



READING

Newsletter



A host of golden daffodils...

There's nothing like the sight of determined daffodil stalks, poking up out of the cold earth, to remind you that the dark days don't last forever. Finally, the sun is sticking around until 6pm, meaning that dog walks and shopping trips don't need a torch and the commute to and from work feels that bit more hopeful. It also means that the cosy winter nights spent reading in front of the fire can be replaced by outdoor coffee dates; just you and a book, or connecting and conversing. Long live spring!

What's new with reading?

New research has been carried out into how technology is changing reading. The Literacy Trust has found that young people with low reading engagement (those who haven't fallen in love with books yet!) are more likely to read on a screen – whether that a phone, tablet or laptop. Bedlington has long been endorsing BorrowBox – the online library app – and there are a range of other technological ways of helping your child find their next favourite book. The next time you're on Amazon, browse for free e-books for your children: Amazon offers free Kindle eBooks for kids that can be downloaded via the Kindle app on your smartphone, tablet, or computer.

Getting hooked on audiobooks



Storyline Online is an award-winning website that features actors and actresses reading children's stories on video. It's a program of the SAG-AFTRA Foundation, a nonprofit organisation that helps provide children's literacy programs to the public. Kevin Costner, Oprah Winfrey, Kristen Bell, Betty White, and Rami Malek are just a few of the readers in this program. The goal of each book is to strengthen comprehension and verbal and written skills and kids can follow along by reading subtitles. The videos also include glimpses of animated artwork too!

Another great site is Lit2Go – it has a huge range of free audiobooks, from classics to lesser-known titles – simply look, click and be carried away to a land of beautiful stories.

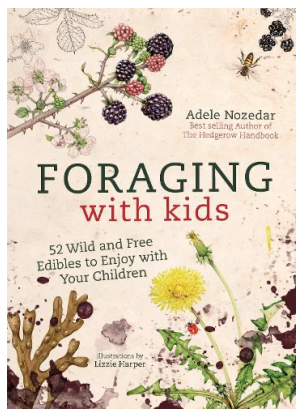
International Children's Digital Library

If you want your child to read stories from all over the world, the International Children's Digital Library (ICDL) is a great place to find those stories. The ICDL encourages children all over the globe to read and their free online library has children's books in 59 languages from numerous countries. Take a look at the website to access free online books for kids that goes beyond the borders of your home.



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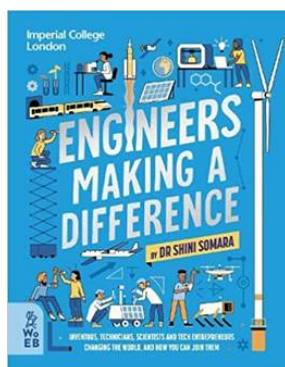
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Tip of the month

Are you finding it hard to pry your young person off the sofa? Has their phone become fused to their hand? Well, as spring approaches at a wonderful speed, make the most of the reappearing green and get out into our amazing countryside to forage. Books like 'Foraging with kids' by Adele Nozedar are a great place to start. This book offers a fun, practical way for families to interact with their environment and gain knowledge through exploration and play. The projects are based around 50 easy-to-identify plants that are abundant in parks, forests and hedgerows worldwide and children will be amazed by the diverse practical uses for everyday, natural things.

Recommended Reads



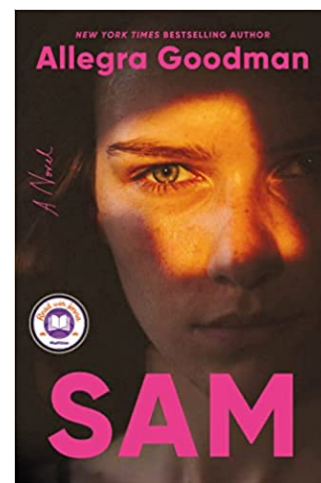
Engineers Making a Difference by Dr Shini Somara

Written to inspire young people into considering engineering as a career, this is a fascinating compilation of interviews with actual engineers from across the world. Divided into sections such as human needs, climate and environment, healthcare, robotics, entertainment and many more, the book explores how engineering is at the heart of everything in day-to-day life. Have a problem that needs fixing? An engineer can help!

(And for the grown ups)

Sam by Allegra Goodman

"Sam" is a coming-of-age story with language that reflects its protagonist growing up, evolving as Sam does. What happens to a girl's sense of joy and belonging as she becomes a woman? This unforgettable portrait of coming-of-age offers subtle yet powerful reflections on class, parenthood, addiction, lust, and the irrepressible power of dreams. It explores what happens when one girl loses the wonder of childhood only to reclaim her power and hope.



Where next?

BorrowBox – for your free books – and info@bedlingtonacademy.co.uk for any help