

Publishers Current Awareness

w/b 22nd June 2020

This current awareness bulletin has been provided by Donna Taylor – Shropshire SLS Manager.

People

Walker Books *Rain Before Rainbows* by Smriti Halls and David Litchfield has been released as a free e-book to support the #SaveWithStories campaign from @savechildrenuk. It's an uplifting story of hope, perfect for anxious small children who need a ray of joy in their bedtime stories and can be downloaded FREE here:

<http://stayhome.walker.co.uk/rainbows/>

You can also take a look at some of the stunning art featured in *Rain Before Rainbows* on Instagram @walkerbooksUK where you can also find more details on how you can donate to Save with Stories, supporting the most vulnerable families in the UK and around the world by helping to provide early learning packs, supermarket vouchers, essential household items and virus protection. Your donation could make an incredible difference to children facing increasing hardship during the coronavirus crisis. You can donate online at www.savethechildren.org.uk/savewithstories or you can text STORY to 70008 to give a one-off donation of £5*.

Stay-at-home with Jane Porter

Head over to @TheJanePorter's Instagram to see her read from her delightful story, *The Boy Who Loved Everyone*.

Stay-at-home with Patrick Ness

Check out Patrick Ness' interview with Better Reading here:

<https://www.betterreading.com.au/news/1950s-america-but-with-dragons-author-patrick-ness-answers-our-questions-about-his-new-book-burn/>

We Found a Hat

The wonderful Little Angel Theatre have created a performance for *We Found a Hat* by Jon Klassen and shared it on their YouTube channel! It's absolutely delightful and if you haven't had a chance to watch their performances of *I Want My Hat Back* and *This is Not My Hat* then you can watch all three together! They're a great way to keep kids engaged and entertained.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NBJmp1c3XIQ>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bF7q37Sf4w>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c-8y3a7qqGw>

Tooth Fairy in Training

A little reminder that Mama G read *Tooth Fairy in Training* on her Facebook page! The video is available to watch here:

<https://www.facebook.com/MamaGStories/videos/535574900471528/>

Not Now Bernard by David McKee celebrating its 40th anniversary.

<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/news-and-features/features/2020/june/not-now-bernard-is-40-celebrate-with-this-lovely-storytime-video/>

Michael Rosen returns to Twitter after long battle with coronavirus, having been in intensive care for 47 days.

<https://www.theguardian.com/books/2020/jun/12/michael-rosen-returns-to-twitter-after-long-battle-with-coronavirus>

Booker Prize winning author Bernardine Evaristo has become the first black British woman to top the UK paperback fiction chart, with her novel 'Girl, Woman, Other'.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/entertainment-arts-53019929/author-bernardine-evaristo-this-is-a-history-making-moment>

Neil Gaiman and Chris Riddell announce new 'piratical adventure', Pirate Stew.

<https://www.theguardian.com/books/2020/jun/09/neil-gaiman-chris-riddell-new-piratical-adventure-pirate-stew>

Artemis Fowl review – Judi Dench gruffs it out amid rogue fairies.

<https://www.theguardian.com/film/2020/jun/11/artemis-fowl-review-judi-dench-kenneth-branagh-eoin-colfer-novels>

Josh Lacey, author of *Hope Jones Saves the World*, explains what you can do to help stop climate change.

<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/news-and-features/features/2020/june/how-to-save-the-world/>

Author Lou Abercrombie was so inspired by the intergenerational friendships she struck up in her swimming club that she decided to include some in her book *Fig Swims the World!*

<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/news-and-features/features/2020/june/fig-swims-the-world-and-the-magic-of-intergenerational-friendships/>

Interview with David McKee.

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/books/authors/david-mckee-interview-todays-cartoons-lack-smell-humanity/>

Literacy

NLT have created a literacy and wellbeing resource page for 10 - 11 year olds, to support Year 6 teachers who are preparing to welcome their classes back to school.

<https://literacytrust.org.uk/news/we-launch-new-resource-page-help-year-6-teachers-support-literacy-and-wellbeing-when-schools-reopen/>

Blog summarising the learning from speaking with five local authorities who have seen success in reducing the early language gap between disadvantaged children and their peers.

<https://www.eif.org.uk/blog/closing-the-word-gap-learning-from-five-areas-who-have-gained-ground>

The Runaway Pea, written by Kjartan Poskitt and illustrated by Alex Willmore has been chosen as the BookTrust Time To Read campaign.

<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/news-and-features/news/news-2020/booktrust-selects-the-runaway-pea-for-2020-time-to-read-campaign/>

New survey from The Reading Agency reveals children's top reading choices and who influences them. Reading was cited as something that made children feel relaxed and happy during lockdown, with a quarter (26%) saying characters in books have made them laugh during this difficult time. Chapter books have proved the most popular reads, chosen by 3 in 5 children (61%), with 40% of children opting to read comics. 57% of boys and 65% of girls chose chapter books, and 49% of boys and 30% of girls read comics.

<https://readingagency.org.uk/news/media/new-survey-from-the-reading-agency-reveals-childrens-top-reading-choices-and-who-influences-them.html>

Education

House of Commons briefing addressing some key issues and FAQs in relation to schools and the Coronavirus outbreak.

<https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/research-briefings/cbp-8915/>

Government plans to scrap the two-metre rule by September at the latest so that schools can reopen fully for the start of the academic year. But ASCL says instead they should explore the potential to "commandeer" community spaces and invite qualified teachers to return to the profession in order to boost school capacity.

<https://www.tes.com/news/coronavirus-ending-2m-rule-boost-school-space-redd-herring>

Reinventing schools for the future. Can we build a more inclusive education system as part of our recovery from the pandemic?

<https://www.nesta.org.uk/blog/reinventing-schools-future/>

Exams regulator Ofqual is in talks with headteachers' unions about the shape of exams next year as it becomes increasingly apparent that some students in Years 10 and 12 will have missed months of school. Options that are on the table are understood to include:

- Delaying the start date from May to June 2021.
- Less content in exam papers.
- Open-book exams
- There has also been a suggestion from one teachers' leader that students might need greater choice over exam questions next year.
- The system of calculated grades being used this summer has been ruled out.

<https://www.tes.com/news/coronavirus-open-book-exams-and-cut-content-table-2021-gcses>

Anne Longfield, the children's commissioner for England, suggested the government should be putting as much effort into getting children back to class as it is towards making sure the economy is up and running. "We're seeing a situation where theme parks are going to be opened in a month, shops, pubs, restaurants, but still children not back in school."

<https://www.theguardian.com/education/2020/jun/09/warning-that-childrens-education-being-forgotten-in-england-amid-focus-on-business>

More than £7 million will fund the launch of the See, Hear, Respond service, to provide targeted help to vulnerable children, young people and their families affected by the virus and the measures put in place to stop its spread. The coalition, led by Barnardo's, will work alongside local authorities, schools and colleges, police forces, healthcare professionals and other vital services involved in protecting these children.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/7-million-for-new-coalition-of-vulnerable-childrens-charities>

For anyone dealing with 'Home-Schooling', how this year's end of term reports could look. Are you dealing with a Lizzy Notbusy, a Peter Quietly Amazing or maybe a Don Myownthing.

<https://www.tes.com/news/school-reports-end-of-term-summer-template-coronavirus>

Equality and Diversity

Michael Bloomberg, the US billionaire, is to donate more than £1m to fund a replacement for residential university summer schools for British disadvantaged pupils, the Sutton Trust has announced.

<https://www.theguardian.com/education/2020/jun/02/michael-bloomberg-donates-1m-to-fund-online-uk-summer-schools>

A coalition of youth work groups is calling on the government to launch a new scheme offering disadvantaged young people paid placements working in their communities to plug the youth unemployment gap.

<https://www.cypnow.co.uk/news/article/youth-organisations-call-for-civic-army-to-boost-unemployment>

Black Lives Matter in the book industry. “despite the amazing work of some in the book industry over the last few years, many black authors can still recall times when their stories have not been supported or welcomed. When they have been told to turn their rom com into a tragedy or twist their space opera into a police brutality metaphor, as a means to easily sell their pain to the same white corporations that caused it. While I believe both stories about hardship as well as joy are so important, there is this sentiment often felt by black writers and readers both in the US and UK that the industry values one kind of story over another, particularly graphic depictions of black suffering and death. Overturning this message is central to the Black Lives Matter movement: we matter in life as much as death.”

<https://www.thebookseller.com/blogs/black-lives-matter-book-industry-1205419>

‘No reader is too young to start’: anti-racist books for all children and teens. “It is our responsibility to be active in the face of injustice. Use these books to start conversations, hold yourself accountable and educate a new generation. Reading isn’t the only answer but it’s the start, above all else. Black Lives Matter.”

<https://www.theguardian.com/books/2020/jun/04/no-reader-is-too-young-to-start-anti-racist-books-for-all-children-and-teens>

The Department for Education has committed to implementing all seven recommendations put forward by the expert group on education staff wellbeing, including pledges to measure the wellbeing of staff at regular intervals and publish the findings, integrate wellbeing into the department’s schools workload policy test and improve access to online mental health resources.

<https://schoolsweek.co.uk/dfes-to-measure-school-staff-happiness-under-new-wellbeing-charter/>

Teachers and pupils across England will receive new coronavirus testing to “assess and monitor” the spread of the disease in school settings.

<https://schoolsweek.co.uk/coronavirus-teachers-and-pupils-to-be-tested-in-new-surveillance-study/>

<https://www.tes.com/news/coronavirus-covid-19-surveillance-study-test-100-schools>

An open letter to Boris Johnson, signed by NEU joint-general secretaries Mary Bousted and Kevin Courtney, says the government should review the curriculum "to ensure it embraces the fact that Britain is rooted in black and global history, achievement and culture and includes the achievements of black Britons; as recommended by the Stephen Lawrence Inquiry".

<https://www.tes.com/news/review-curriculum-reflect-uks-black-history>

Arts & Culture

The BBC has made more than 200,000 radio and TV programmes from its archive more accessible with a new online tool called Programme Explorer.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/mediacentre/latestnews/2020/programme-explorer>

Awards & Prizes

The winner of this year's YA Book Prize 2020 is Meat Market by Juno Dawson.

<https://www.sla.org.uk/article/dawn-woods/ya-book-prize-2020-winner-announced/2020>

Libraries

Jacqueline Wilson, is calling on children to sign up online for the Summer Reading Challenge. Encouraging children aged four to 11 to read during the long break, this year the focus is on funny books, and getting children to read whatever makes them happy.

<https://www.theguardian.com/books/2020/jun/05/jacqueline-wilson-children-silly-squad-this-summer-reading-challenge-tracy-beaker>

Reminder of the resources available on the Libraries Connected site

<https://www.librariesconnected.org.uk/resources>

Health & Wellbeing

A "Covid summer school fund" is being set up by the government to help feed children during the holidays, after the campaign by footballer Marcus Rashford. Prime Minister Boris Johnson welcomed Mr Rashford's "contribution to the debate around poverty".

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-53065806>

Digital Literacy

700,000 pupils 'miss learning due to lack of internet' A bill in Parliament calls for free school meal pupils to be given internet access to help their learning in lockdown.

<https://www.tes.com/news/coronavirus-700000-pupils-miss-learning-due-lack-internet>

Free internet access is being offered for six months to help some disadvantaged youngsters study online. The scheme will provide 10,000 families in England with vouchers for internet access, funded by BT and distributed by the Department for Education.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-53057767>

Online Resources

Shropshire SLS provides free access to the following services for all Gold Subscribers. These services are now free to use until September 2020 and we have received a lot of good feedback from teachers about their usefulness.

Curriculum Visions

All of your curriculum needs in one place for EYFS to KS4. Includes teaching resources, 1500 Class Clips, SATS tests, lesson plans, toolkits, timelines and display materials. Visit www.curriculumvisions.com to gain free access.

Fiction Express

Fiction Express has been designed to improve poor reading habits by exciting KS2 children about reading and turning them into eager readers through the power of engagement. Visit www.fictionexpress.co.uk for free access.

Shropshire SLS provides a One-Stop-Shop for all your resources.

Helping you meet the demands of the curriculum.

We have a wide range of books, dvds, artefacts, storysacks and group reads.

We provide ongoing professional advice and support, online ordering and a door to door collection and delivery service.

We work with regional Primary, Secondary, Special schools and nurseries. We have a growing number of schools taking advantage of our discounted packages and new services so if you would like to join us please call 01743 255030 or email donna.taylor@shropshire.gov.uk



