



Welcome to our third Library Newsletter. Our situation in school is so different from the last time I wrote a newsletter. Still... one of the things we can all still do at home is read!

Reading during Lockdown.

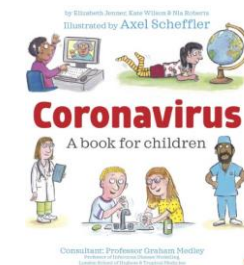
One of the positive aspects of being at home for such a long time is that new research shows that many more parents are reading at home with their children. Other traditional activities such as playing board games have also increased. Some parents even say that because of lockdown they have read their child a bedtime story for the first time!

Reading books is an escape and can be a great way to spend time with a family member whilst we have space in our busy lives to do so. Gemma Malley, the Director of Book Trust has recently said "Reading together isn't just great to children's educational outcomes; it also builds resilience, confidence and opens up conversations on difficult issues. With schools closed, reading together has never been more important."

Finding great books for children to read at this time is tricky when you are not able to go out but there have been several ways that this has been made easier for you:

1. Axel Scheffler – best known as the illustrator of books like The Gruffalo – has illustrated a new book written by Elizabeth Jenner, Kate Wilson and Nia Roberts to help young children understand Coronavirus and talk about their feelings during lockdown. You can access the free book through this link: <https://axelscheffler.com/books-for-older-children/coronavirus>
2. The national Literacy Trust have also released a beautiful book of stories collated by Katherine Rundell. The book is a collection of stories of hope written by various authors including Michael Morpurgo and Jacqueline Wilson. Its is dedicated to the workers of the NHS. You can access the free book using this link <https://literacytrust.org.uk/family-zone/9-12/book-hopes/>
3. This website provides free books for you to access. You can find a book that is on a particular topic that you are interested in or maybe even to help you with your home learning. <https://readon.myon.co.uk/>
4. Don't forget that staff at RMPA are regularly posting videos of themselves reading stories for your children to watch. Look at our website to find the links.

Whether you are able to return to school or you are still at home – stay safe and remember to read!



Reviews by pupils and staff of RMPA:



Mrs Salisbury – Holes by Louis Sachar

I started reading this book as it was recommended to me by Felix in year 5.

I would call this book quite strange, even the main character has a strange name – Stanley Yelnats. The story is really unusual and has lots of strands of ideas but they all come together at the end so it makes you keep reading, I couldn't put it down!

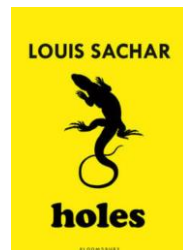
This book is set in America and Stanley has been sent to Camp Green Lake, which is an alternative to prison and where boys who have been naughty are sent. Stanley thinks it will be nice at Camp Green Lake but unfortunately the jobs they have to do are far from nice. Every single day the boys have to dig a hole, five feet deep and five feet wide in the scorching hot sun. There is no lake so the boys have to dig hard, sunbaked earth, with not much food and hardly any water. It's excruciating work.

There are happy bits – Stanley makes friends with the people in his group and they all have cool nick names. Stanley particularly gets on with a quiet boy called Zero. However, there are also sad bits when there is a twist and Stanley and Zero are stuck together, with the risk of death.

I would give this book 10/10 and strongly recommend it for anyone in year 5 or 6 who's looking for something a little different. It's full of excitement and discoveries and I was not disappointed by the ending. I'm really glad I read this book. I hope you will do too.

Miss Wheeldon – The land of Roar by Jenny McLachlan.

It's got very similar aspects to Peter Pan, just more modern. The main characters are twins who are just about to go to secondary school, and are dealing with the pressure of being "normal". I just read it and I really enjoyed it!



Lexi Ilett – Matilda by Roald Dahl.

The characters: Matilda, Miss Honey, Mr and Mrs Wormwood and Miss Trunchball. I didn't like Mr and Mrs wormwood or Miss Truchball because they made me mad. I like Matilda and Miss Honey because thy make me happy.

Plot: A girl called Matilda loved to read. She read every boo in her house and all of the magazines. When her mother went to bingo, her father worked and her brother went to school she went to the library to find more books. Miss Trunchball, the Headmistress is a big bully and she wants to throw everyone in the chokey. What happens next?

Would you recommend it? I loved the book. My favourite part is when Matilda used her eyes to tip the newt on Miss Trunchball. I would recommend this book to anyone who loves to read because Matilda loves to read.



Why not try Daniel Henshaw's new book:

For those of you who remember our author visit from Daniel Henshaw in 2018 this is a very exciting time. Daniel, author of "The great snail robbery" is releasing a new book in June.

"Glenkilly" will be his character Jeremy Green's spookiest adventure yet:

After arriving in the Scottish Highlands on a school camping trip, Jeremy follows a mysterious trail into the dark forest, where he notices a strange, red-eyed creature watching him through the trees. Nobody believes him but the edgy camp leaders seem to be hiding something.

Despite being scared of everything in Scotland – the breeze and the bats and the bagpipes – when Jeremy digs a little deeper, he uncovers an intriguing mystery.

What's happening to all the animals? What is the secretive conservation group working near the castle really up to? And why does the river smell like farts?

