

Online Resources Guide for Schools and Families

All information correct as of March 2020.

Free Resources from Medway Libraries

- 12,000+ **eBooks and eAudiobooks** for all ages – access via our website, the Libby app (Overdrive app if using a Kindle), or <https://medway.overdrive.com/>.
- 130+ **eMagazines**- including *Radio Times, BBC Good Food, Empire, Mojo, BBC History Magazine, Playstation, Top Gear, Match of the Day, Rugby World, National Geographic (including Kids and Little Kids editions), The Economist, Horse & Hound, Gardener's World, Attitude, GQ, Vogue, Cosmopolitan, Country Living, New Scientist, Q, and Viz*. Our selection includes magazines on parenting, gardening, homes and interiors, nature, photography, art, sport, entertainment, craft, travel, family history, science, cars, trains, fitness, food, children's, technology, and more. Access via our website, the RBDigital App, or <http://www.rbdigital.com/medway/>. *Please note there are also lots of eMagazines on Pressreader, e.g. Beano (see Newspapers).*
- 1,500+ **eComics**, including **manga**, *The Witcher, Star Trek, X-Men, Umbrella Academy* and Marvel titles such as *the Avengers, Black Panther, Guardians of the Galaxy, Deadpool, Thor, Loki*, and more. There are also children's titles and Disney comics, *Popeye, My Little Pony* and more. Access via our website, the RBDigital App, or <http://www.rbdigital.com/medway/>.
- **Newspapers** such as *The Guardian, The Independent, The Kent Messenger, Newsweek* and *The Daily Telegraph*, as well as a selection of children's titles. Access via our website, the Pressreader app, or <https://www.pressreader.com/catalog>.
- Family history website **Ancestry**. Visit <https://medway.spydus.co.uk> and sign in with your library card. Ancestry can be accessed via the drop down box from your name on the top right or in My Account on the left hand side.
- Online reference resources, such as **Encyclopaedia Britannica** (Junior, Student and Adult), Access to Research and Oxford Reference Online. The full links and access can be found here:
https://www.medway.gov.uk/info/200181/libraries/68/online_reference_library

With a Medway Libraries card number and PIN, you and your family can access all the above for free. To join the library and gain instant online access, please sign up here:

https://www.medway.gov.uk/info/200181/libraries/53/join_the_library/1

When Medway Libraries reopen, please pop by any of our libraries to collect your physical card.

If you already have an account, but have forgotten your PIN, please click here:
<https://medway.spydus.co.uk/cgi-bin/spydus.exe/PGM/WPAC/CCOPT/RPWD/1>

Links to all the services and resources above can also be found on the Medway Libraries website (<https://www.medway.gov.uk/libraries>). They can be accessed on a computer, smartphone, tablet and many eReaders.

If you need help or have any queries, please contact Emily Maycock at emily.maycock@medway.gov.uk.

*Please also note that **all physical library items are now loaned for 56 days and will not accrue any fines** (or DVD and audiobook recharges). Cards due to expire have also been bumped on to 2021, so nothing should interfere with your access to our online content.*

Free Author/Illustrator Resources

Many authors and illustrators are offering free storytimes and resources on their social media, websites and YouTube channels. If your child has a favourite author, it's worth looking them up as this list is not exhaustive.

Julia Donaldson

<https://www.gruffalo.com/>

J K Rowling

<https://www.jkrowling.com/>

For particularly great resources (both fun and educational) head to <https://harrypotter.bloomsbury.com/uk/harry-potter-book-night/>

R J Palacio

<https://wonderthebook.com/>

Enid Blyton

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

Oliver Jeffers

At 6pm on every weekday, Oliver Jeffers will be reading one of his picture books, and will talk about how he made it. His Twitter account is <https://twitter.com/OliverJeffers>.

Michael Rosen

<https://www.michaelrosen.co.uk/>
<https://poetryarchive.org/poet/michael-rosen/>

Roald Dahl

<https://www.roalddahl.com/home/kids>

David Walliams

<https://www.worldofdavidwalliams.com/>

Ross Montgomery

Plenty of resources on his website <http://rossmontgomery.co.uk/> and he will be creating more every day, which he will link to on his Twitter feed:

<https://twitter.com/mossmontgomery>.

Rob Biddulph

The official World Book Day illustrator giving online drawing classes.

<https://twitter.com/RobBiddulph/status/1239307959181639683?s=19>

Free Online Resources

BookTrust Home Time Hub

BookTrust Home Time contains free books, videos, games, recipes, competitions and quizzes. A menu of ideas including activity sheets and live drawalongs has been created by children's authors and illustrators. The whole BookTrust website is an incredible resource for all things reading.

<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/books-and-reading/have-some-fun>

Also the Staring Into Space activity pack, created with Lauren Child:

<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/what-we-do/childrens-laureate/former-laureates/lauren-child/staring-into-space/>

BBC

For a full run-down of how the BBC will support the nation during the school shutdown:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/mediacentre/latestnews/2020/bbc-keeping-nation-informed-educated-entertained>

BBC Bitesize:

Comprehensive educational and wellbeing content for 3-11, 11-16 and 16+ year olds:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize>

BBC Tiny Happy People:

Help to develop children's communication skills. Explore simple activities and play ideas and find out about children's early development.

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

Cbeebies Alphablocks:

Watch as the letters of the alphabet tell stories and make words using phonics. Play the learning game, watch clips and print colouring pages.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/shows/alphablocks>

Cbeebies Numberblocks:

Sing along a learn all about numbers.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/shows/numberblocks>

Cbeebies Radio:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/radio>

BBC Supermovers:

Fun curriculum-linked resources to get students moving while they learn.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/supermovers>

BBC Fact or Fake:

Resources on fake news, suitable for all ages:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/tags/zr2yscw/fact-or-fake>

Blue Peter:

Activities, clips and articles.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbbc/shows/blue-peter>

How to apply for Blue Peter badges:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbbc/joinin/about-blue-peter-badges>

Collins Connect

Learning and teaching resources for a range of subjects including English, maths and science at all levels (primary and secondary), as well as international curricula.

On www.collins.co.uk they also provide free resources and support to parents who have children at home. It includes more than 300 e-books from its Big Cat reading programme, activity sheets, a times tables practice tool, revision and PDF downloads of many of its titles. Collins is adding resources daily to the site.

In addition, Collins will be enabling free access to textbooks in e-book format for schools that are already using its titles in the classroom so that pupils can continue their learning at home.

<https://collins.co.uk/pages/support-learning-at-home>

Scottish Book Trust

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

World Book Day

Authors give writing advice, plus quizzes and other resources.

<https://www.worldbookday.com/storycraft-videos/>

<https://www.worldbookday.com/online-masterclasses/>

National Literacy Trust

National Literacy Trust site for families, includes a reading of a Sarah Jane (Dr Who) story.

<http://www.wordsforlife.org.uk/7-11>

The British Library

The British Library's Discovering Children's Books new online resource, creative activities, interviews, history of classic children's literature.

<https://www.bl.uk/childrens-books>

Publishers

For author interviews, recommended books, activity sheets and quizzes:

<https://www.egmont.co.uk/childrens-websites/>

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

<https://www.penguin.co.uk/articles/children.html>

<https://clubs-kids.scholastic.co.uk/>

<https://peters.co.uk/100-books-for-parents>

Sir Linkalot

Award-winning app Sir Linkalot uses animations to teach children clever tricks to improve spelling and grammar. It has the backing of lexicographer Susie Dent and is free for the duration of the outbreak.

<https://www.sirlinkalot.org/>

Authorfy

Authorfy brings readers and writers closer together through interactive video masterclasses, fun downloadable activities, and exciting after school club resources.

<https://authorfy.com/>

James Dyson Foundation

44 engineering and science challenges from the engineers at Dyson. For children aged 7+.

https://www.jamesdysonfoundation.co.uk/content/dam/pdf/JDF_with%20cover%20challenge-cards_DIGITAL.pdf?fbclid=IwAR13kslwXKSdCDuFgJxDwENHqHb8E3Nq_Wwq1dlqgudd4AVRcpobwccqa98

Ask A School Librarian

A place to ask a question if you are a parent or teacher looking for resources.

<https://www.greatschoolibraries.org.uk/askalibrarian>

The Science Museum

A range of free learning games.

<https://www.sciencemuseum.org.uk/games-and-apps>

BrainPop

Offers animated movies on topics in maths, science and English.

<https://www.brainpop.com/>

Tynker

Coding lesson for kids.

<https://www.tynker.com/>

Creative Bug

Craft lessons, from knitting to jewellery-making, drawing and origami.

<https://www.creativebug.com/>

British Science Week

Activity packs to download for early years, primary school and secondary school children around the theme of "Diverse Planet"

<https://www.britishscienceweek.org/plan-your-activities/activity-packs/>

YouTube Free School

A range of videos looking at subjects as diverse as the US constitution, coral reefs and the solar system.

<https://www.youtube.com/user/watchfreeschool>

Scratch

A range of coding tutorials and activities.

<https://scratch.mit.edu/ideas>

TED-ed

"Lessons worth sharing" from teachers around the globe.

<https://ed.ted.com/>

Oxford OWL

Good website for early reading and phonics.

<https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk/>

Sumdog

Personalised maths practise for children aged 6-14 through games.

<https://pages.sumdog.com/>

ICT Games

Free ICT games, made by a UK teacher.

<http://ictgames.co.uk/>

Virtual Museum Tours

<https://www.travelandleisure.com/attractions/museums-galleries/museums-with-virtual-tours>

Times Table Rock Stars

Fun free maths resources, games and activities.

<https://trockstars.com/page/covid19support>

Joe Wicks

Live PE lessons hosted on YouTube, and a playlist workouts for kids to do at home.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCAxW1XT0iEJo0TYIRfn6rYQ>

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLyCLOpd4VxBvPHOpzoEk5onAEbg40g2-k>

National Geographic Kids

Fun learning games including quizzes, puzzles and word scrambles.

<https://www.natgeokids.com/uk/category/play-and-win/games/>

Premier League Primary Stars

A wide collection of free, curriculum-linked activities to educate and entertain children at home. Ideas to help children get active, as well as fun videos, games and worksheets for Maths, English and Health and Wellbeing.

<https://plprimarystars.com/>

Scholastic UK

Downloadable activity sheets to tie in with book characters, colouring and drawing activities, puzzles, teaching resources, quizzes, videos from authors and more.

<https://shop.scholastic.co.uk/covid-19-home-learning-coronavirus>

A range of free Home Learning Packs to help parents engage their children at home. Download Early Years, KS1, Lower KS2 and Upper KS2 packs on the Home Learning Hub.

<https://shop.scholastic.co.uk/homelearning>

Scholastic US

US-centric learn-at-home website, with an excellent range of information.

<https://classroommagazines.scholastic.com/support/learnathome.html>

Twinkl

Worksheets, activities and crafts for pre-school and primary aged children.

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

Cosmic Kids

A range of activities to develop motor skills in under 5s.

<https://www.cosmickids.com/>

Phonics Play

Good website for early reading and phonics.

<https://new.phonicsplay.co.uk/>

NewsGuard

A browser extension and app which has been designed to combat fake news. Users have access to ratings and reviews of website reliability, integrated directly in their social media feeds and search engine results. The developer has made it free for the duration of the virus, has a dedicated coronavirus misinformation tracking centre.

<https://www.newsguardtech.com/>

Openlearn

Free taster courses aimed at those considering Open University but everyone can access it. Adult level, but some e.g. nature and environment courses could well be of interest to young people.

<https://www.open.edu/openlearn/>

Blockly

Learn computer programming skills - fun and free.

<https://blockly.games>

Duolingo

Learn languages for free. Web or app.

<https://www.duolingo.com>

Mystery Science

Free science lessons.

<https://mysteryscience.com>

The Kids Should See This

Wide range of fun educational videos.

<https://thekidshouldseethis.com>

Crash Course

YouTube videos on a range of subjects.

<https://thecrashcourse.com>

Crash Course Kids

As above for a younger audience.

<https://m.youtube.com/user/crashcoursekids>

iDEA Awards

Online digital enterprise award scheme.

<https://idea.org.uk>

Tinkercad

Tinkercad is a free, easy-to-use app for 3D design, electronics, and coding.

<https://www.tinkercad.com>

Woodland Trust: Nature Detectives

Outdoor activities and educational resources. Many can be done in a garden.

<https://naturedetectives.woodlandtrust.org.uk/naturedetectives/>

British Council

Excellent resources for exploring other cultures, and English language learning.

<https://www.britishcouncil.org/school-resources/find>

Big History Project

Big History is a free social studies course that spans 13.8 billion years. It weaves insights from many disciplines to form a single story that helps us better understand people, civilizations, and how we are connected to everything around us. Aimed at secondary school aged students. Includes activities and badges.

<https://www.bighistoryproject.com/home>

Geography Games

Free geography games.

<https://world-geography-games.com/world.html>

The Artful Parent

Free art activities.

<https://www.facebook.com/artfulparent/>

Red Ted Art

Easy arts and crafts.

<https://www.redtedart.com>

Toy Theater

Free educational online games.

<https://toytheater.com/>

DK Find Out

Activities, resources and quizzes.

<https://www.dkfindout.com/uk/>