

## **Schools' Offer Update from Read Manchester and Manchester Libraries – January/February 2021**

Welcome to our third newsletter of the academic year, and there's plenty of activity designed specifically with schools in mind. Please see below for details of the free schools' programme from Read Manchester, MMU and Manchester Libraries and Archives+.

### **1) Read Manchester and the National Literacy Trust opportunities for schools**

#### **Connecting Stories**

Connecting Stories is a new national initiative from NLT to address the attainment gap and support the wellbeing of children in 14 target areas across the UK, funded by Arts Council England. This work will be delivered locally by Read Manchester and will launch in January.

Through a calendar of activities, the initiative will develop reading skills and creative writing abilities. Activities will include creative writing competitions, author visits, book donations to schools, walk and talk trails and exhibitions, as well as plans to grow regular and sustained participation in literary and wider cultural activities.

If your school has not already registered to be part of Connecting Stories, please register using this link <http://tfaforms.com/4873870>.

#### **Read Manchester's [reading map](#) - enter and win books for your school**

All Year 5 and Year 6 pupils were sent their Metrolink inspired reading map last term. The fifty-nine titles on the map represent a great way of encouraging pupils to read more widely – trying different genres and new authors. As part of our World Book Day celebrations this year we have put together three free sets of the entire collection (84 books because we suggest some series too!) to offer to three lucky primary schools who respond to our survey questionnaire.

To be in with a chance to win, please complete this [survey](#) by **12th February 2020**. All year 5/6 teachers are invited to respond (and you'll then have more chances of your school being a lucky winner!)

#### **Scrapbook of Hopes**

Before Christmas all primary schools received three copies of The Book Of Hopes from Read Manchester/National Literacy Trust. The Scrapbook of Hopes challenge invites you to fill in our

scrapbook template with words and pictures that showcase the fantastic work you are doing to spread hope, inspiration and a love of reading in your school and local community. Your Scrapbook of Hopes can be filled with activities you've done as a school since the start of the pandemic.

**When:** before the deadline of 31 January 2021.

**How:** 1. Download the editable template 2. Fill in with pictures and words describing your activity 3. Send back to [bookofhopes@literacytrust.org.uk](mailto:bookofhopes@literacytrust.org.uk)

**Where:** <https://literacytrust.org.uk/competitions/scrapbook-of-hopes/>

### **My Dear New Friend – National Literacy Trust letter writing**

The National Literacy Trust are encouraging children to exchange letters with older adults in care homes to increase the children's motivation to write and to help combat loneliness among older adults. To support this, NLT are providing a headed paper and letter template and an editable cover letter, as well as ideas on how to make the contacts.

Schools can find more information on how to get involved, and share their progress [here](#).

### **Words that Count**

The National Literacy Trust is excited to launch [Words that Count](#) as part of Experian's United for Financial Health programme, which looks to support the financial recovery and wellbeing of young people in Manchester affected by COVID-19.

Words that Count is a financial literacy campaign for young people **aged 16-24** which aims to help young people understand their personal finances better. The campaign shares advice on topics including first jobs, paying bills, managing money and council tax, available for free on [wordsthatcount.org.uk](http://wordsthatcount.org.uk). There are several short promotional animated videos as well as video content from Love Island's Danny Williams, Biggs Chris and Tom Walker who share their top tips on saving money.

## **2) Learning and engagement opportunities for teachers and pupils with MMU**

**Talking About Voices** is a free online project from Manchester Centre for Youth Studies for high school pupils in the Greater Manchester area. Pupils who take part will learn about

language and identity while also learning audio production skills. There will also be a competition, where the creators of the best podcast episodes will win prizes. The project will be launching in early 2021: if you're interested in finding out more, and perhaps inviting your pupils to become some of the first to take part, please email [manchester.voices@mmu.ac.uk](mailto:manchester.voices@mmu.ac.uk) to register your interest.

### **Multi-Language Poetry CPD and resources for International Mother Language Day celebrations**

Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2021. 7pm

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/135386463557>

A free CPD event for educators wishing to involve their children in celebrating International Mother Language Day. Resources to support creative engagement through poetry for KS1, 2 and 3 children will be demonstrated and shared with all attendees. Suitable for teachers, librarians and parents.

### **'Stars with Flaming Tails' book launch with Val Bloom and Ken Wilson-Max**

Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2021. 7pm

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/135666723823>

Join poet Valerie Bloom and illustrator Ken Wilson Max, in conversation with Charlotte Hacking (Centre for Literacy in Primary Education) for this celebration of children's poetry and illustration. All who sign up for this free event will receive a copy of a bespoke resource for us in the classroom or at home. Adults and children are welcome.

Additional resources to support teachers and parents can be found on the Manchester Children's Book Festival website. Links to three free, online MCBF events can be found here: <https://www.mmu.ac.uk/mcbf/whats-on/> including a schools' Q and A with Alex Wheatle. All are also connected to resources for use in classrooms and at home.

Poet Mandy Coe has written a blog about her co-curation of the Children's Poetry collection for the Manchester Poetry Library, including a free resource based on poetry from Mandy's latest book 'Belonging Street'. See <https://www.mmu.ac.uk/mcbf/blog/story/?id=13193> for details.

### **3) Manchester Libraries' school and family reading and learning offer**

## **Library services**

We are following the government lockdown guidance (announced Monday 4 January) and have temporarily reduced the range of services at our libraries. They will only offer very limited service:

- Internet access for essential use only
- Book return service
- Books that have been reserved or requested in advance can be picked up

For details of your local library and revised opening times, please see [manchester.gov.uk/libraries](https://manchester.gov.uk/libraries). Please do share this information with your school families.

Libraries are continuing to offer a blended learning experience for schools. We hope to begin to trial classes visiting libraries in some of our larger venues when restrictions allow, but the offer is primarily a digital one. Pupils are able to borrow e-books and e-audio books [online](#) for free. We can help your pupils join the library, and can also offer online reading groups, author and cultural events.

## **Want to discover more about local history?**

Why not book an online session for your class with Angela from Archives+ to explore the history of the local area? Following a successful pilot in the summer term, this virtual session can now be booked by schools free of charge. The children will be able to explore maps and images of their local area and start to discover how it has changed over time. Each session lasts one hour and can be delivered with technology to suit your school. If you want to book a session or discuss other themes you would like to explore, please do get in touch with Angela Rawcliffe [angela.rawcliffe@manchester.gov.uk](mailto:angela.rawcliffe@manchester.gov.uk)

## **Manchester Libraries STEM club online**

Every week the library posts a STEM video online. These videos are easy to do experiments which would be great to share in a classroom. The link below takes you to our blog page where you can access more information and the link to all the videos.

<https://manclibraries.blog/2020/05/04/manchester-libraries-stem-club/>

## **International Mother Language Day**

Join Manchester Libraries online on Saturday 20 February to celebrate this year's UNESCO International Mother Language Day all about Friendship. This is a free day of activities for all ages celebrating culture and languages from across the globe. The day will include trying new languages, dancing, singing, music, multilingual science activities, stories, crafts, games and poems.

Family Friendly activities suitable for all ages.

This is a free digital event on Saturday 20 February from 10am – 4pm. Available on Facebook pages @manchesterlibraries and Twitter @ManLibraries. Please pass this information on to your families.

### **Ideas for supporting children and families to read at home**

Manchester Libraries has expanded its outline offer to support children when at home. Please promote these opportunities as widely as possible through your school's ClassDojo, social media or newsletters.

### **Children and Families newsletter**

This newsletter for children and families is now published monthly. This is a one-stop shop for library news, activities and the latest in the world of children's books. Sign up [here](#) to receive this directly to your inbox and please encourage your families to sign-up too.

### **Reading Rascals book club**

Reading Rascals is online book club for 8-11 year olds which is available both for families at home and schools who are interested in having a book club for their class. Each month there is a themed activity pack with new books reviews, popular authors, craft ideas and quizzes. Upcoming themes include Mystery, Magic and World Book Day editions. Children are encouraged to access books for free online from Manchester Libraries or from other platforms offering free reads.

**For families:** Parents sign up for their children and children get involved in the book club. Parents email Mona / Angela (as below) for details on how to join.

**For schools:** Libraries can host virtual sessions with schools and tailor the session to suit your needs. A typical session might include a discussion on the month's theme, a quiz and an opportunity to talk about what we have all been reading. If you are interested in an online session for your class, please contact [mona.pasha@manchester.gov.uk](mailto:mona.pasha@manchester.gov.uk) or [angela.rawcliffe@manchester.gov.uk](mailto:angela.rawcliffe@manchester.gov.uk)

### **\*NEW\* Young People's Reading Group (YPRG)**

This new online reading group for young people aged 13-18 takes place on Zoom on the third Thursday at 7pm (next meeting will be on 21st January). At each session there will be a fun quiz

with prize, a guide on how to access library books and magazines, plus a chance for young people to chat with their peers and discuss your their favourite titles. If any young people you know have just decided to start reading again, we can recommend some authors and titles for them to try.

Email [siobhan.o'connor@manchester.gov.uk](mailto:siobhan.o'connor@manchester.gov.uk) to book your free place.

### **Buzzin' for Books**

Buzzin' for books is a collection of videos made by Manchester Libraries to promote reading. A new video is released every Thursday at 11am, with book reviews and highlights from the Reading Rascals Book Club. The series includes many authors such as Alan Gibbons, Kate Milner, Andy Seed and highlights great books to read on popular themes throughout the year.

The Buzzin' for Books series is released on Facebook and then available on [YouTube](#).

The themes for the next month are:

21 Jan - Try something new – reading non-fiction from learning to cook to books on sport

28 Jan - Richard O'Neill - Storytelling week: The Runaway Firebread

4 Feb - Reading Rascals: Magic & Harry Potter

11 Feb - Manjeet Mann, author of Run, Rebel (suitable for age 12+)

### **Family reading online Share a Story course for parents**

Do you want to support your families to enjoy books and reading together? The Family Learning team at Manchester Adult Education have developed a six week free online course aimed at parents of children aged 3-7. This course is designed to help parents improve their storytelling skills and encourage families to try crafts, games and songs together. For more information, please contact [anne.jacobsen@manchester.gov.uk](mailto:anne.jacobsen@manchester.gov.uk) or share this link directly with your parents to sign up to the course.

<https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/FamilyReading/>

### **Authors online and for in-person school visits**

Authors are also adopting a blended approach to their library and school visits this year. If you are interested in booking your own authors and poets, then why not have a look at the following:

National Literacy Trust - [Find UK Author and Storytellers](#)

Authors Aloud - <https://authorsalouduk.co.uk/>

## **Dates for your diary 2021:**

### **World Book Day 4 March**

Enter the Reading map survey to win a set of books for your primary school (above)

More information to follow on the full offer from Manchester Libraries.

### **Shakespeare Week, March**

Sessions planned for 17th and 19th March

Sophia Hatfield will be leading interactive sessions, looking into the language of Shakespeare. Suitable for Year 5 & 6. More information to follow.

**Summer Reading Challenge** – launching in July, this Challenge from the Reading Agency delivered locally by Manchester Libraries may be more important than ever this year.

For more information about Read Manchester and Manchester Libraries' Offer for Schools, please contact:

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