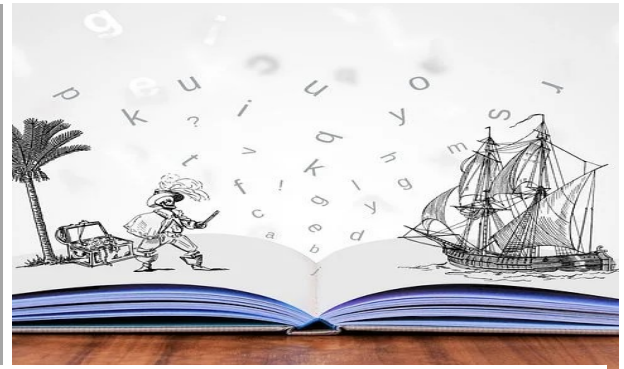


Summer Literacy Newsletter: Transition Special



After the disruption to Year 6 this year, many parents will be wondering how they can help their child get 'Year 7 ready' over the holidays. **Two of the most useful things you can do to help your child feel more confident when they get to secondary school, are to make sure they keep up with their reading, and give them opportunities to talk.** Both of these will help practise skills which will be needed in every subject, and also help your child to develop their vocabulary. This newsletter is full of suggestions of easy and varied activities to help your child keep those important literacy skills ticking over during the holidays!



SUMMER READING CHALLENGE 2020

HOME FIND A READ BOOK SORTER READING CLUB CHAT ACTIVITIES NEWS GAMES ABOUT



JOIN THE SILLY SQUAD

TAKE THE CHALLENGE

Last chance to get involved!

Wiltshire Libraries Summer Reading Challenge

With the disruption caused by Covid-19 and the impact of social distancing on schools and public libraries, the 2020 Challenge has launched in a new digital format designed to keep children engaged and interested in reading. It supports parents and carers with children already at home, and will run from 5 June to mid-September.

The Summer Reading Challenge website is free to access and features games, quizzes and downloadable activities that incentivise and encourage children to take part in reading related activities.

Although public library buildings are closed, libraries will continue to deliver the Challenge through virtual services and e-lending platforms.

Visit your [local library website](#) to find out how you can access eBooks, audiobooks, comics and magazines for free that you can use to complete the Challenge at home.

Year 6: Just keep reading!

Why is reading for pleasure important?

- Currently, 1 in 5 children in England cannot read well by the age of 11. We know that reading for fun improves literacy.
- Reading for pleasure is more important to children's academic success than their parents' level of education or socio-economic status.
- Embedding a love of reading in children can help their wellbeing later in life. 19% of adult readers say that reading stops them feeling lonely.
- Studies have found that those who read for pleasure have higher levels of empathy, greater self-esteem and are better able to cope with difficult situations.

Reading Challenges!



Book Bingo—how many can your reader complete before September?

Listen to an audiobook	Read a comic/ graphic novel	Read a book that was made into a film	Read something funny
<u>Make a miniature book</u> Or - Try <u>book folding</u>	Read a book set in a different time or place	Read in the garden	Read out aloud to a member of your family – in your house, via FaceTime, or to a pet!
Reread an old favourite	Have a go at <u>creating a bookspine poem</u>	Read something that a family member enjoyed reading as a child	Try a <u>book from the top 50 classics for children</u>

If your child loves making videos, film them reviewing a book they have read, or encourage them to make their own adaptations of books Lego figures, sweets, or even fruits and vegetables as characters.

Join thousands of children around the world photographing themselves in unusual and unlikely places simply reading a good book. Google 'extreme reading' for inspiration, and challenge your child to come up with a new location every week over the summer.

What about designing mini-magazines, websites, or book covers? Encourage your reader to make their own featuring a favourite author, character, or non-fiction topic. Make a paper version or try free online templates such as [Wix](https://www.wix.com/) and magazine tools like [Canva](https://www.canva.com/). Or try this: <https://penguin.jos.ht/> to create a Penguin Classic cover.



Educational research shows that pupils who are encouraged to read for pleasure are more likely to achieve in all subjects. Why?

Because:

- Reading helps children to master language.
- Children who have read widely will have gained more knowledge about the world.
- Reading “feeds the mind”. While reading, children’s brains are completing a multitude of unconscious processes, creating and strengthening new connections. It makes you cleverer!

In short : children who read outside of school have an increased chance of achieving and succeeding in school.

How Can I Help Support My Child’s Reading?

- Always take a positive approach to reading - talk about books, visit the library and ensure adults are seen reading too. Talk about books you enjoy or liked at their age.
- Let your child choose what they want to read. Reading is reading whatever the format.
- If they try a book and don’t like it, don’t insist they finish it.
- Keep a reading routine in place where you listen to your child read, or **read to them**—older children still enjoy it, even if they might not admit it!
- Encourage children to switch off devices half an hour before they go to bed, and read instead. It’s a habit, and they only need 20-30 minutes a night regularly. Start with shorter times if needed. Taking away the blue light will also ensure that your child gets better quality sleep.
- Use rewards to help motivate your child to read if they are reluctant, and praise and encourage them as they read.
- Let them listen **to audio books** as an alternative.
- Let them **reread old favourites as well as age-appropriate reads.**—there’s comfort in familiarity
- **Ask them about their reading**—especially if they are reading independently now. Get them to read their favourite bit to you. Ask them questions about what they think will happen next. Borrow their books and read them and then discuss them.
- Get them to make a reading den—somewhere cosy and small where they can enjoy reading. Lots of ideas **here**.

Reading Online: Websites to Celebrate and Inspire Reading

KS3 Recommended Reads

World Book Day - Browse their booklists for children and young people at all ages and stages – for ideas and inspiration. There are stacks of links to book related resources and videos too.

Authorfy - this is a great website. Full of free resources, activity packs, writing prompts, author videos and brilliant book recommendations this is a good way to entertain and educate children as it is so engaging.

The British Library Discovering Children’s Books - this new website has a wide range of information and resources available, from how to draw a Gruffalo to how to make a mini book.

www.topsta.com - a website full of book recommendations, including videos and activity packs. There are over 55,000 books reviews - all by children!

Harry Potter fans: <https://www.wizardingworld.com/collections/harry-potter-at-home>

Branching Out—What to Read If You Like....

Books for Topics



If you like...

David Walliams

try these...



Books for Topics



If you like...

Harry Potter

try these...



More suggestions and booklists can be found here!
<https://www.booksfortopics.com/branching-out>

Books for Topics



If you like...

Tom Gates

try these...



If you like...

Roald Dahl

try these...





Fun With Words



Easy Things to Do at Home

Helping your child increase their vocabulary

Words are Important!

Recent Government studies have shown **the importance of pupils having a wide vocabulary**—it helps them to understand what they read in all subjects, and means they can express their ideas precisely. The studies have also flagged up the impact of having a poor vocabulary—children with a poor range of vocabulary make slower progress in reading and writing, and achieve worse results in their tests in school. They also find it difficult making friends and working independently, and have lower self-esteem (*OUP Why Closing the Word Gap Matters, 2018*).

How Can I Help?

Parent involvement is key to helping children to learn new words—check out the easy suggestions here for what you can do to encourage your child to develop their vocabulary. You'll also be helping them to settle in at their new secondary school because having a wide vocabulary will help your child to thrive.

There are two main ways you can support your child and help to build their vocabulary as they move from primary to secondary school:

- ⇒ by encouraging **reading for pleasure**
- ⇒ by finding ways to **talk together more** at home.

Try to find time to chat daily, even if it's when you're just doing chores around the house.

Watch TV together – and talk about what you're watching like the families on *Gogglebox*. Discuss any new words or things that you find interesting.

Eat together whenever possible, and chat about everyday things. Let your son or daughter lead the topics of conversation.

Praise your child if they use an interesting or unusual word: 'Great choice of word!' or 'You just used a really interesting word' or 'I love that word!'

When you can, try to listen carefully and with real interest when your child talks to you. Leave pauses to encourage them to say more.

Become more word conscious – use 'adult' words in normal conversation, and take the time to explain what they mean.



Fun With Words

WORDS are IN MY
NOT SO HUMBLE
OPINION, and most
INEXHAUSTIBLE
SOURCE OF
MAGIC
—ALBUS DUMBLEDORE

Easy Things to Do on a Journey

Listen to talk radio together, and discuss the news or topic.

Play word game apps together such as *Alphabear 2*, *Wordscapes*, *Wheel of Fortune*, *Scribblenauts Remix*, or *Four Letters*.

Find puzzle books, cross-words, word searches and anagrams in discount bookshops and newsagents. Solve them together.

Listen to audiobooks or podcasts on longer journeys.

Listen to music, and talk about the lyrics.

Hypothetically speaking—come up with imaginary situations and what you would do—e.g. suddenly becoming invisible

Play car games:

- **20 questions** – try to identify a person or object in 20 questions or fewer.
- **A variation of 20 questions** is ‘I’m thinking of a ...’ Disney character, Marvel character, sea creature etc
- **Two truths and a lie** – take it in turns to guess the lie.
- **Would you rather?** – ask each other ‘Would you rather...?’ about a range of topics such as ‘*Would you rather eat a snail or a hippo?*’ or ‘*Would you rather be trapped in a room with Donald Trump or Simon Cowell?*’
- **Alphabet game** – choose a category (football teams, sweets, music, etc.), and take it in turns to work your way through the alphabet starting with A, e.g. AC Milan.
- **Word association** – start with a word, and the next person has to think of a word that’s associated with it.