May 2020

BOOK BITES

Tasty morsels from your Education Library Service

Resources and help for those educating children at home

We're still keeping an eye out for resources and online help for those currently educating children at home; there are lots of things available, so here is a round-up of useful bits we've found so far. For previous editions of this newsletter, please visit this special page on our blog **(click link)**

We'll be sharing anything else we find via twitter, so make sure you take a look or follow us if you have access: **www.twitter.com/norfolkels**

It's MAY – and it's National Share a Story Month!

We think every month is good to share a story, and certainly since lockdown we've all been enjoying telling and sharing no end of stories! But it's great to know that this month it's OFFICIAL- and the theme for this year is The Planet We Share. See the Federation of Children's Book Groups website for lots of information: www.fcbg.org.uk/national-share-a-story-month/

You could try Matt Haig's *Evie and the Animals* or *The Explorer* by Katherine Rundell – or as a contrast to the tropical rainforest environments in these stories, go to the frozen wastes in novels like Rundell's *The Wolf Wilder* or Cerrie Burnell's *The Ice Bear Miracle*, all available as eBooks via the Norfolk Libraries eCatalogue– just search! https://norfolk.overdrive.com/library/childrens

Socially Distanced Friends, Romans, Countrymen!

The Time and Tide Museum has two brilliant videos on YouTube on being a Roman soldier, with an activity at the end. Find it on their page here (click link)

The Castle Museum in Norwich offers a fantastic free Romans resource pack for KS2 learners, whether at home or school. It is full of information and activities, plus approachable research about Roman Norfolk which is unavailable elsewhere for young readers (download here).

Once this has been absorbed and digested- and we are all back at school- a loan of our Romans artefact box or a Romans topic box will perfectly enhance and enrich this local information.

Silly Squad– the 2020 Summer Reading Challenge

Our libraries might be closed, but it takes more than that to stop the Summer Reading Challenge.

Silly Squad arrives super-early this year, to keep children reading whilst they're not at school, as well as throughout the Summer Holidays. It's going to be a brand new online portal from The Reading Agency, where you can log in to track your progress, tell everyone about the books you're reading and get some great new recommendations. Sign-up opens in June so for more details, make sure you follow Norfolk Libraries on Twitter: @NorfolkLibs or check their website in a few weeks time: www.norfolk.gov.uk/libraries-local-history-and-archives/libraries

STEM Activities

With thanks for a suggestion from Teen Librarian blogger Matt Imrie (www.teenlibrarian.co.uk)

There aren't too many non-fiction eBooks on offer on science topics so looking for safe, simple activities online is the answer for now, and what fun can be had giving them a go.

How do Viruses React to Soap? Somewhat alarmed by the title of this experiment you can do with your kids at home, this is in fact a really simple and illuminating way to explain viruses (find it here on YouTube). There are lots of great STEM activities on offer through Science Buddies, with clear explanations and demonstrations on how to carry them out: www.sciencebuddies.org/

STEM Learning recently launched their new website providing free content and resources for home learning. Content will be updated weekly with new activities and covers primary and secondary and across maths, science, computing and D&T. There's also a live chat feature where children and parents can pose questions and receive immediate responses from a well-informed team. Visit www.stem.org.uk/home-learning to find out more.

For lots more about STEM and the environment, animals and so on, subscribe free to Press Reader and introduce your youngsters to The Week Junior and First News, where you and they will find lots of news, information and things to do around all manner of topics, including the planet and science. Most important of all: Press Reader can be accessed completely free of charge using your Norfolk Library card! For more information on how to use this service, visit: www.norfolk.gov.uk/libraries-local-history-and-archives/libraries/find-an-item/ebooks-and-eaudio

EmpathyLab

The full Empathy Day programme for 9th June has been announced, with lots of brilliant online events and fun home-based activities to help children read, connect and act using empathy. Authors, illustrators, schools, libraries, and families across the UK are being encouraged to get involved, so to see what's happening on the day, visit www.empathylab.uk/empathy-day-2020

Love My Books– Fun for all the Family

www.lovemybooks.co.uk is a very family friendly, interactive website, with top author patrons, about reading together, with lots of book recommendations and suggestions of different ways to tell a story.

For instance there is a page of dads recounting what works really well with their little ones, and how much they themselves get out of this simple interaction with their child. It's wonderful to see and worth a visit: www.lovemybooks.co.uk/dads-reading-children

Norfolk Fire Service– competition!

The **Norfolk Fire Service** is holding a Fire safety competition for children to enter. The prize will be a visit from the Fire Service to their primary school, later in the year. To find out more, visit: www.norfolk.gov.uk/news/2020/04/fire-safety-competition-win-a-fire-crew-visit-for-norfolk-primary-schools

Independent Bookshops

Like many of you, our favourite shops of all are bookshops! We are so missing the experience of browsing in amongst those shelves full of lovely paper and ink. However, to help ensure the shops will be back, we can support them by ordering from them if you have the opportunity; they do sell e-books and other formats too. See the list of indies here: www.hive.co.uk/books/childrens

AND: don't forget to visit our blog for news & book reviews!

www.norfolkels.wordpress.com