

Reading Update January 2021



Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to you to give you an update about our plans to support reading for the remaining weeks of the school closure. As a school, we believe it is vital that children are able to continue to develop their fluency and comprehension skills during this time. As such, we will be implementing the following provision over the coming week:

Children on reading scheme band books (e.g. Big Cat Reading Books or Oxford Reading Tree)

As you are already aware, Oxford Owl online provide a range of free books. However, to make this easier for you to access children who are on a band book will be provided a class log in to the Oxford Owl Online Library (<https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk>). This will give children access to a number of e-books suited to their reading level to enjoy at home. Please contact your class teacher if you are not sure which reading books to access (we use the book band system). There are interactive activities available for you to do with your child at the end of each book.

The re-reading of books is extremely beneficial to building confidence with reading and is advised as part of the National Curriculum. We would therefore recommend taking the time to re-read available books over a few nights to support progress.

If you think that your child is ready to move up a band, as they are fluent in their accuracy, pace and expression and have a good understanding of the texts they have read, please communicate this with your child's teacher via email. Once pupils return to school, we will reassess children's reading and ensure that the reading level they are accessing reflects their progress.

Reading for pleasure (beyond the band books)

Whilst reading scheme band books are a fantastic way of progressively improving reading skills, we would also like to take this opportunity to emphasise the importance in finding joy in reading and encouraging all children to continue with this.

Reading (and reading for pleasure) can be developed in a number of ways day-to-day:

- Reading books that your children own and enjoy.
- Playing word games (*scrabble, hangman*).
- Day-to-day reading around the home or outside (*recipes, instructions, signs*).
- Phonics Play (<https://www.phonicsplay.co.uk>) has lots of fun games for a KS1 child to develop their decoding skills.
- There are plenty of interesting, child-friendly news articles on BBC Newsround.



Oak National Academy

Oak National Academy and the National Literacy Trust have come together to launch our [Virtual School Library](#) to keep children reading during lockdown.

Every week, a popular children's author will become our '[Author of the Week](#)' and provide a free book or audiobook aimed at primary school children available at library.thenational.academy.

The first author is Dame Jacqueline Wilson DBE who talks about how her infamous character Tracy Beaker got her name, offers exclusive activities and recommends her top reads to check out. The Story of Tracy Beaker is also available to read for free for a week.

Wakefield Library

Wakefield library have a digital catalogue of books you can download to your computer or mobile device. If you visit <https://www.wakefield.gov.uk/libraries-and-local-history/digital-library> it explains how to take advantage of this service. You will need a library card but if you don't have one you can create an account online, however you will have to visit the library with some ID so they can verify your address.

This resource is especially useful for those children who are currently free readers or children who would like to choose from a variety of books.

Books for Topics

Books for Topics (<https://www.booksfortopics.com/>) have created a recommend reading list for your child's reading group and produced a catalogue of books which would help support your child wider curriculum topics.

In addition, they have provided some links to some videos that are being read online by the author of the book (<https://www.booksfortopics.com/storytime-online>) from 3-year olds to 11-year olds.

Free eBook Websites

These are some other website that offer free reading material for you to use.

BookTrust: <https://www.booktrust.org.uk/books-and-reading/bookfinder/>

Free Children Stories: <https://www.freechildrenstories.com/>

Monkey Pen: <https://monkeypen.com/pages/free-childrens-books>

Magic Keys: <http://www.magickeys.com/books/>

Please take advantage of some of the fantastic resources that are available for free!

Thank you.

Mr Paine (Reading Leader)

