



Press release: Friday 20 March 2020

National Literacy Trust launches new online zone for parents to engage children at home as schools in Peterborough close

Explore the National Literacy Trust's Family Zone: literacyfamilyzone.org.uk

In response to school closures in Peterborough and across the UK, the National Literacy Trust has today launched a free comprehensive online zone for parents seeking ideas and guidance for activities that will engage their children at home, whilst also benefiting their reading, writing and language development.

The charity, which runs Peterborough Reads in partnership with Peterborough City Council and with support from the National Lottery Community Fund to inspire families across the city to read together, has created **Family Zone** [literacyfamilyzone.org.uk] – a one-stop shop for families which brings together some of the UK's most exciting literacy resources and activities in one place.

Drawing on the charity's expertise and incredible partnerships with teachers, authors, publishers, educational organisations and corporates, local families can access engaging reading and writing activities, book lists, videos, audiobooks, competitions and reading challenges, curated for early years to early teens.

New activities and resources will be added regularly, as the charity develops innovative partnerships and features over the coming weeks and months.

Resources and activities for families to enjoy together at home include:

- Simple and fun **Small Talk** videos to help parents chat, play and read with their young child
- Top tips for enjoying **audiobooks** as a family
- A guide to building a **reading den** at home
- A **Reading Miles Global Challenge** to encourage children to read around the world
- **Activity sheets** based on popular children's books, including *Where's Wally?*, as well as playful learning activities featuring much-loved **CBeebies** characters
- Exciting author videos, including live stories with author **Steve Antony**, draw-along sessions with illustrator **Rob Biddulph** and poetry workshops with **Sarah Crossan**

Sally Atkinson, Peterborough Reads Manager, said: *"We've brought all these resources together because we want to equip parents in Peterborough with activities to engage their child at home, whilst also supporting their literacy development during these unprecedented times. We hope the Family Zone has something for everyone, with content currently on there for children aged 0-12 and plenty of new exciting resources to come."*

Over the coming weeks and months, the charity will be developing and publishing new and innovative content on **Family Zone** that will keep families engaged and motivated to learn and share stories together.

Visit literacyfamilyzone.org.uk

-ENDS-

Media contacts

For further information or to request a spokesperson interview, please contact Campaigns Officer Sarah Olley on 07875625972 or sarah.olley@literacytrust.org.uk.

Notes to editors

About the National Literacy Trust

Our charity is dedicated to improving the reading, writing, speaking and listening skills of those who need it most, giving them the best possible chance of success in school, work and life. We run Literacy Hubs and campaigns in communities where low levels of literacy and social mobility are seriously impacting people's lives. We support schools and early years settings to deliver outstanding literacy provision, and we campaign to make literacy a priority for politicians, businesses and parents. Our research and analysis make us the leading authority on literacy and drive our interventions. Literacy is a vital element of action against poverty and our work changes children's life stories.

Visit literacytrust.org.uk to find out more, donate or sign up for our free email newsletter. You can also find us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).

The National Literacy Trust is a registered charity no. 1116260 and a company limited by guarantee no. 5836486 registered in England and Wales and a registered charity in Scotland no. SC042944. Registered address: 68 South Lambeth Road, London SW8 1RL.

About Peterborough Reads

The National Literacy Trust Hub in Peterborough is delivered in partnership with Peterborough City Council and known locally as Peterborough Reads. Launched in 2014, the National Literacy Trust works with a range of partners to promote reading and writing, and to improve literacy levels in the city. The campaign focuses on ensuring children are ready to start school and improving the transition between primary and secondary school to improve pupils' literacy. Peterborough Reads is supported by the National Lottery Community Fund.

In January 2018 the National Literacy Trust, Peterborough City Council and Vivacity partnered to launch the Vision for Reading in Peterborough, an approach to ensure that every child in the city enjoys reading and can read well. From summer 2019 until summer 2020 these partners are hosting a year of reading celebrations in Peterborough, asking everyone – teachers, parents and businesses – to play their part in helping children to develop a lifelong love of reading which in turn will improve their life chances. Peterborough Celebrates Reading promotes enjoyment, engagement and achievement in reading across the city within schools, settings and the wider community.