



SAINT MARY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL & NURSERY UNIT

Eco-School Green Flag Award 2017

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Dear Parent/ Guardian

I have been contacted recently asking for recommendations of where to find appropriate reading materials to keep our pupils learning and engaged in reading during this time.

Reading, now probably more so than ever, is the most important skill we would encourage all of our pupils to continue to do over this period. We appreciate how challenging this is.

There is nothing that beats a physical or actual book but where that is not possible there are a number of online resources made available for free to all over the next while. I have attempted to draw your attention to some of those sites we feel are most appropriate, These are only suggestions and there are many others available. I will also be adding these links to our Links section of the school website;

<https://www.stmaryspsportaferry.com/home-learning/links-/>

Our P4-7 pupils should be well used to carrying out tests on the Accelerated Reader programme. To access this programme you must use the link below, which is also on the school web site:

<https://ukhosted44.renlearn.co.uk/2235150/>

Your child's user name is set as the first letter of their Christian name, their surname followed by the 3 digit number of their c2k account. All passwords are set as "password1" If you have any issues logging on, please do not hesitate to contact me.

While the Accelerated Reader programme is a useful tool for checking your child's understanding for the story, there may be occasions when the book your child is reading is not available for a quiz. Do not let this deter you. At this time, the most important thing is that your child is reading and gaining enjoyment and pleasure from this.

As always, do not hesitate to contact me if you have any issues or concerns about reading at pgilchrist570@c2kni.net

Yours sincerely
Mr Gilchrist

Myon

<http://www.renlearn.co.uk/keep-reading/>

Myon are offering limited free access to books and articles from myON and myON News for students in the UK and Ireland. You simply need to register at the link above.

myON is also run by Renaissance, the company who run our Accelerated Reader programme and they offer a digital reading experience for students of all ages and abilities. For the duration of unexpected school closures in the UK and Ireland due to COVID-19, they are offering free access to 7,000 enhanced digital books - as well as 5 daily news articles in 3 languages (English, French, Spanish) with myON News.

You can search books linked to your child's ability and then go to Accelerated Reader to carry out a test.





BookTrust have launched a new digital hub, www.booktrust.org.uk/hometime which is packed with reading advice, ideas, activities and resources.

On Monday 6 April they launched a Northern Ireland page, where they will feature local authors, illustrators and initiatives. They will also use this portal to highlight the amazing talent we have and share what other organisations are doing to support families across Northern Ireland.

The **BookTrust NI facebook page** allows us them to connect with families and share the work that authors and illustrators post on Facebook. They will be able to share your organisations content there too www.facebook.com/booktrustni



Pick A Tale

<https://pickatale.co.uk/>

"At Pickatale, we believe in the power of great storytelling. That's why every book in our children's reading and audiobook app has been made fully interactive to help entertain and educate young readers aged between 0 to 10 years. Our ever-expanding digital library offers budding bookworms over 1,000 amazing books and audiobooks to read and listen to anytime, anywhere. You can even download our books in advance of long journeys and holidays. Browse our website to learn more about our reading and audiobook app and discover why mums, dads and children love Pickatale."

This web site has access to many story books appropriate for our younger children. The web site is very interactive and you can sign up for free. There is a helpful promotional video.



Oxford
OWL



You must log in or register to access the books.

To log in:

1. Once on the site simply register as a parent under the Oxford Owl for Home.
2. On the top right hand of the page there is an option to log in.
3. Once you press this you simply click on the "Not Registered Yet? Join Us" link.
4. State that you are a parent and complete the registration with your e-mail details. On page 2 of the registration you will be asked to register a child under the when was your child born section. You can add other children in this section.
5. Once completed a message will be sent to your email to activate the account.
6. When you have activated the account, click on the link for Reading along the top bar. Then browse free eBook library www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home/find-a-book/library-page
7. Select the age of your child and access the available books for free.

Each book has a set of questions linked to the story which can affirm that your child has understood the story.

Northern Ireland Library eBook Service



<https://www.librariesni.org.uk/Pages/eBooks.aspx>

1000s of eBooks and Audiobooks available to download for free

- borrow up to eighteen at a time for three weeks
- books automatically disappear at the end of the loan period

If you already have a Libraries NI membership number go straight to step two.

1. To make use of this great free service you need to have a Libraries NI membership number.
2. If you have a smartphone or tablet device download the Overdrive App and create an account (Choose Libraries NI as your library). For PCs and laptops you need to install Adobe Digital Editions (ADE) software
3. Sign in to the Libraries NI eBook/Audiobook service using your membership number
4. Browse the collection, choose a book and click borrow. If your chosen book is not available request it by selecting the Place a Hold button
5. Click Account to go to your Bookshelf. You can read your book here or click download to save it to your device

Penguin Books

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

If you follow this link you will gain access to book suggestions linked to your child's age. You can purchase a digital copy of the book or perhaps go to some of some of the sites offering free access and check if that recommended book is available on a different platform.

