archive: <https://childrens.poetryarchive.org/>

Listen to the world's best poetry read out loud. Searchable by theme and age suitability.

DK Find Out!: <https://www.dkfindout.com/uk>

Safe, accessible and easy to use, DK's Find Out! website is an ideal research tool for children working independently.

Hay Festival: <https://www.hayfestival.com/education>

As part of the festival's Programme for Schools, watch over 50 author events, including the ever-popular Cressida Cowell, Kiran Millwood Hargrave, and Michael Rosen.

Peters: <https://peters.co.uk>

Book recommendations, author Q&As, library tips and useful literacy advice from one of Britain's biggest suppliers of children's books.

RadioBlogging: <https://radioblogging.net/>

Daily live radio show featuring poet and teacher Pie Corbett. Listeners can expect fun, interactive and educational activities including creative writing tasks.

Scottish Book Trust (Authors Live on Demand):

<https://www.scottishbooktrust.com/authors-live-on-demand>

Catch up on videos of children's authors such as Chris Riddell and Jacqueline Wilson.

Tiny Happy People: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/tiny-happy-people>

Activities for babies, toddlers and children, including singalong videos of well-known nursery rhymes.

Tom Palmer: <https://tompalmer.co.uk/>

Free resources based on Tom Palmer's popular books, including activity sheets, reading guides, videos and short stories. Ideal for reluctant readers in KS2.

Usborne Play & Learn at Home: <https://usborne.com/play-and-learn-at-home/>

Digital hub filled with free downloadable resources for primary school children. Includes 'Unworry Activities' and 'Virtual Days Out'.

