

Read Manchester and Manchester Libraries' School Offer May 2021

Welcome to our summer term offer of literacy and library related activities for schools

Take 10 on 10 May for Mental Health Awareness Week

Read Manchester's Connecting Stories programme with the National Literacy Trust is focusing on the health and wellbeing benefits of reading for pleasure with #Take10toRead.

Why not encourage your pupils to take 10 minutes to read by joining our Take 10 challenge on **May 10**? We're inviting schools, organisations and businesses to Take 10 with us once again. You can join us at 10.00 a.m. or anytime that suits you. If you're on social media, please share your Take 10 moments with #ReadMCR and #Take10toRead and tag **@manclibraries and @literacy_trust**.

At 9:50am, primary and secondary school students are also invited to join **Anthony Horowitz** for an exciting virtual event. Anthony Horowitz is one of the most prolific and successful writers working in the UK. He is the author of the bestselling teen spy series *Alex Rider*, and has also been commissioned to write *Sherlock Holmes* and *James Bond* novels.

You can [click here](#) to register your school for Take 10 and you will then receive an event link for the Anthony Horowitz event.

The Kid Who Came from Space - Read Manchester's #BigRead

This year we are once again giving every year 6 pupil in Manchester a copy of our Transition Read – Ross Welford's book, 'The Kid Who Came from Space' plus an enrichment pack of activities. Ross helped us launch our #BigRead at an event for teachers in March where we also discussed research on reading for transition, and shared practice from last year's project. The books should now have reached schools – please let us know if you have not received yours yet.

You will receive printed copies of the enrichment activities booklet in early June and in addition there are the class resources for both Primary and Secondary Schools on the [Schoolshub](#). Primary schools are encouraged to read the book with pupils in school to ensure they all go to high school with a shared experience. High schools will also receive three copies each so that teachers can read the book. We will also be running a 750 word story-writing competition up until the end of September.

We are currently liaising with Ross on dates for his online class visits, which we hope will take place towards the end of June and will be in touch soon about these opportunities.

Join the Wild World Heroes – this year’s Summer Reading Challenge

This year’s theme for the Summer Reading Challenge is Wild World Heroes. The Challenge to read six books will launch in Manchester on 5 July and run until 18 September. Children can join the Challenge at a local library from this date.

Manchester is part of an Integrated Local Authority pilot for the Challenge and 40 primary schools will be taking part in the programme. This will involve a whole-school approach to the Challenge whereby all children will join the Challenge via school and be joined as library members (subject to final sign-off). More details will be shared with pilot schools shortly.

All schools will be invited to link with their local library and digital resources will also be made available to promote the Challenge to pupils and families. Launch events will also be offered to schools and a programme of activity during the summer for children is currently being developed.

Boy, Everywhere: A free teaching resource for KS3 and sign up for our July Schools Q&A event with A.M. Dassu

Boy, Everywhere is an award-winning, Middle-Grade novel, about a refugee family from Syria, who leave their home in Damascus to come to Greater Manchester. Read Manchester is working in partnership with Manchester Children’s Book Festival (MMU) on a programme of activities which include free class sets and meet-the-author sessions. These are now all allocated, but you and your pupils can still get involved in a Schools Q&A event in July.

A free-to-download teaching resource to support engagement with the book will prepare pupils for a summer Schools Q&A with author A.M.Dassu. For this resource, details of our summer project and the link to sign up for the free July event, see:

<https://www.mmu.ac.uk/mcbf/blog/story/?id=13905>

Manchester Libraries’ Meet-the-Author online offers

The following online meet-the-author sessions are available to schools free of charge:

Manchester Libraries presents Sharna Jackson, winner of the Waterstones Children's Book Prize 2020 for her debut novel *High-Rise Mystery*.

'After finding their community art teacher murdered on their tower block estate, sisters Nik and Norva are determined to solve this terrible crime. Swinging into action, the detective duo develop a list of suspects and a plan to identify motives and methods. But over the following days, the evidence starts to point in a confusing direction, one that they really don't want to contemplate...'

Sharna is an advocate for diverse representation across children’s media and through her books. She also specialises in developing and delivering socially-engaged digital initiatives for children and young people and encourages diverse and disengaged audiences to participate in the arts.

Find out more about Sharna at: www.sharnajackson.com

Date: Friday 21 May

Age Suitability: 9 -13 years old

Sessions: 09:30am or 11:00am for primary schools, 1.30pm for high schools

Platform: Zoom Pro

Duration: 60 mins

Contact: jodie.osborne@manchester.gov.uk to book

Manchester Libraries presents Manjeet Mann, author of Run Rebel

Manjeet Mann's fantastic book *Run Rebel* is on the [Empathy Lab booklist](#).

Run, Rebel is a novel in verse featuring teenager Amber. Amber is trapped - by her father's rules, by his expectations, by her own fears. The novel explores the conflict of cultures between her challenging and at times abusive family life at home with her illiterate parents and her school life full of friendships, teen crushes and a passion for athletics. Amber must learn to navigate these two opposing sides and develop the strength to grow and build her fragmentary identity in the face of major obstacles.

This author session includes the author's journey into writing, the inspiration behind the book and readings from the book (25 minutes). Manjeet will then run three simple free-writing exercises which will take around 15 minutes and there will be 10 minutes at the end for a Q&A. There will also be an introduction to Manjeet's new book which releases on June 3rd!

Find out more about Manjeet at: [Home \(manjeetmann.com\)](http://manjeetmann.com)

Date: Monday 7 June and Wednesday 9 June

Age Suitability: High school - Y8, Y9, Y10

Sessions: 9:30am / 11:30am

Platform: Zoom Pro

Duration: 50 mins

Contact: jodie.osborne@manchester.gov.uk to book

Manchester Libraries presents Richard O'Neill, master storyteller and author

Richard O'Neill's book *The Lost Homework* has been selected for the [Empathy Lab 2021 booklist](#). Richard is very proud of his Romani and Northern roots so makes sure there are stories to appeal to everyone. He believes that stories should be just as much fun as they are exciting and informative.

The session will start with an introduction from Richard about his background, his heritage and love of stories. Richard will then share some of his most popular stories and finish with a Q&A session. All of the stories provide opportunity for interaction and to provide stimulus for writing.

Date: Tuesday 8 June and Thursday 10 June

Age Suitability: Primary, KS2

Sessions: 9:30am / 11:30am

Platform: Zoom Pro

Duration: 50 mins

Contact: jodie.osborne@manchester.gov.uk to book

Manchester Libraries presents Joseph Coelho

Joseph Coelho is an award-winning children's author, performance poet and playwright. Joseph has 16 years' experience running dynamic creative literacy sessions in schools. He aims to inspire young people through stories and characters they can recognise.

<https://www.thepoetryofjosephcoelho.com/>

Date: Tuesday 15 June
Age Suitability: Primary, 7-11 years old
Sessions: 9:30am / 11:00am / 1:30pm
Platform: Zoom Pro
Duration: 45 mins
Contact: jodie.osborne@manchester.gov.uk to book

Manchester Libraries present a Refugee Week session with award winning author Tom Palmer

Tom Palmer writes children's books about history and sport. In 2019 he won the Children's Book Award for *Armistice Runner*, which was also nominated for the Carnegie Prize. His book, ***After the War: [From Auschwitz to Ambleside](https://tompalmer.co.uk/)*** is a deeply moving novel of friendship and belonging, inspired by the incredible true story of the Windermere Boys. You can find free resources and first chapters by visiting his website. <https://tompalmer.co.uk/>

Date: Thursday 17 June
Age Suitability: Primary, 8-11 years old
Sessions: 9:30am / 11:00am / 1:30pm
Platform: Zoom Pro
Duration: 45 mins
Contact: jodie.osborne@manchester.gov.uk to book

Empathy Day 10 June

Empathy Day is a campaign to use high quality literature to build children's empathy and literacy and is run by [EmpathyLab](https://empathylab.org/). Explore the books on the Empathy list and access toolkits to use in school for ideas about how to **walk in someone else's shoes**.

Empathy Day LIVE! Is a spectacular [online festival](#) with interactive activities led by inspirational children's authors and illustrators including Cressida Cowell, Malorie Blackman, Michael Morpurgo and Jacqueline Wilson.

The day finishes with the **Empathy Conversation** – a cutting-edge discussion with authors Michael Rosen, Catherine Johnson and David Baddiel and leading psychologist Professor Robin Banerjee. All available at empathylab.uk/empathy-day-live-2021 on the day, and after too.

Manchester Libraries is celebrating Empathy for the whole week Monday 7 June - Friday 11 June, check out our Manchester Libraries Facebook / Twitter pages and our YouTube channel [Manchester Libraries, Information & Archives - YouTube](#)

Reading Rascals book club

This new online book club for 8-12 year olds has been developed by the library team and is available to schools for free. Each month there will be a fun filled activity newsletter with a brand-new theme, such as Books on Screen, Mysteries or celebrating a popular author. We will be creating an Earth & Climate newsletter next month. Children are encouraged to access books for free online from Manchester Libraries or from other platforms offering free reads (Borrowbox and Libby app).

We 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 m.pasha@manchester.gov.uk or a.rawcliffe1@manchester.gov.uk

Want to discover more about local history?

Why not book an online session for your class with Archives+ to explore the history of the local area? 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 via the platform which suits your school. If you like to book a session or discuss other themes you would like to explore, please do get in touch with Angela Rawcliffe a.rawcliffe1@manchester.gov.uk

When are Libraries open?

Most of Manchester Libraries are now open to the public again. As with all other public buildings, they continue to operate with social distancing in place and all returned books are quarantined for 72 hours. For details of your local library and revised opening times, please see manchester.gov.uk/libraries.

Manchester Libraries' Children and Families newsletter

This monthly newsletter is a one-stop shop for library and book news and free activities for a family audience. Sign up [here](#) to receive this directly to your inbox and please encourage your families to sign-up too. Why not add this to your website or include it in school newsletters?

Refugee Week 14-20 June

The theme is We Cannot Walk Alone [Theme of Refugee Week 2021: We Cannot Walk Alone | Refugee Week](#). Manchester Libraries has a week of online events planned, check out our Facebook / Twitter pages and Youtube channel [Manchester Libraries, Information & Archives - YouTube](#).

Get involved at school [Children & young people | Refugee Week](#) with the fabulous Children and Young people's pack, also check out the Refugee week Simple Acts [Simple Acts | Refugee Week](#) to get involved at home!

The Magic Porridge Pot for EYFS and KS1 - 12 - 28 May

Thanks to Arts Council England, Peoplescape Theatre have a number of **highly subsidised performances** available of their innovative show; with puppets, live music & lots of participation.

Reviews from Autumn performances of 'The Magic Porridge Pot':

'The children absolutely loved the performance and have been talking about it all week!' 'It was a great way of talking about our experience of the pandemic without having to be explicit about Covid. Really really wonderful!'

Please contact emily@peoplescapetheatre.co.uk for more information (including details of risk management). www.peoplescapetheatre.co.uk

Share a story course for parents

Manchester Adult Education's Family Learning team can deliver a **Share a Story** course as a workshop or a 6 week course in your school. Maybe you have an outdoor space where parents and children can attend the course together?

If it is not possible to deliver the course in your school, the online course can be promoted to parents by sharing the blurb below:

Share a Story is an online course for parents to pass on and enjoy the wonderful benefits of book sharing with children. We'll help you find out how books and stories can spark your child's imagination and interest. We can do this together by improving your storytelling skills and by trying out fun activities like crafts, games, songs and making up stories yourselves.

To sign up please use follow the [link](#) and choose **Share a Story**.

Dates for your diary: [Harry Potter Night](#): 24 June

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

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