

VIBE



Issue 9

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VIBE Newsletter May

I hope you are all keeping safe and well in these unprecedented times. We are currently in an ever-changing situation as we all try to support the fight against Covid-19. At present, no one is sure as to when children will be back at school as this all depends on the R factor and people sticking to the lockdown laws. We are writing this newsletter to share the resources you can use with your learners and to share what other services are doing to support their students.

Early Years

Bookstart is part of the service run by Book Trust. You can apply for a set of Sensory books for VI pre-schoolers. The local library, health visitor or early years setting should be able to contact the Bookstart coordinator to obtain one of these packs for families.



<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/what-we-do/programmes-and-campaigns/bookstart/families/what-bookstart-can-offer-you/additional-needs-packs/>



Snaptype is a useful app for completing worksheets on an iPad or tablet without printing them. It allows you to zoom in on text on a screenshot or jpeg and type your answers in large print with a yellow background.

Fun ideas and activities from Positive Eye for all children including those with VI/additional needs.

<https://www.positiveeye.co.uk/our-services-2/bespoke-courses/activity-shares-for-families-covid19/>

Free apps for Special School/ Early Years pupils

Little Bear Sees	Sound touch lite
Magic Fluids Lite	Baby drums
Baby bubbles	Heat Pad
Onni and Ilona	Baby Beats
Sensory Magma	Balloon burst
Touch Free	Joy Doodle
Finger Paint	Ball Tapper

Supporting Reading

This resource is free for all children and families. The extraordinary collection of short stories, poems, essays and pictures has contributions from more than 110 children's writers and illustrators, including Lauren Child, Anthony Horowitz, Greg James and Chris Smith, Michael Morpurgo, Liz Pichon, Axel Scheffler, Francesca Simon, Jacqueline Wilson...

The Book of Hopes aims to comfort, inspire and encourage children during lockdown through delight, new ideas, ridiculous jokes and heroic tales.

<https://literacytrust.org.uk/news/katherine-rundell-launches-the-book-of-hopes-a-free-childrens-book-by-over-110-authors-and-illustrators/>

Outdoor fun



RSPB Wild Challenge



Get closer to nature, have fun – and earn awards for doing it! Are you ready to take on a Wild Challenge? You can help wildlife, explore nature and enjoy lots of wild, fun family activities. Tell us what you've done and work towards awards. Have you got what it takes to achieve gold?

<https://www.rspb.org.uk/fun-and-learning/for-families/family-wild-challenge/>

Supporting well being

Free children's story book: 'My Hero is You. How Kids can Fight Covid-19!' Produced by a collaboration of more than 50 organisations working in the humanitarian sector, including the WHO and Save the Children. Aimed primarily at children aged 6-11 years old. Written after a global survey assessing children's mental health and psychosocial needs during the COVID-19 outbreak. To be read by an adult with or alongside children. It has key facts about the pandemic and addresses fears and worries that children might have through a story featuring a fantasy creature 'Ario'. It also addresses other feelings that children may have e.g. 'It is normal to miss people we love that we can't see right now'

<https://www.who.int/news-room/detail/09-04-2020-children-s-story-book-released-to-help-children-and-young-people-cope-with-covid-19>



Parents can sign up to Maths Factor, put in their child's age and year group. The games /sessions are set to the age of the child. It can give parents games/sheets to print off to support their children.

www.themathsfactor.com

The Kent Association of the Blind (KAB) have published some new pages to their website to provide information to families of VI children, including practising mobility skills, guiding, cookery and pre-braille skills. They will be linking to these via social media and email bulletin but would also welcome your support in sharing them with the families you are speaking to.

<https://www.kab.org.uk/get-support/services/children-and-families/mobility-support/>

<https://www.kab.org.uk/get-support/services/children-and-families/recipes/>

Important

If you have any news or information you would like to share, please contact:

hstickings@valence.kent.sch.uk or lbell@valence.kent.sch.uk

Audio books

BBC SOUNDS

This is a series called 'Once upon a time in Zombieville' on BBC Sounds. It is a story for 9-12 years old and the main character has Stargadts.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/brand/p07jt0jn>

Maths Resource



Specsavers have been in contact to ensure we understand that broken glasses for children are considered as urgent so please do not hesitate to contact them if needed.

