

Publishers Current Awareness

Walker Books

Anthony Horowitz to share writing process for new *Diamond Brothers* novel online for kids in lockdown

We are delighted to announce that **Anthony Horowitz** is sharing his writing process with his fans for the first time. He will share the opening chapters to a new novel in his *Diamond Brothers* series online for free, as he writes them, inviting readers to give feedback on the story. At the end of April, Anthony released the first chapter of the as yet unpublished book ***Where Seagulls Dare*** on his [website](https://www.anthonhorowitz.com/news/story/where-seagulls-dare-diamond-brothers-read-the-first-chapter-now) <https://www.anthonhorowitz.com/news/story/where-seagulls-dare-diamond-brothers-read-the-first-chapter-now> for free, with readers invited to engage with the story and let him know their comments along the way. He will continue to share chapters as the lockdown continues, with the full finished book set to publish physically with Walker in 2021. Anthony will be donating his royalties to the NHS charities together.

National Literacy Trust

The Book of Hopes

The National Literacy Trust have launched ***The Book of Hopes: Words and Pictures to Comfort, Inspire and Entertain Children in Lockdown***, compiled by Katherine Rundell, a free downloadable eBook containing contributions from over 100 children's authors and illustrators, including many from Walker Books:

Patrick Ness, Sophie Dahl, Ross Montgomery, Joseph Elliot, Katherine Webber, Ben Bailey Smith, Chris Haughton, Chris Riddell, David Roberts, Emma Chichester Clark, Emily Sutton, Jack Noel, MG Leonard, Jane Ray, Thomas Taylor, Anthony Horowitz, Michael Morpurgo, David Almond, Kevin Crossley Holland and Catherine Johnson.

You can read more and download the book at the below link..

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

There was also an exclusive feature in *Guardian* Review on Saturday, which included the contributions from Anthony Horowitz, Michael Morpurgo, Catherine Johnson and Chris Haughton.

<https://www.theguardian.com/books/2020/apr/25/reasons-to-be-cheerful-poetry-and-stories-to-give-hope-to-adults-and-children-alike>

NLT Skills Academy programme is now free online. A reading intervention which improves Year 7 and 8 students' reading, rewarding their progress by unlocking exclusive video tutorials from some of the UK's best freestyle footballers, beatboxers and breakdancers.

<https://literacytrust.org.uk/news/our-skills-academy-programme-now-free-families-and-secondary-schools/>

Penguin Random House

- **Puffin Storytime:** From Monday 6th April, Puffin will be bringing 20 minutes of storytime magic to homes daily at 3.30pm on weekdays. This will include readings and draw-alongs from their stellar list of authors and illustrators. Caregivers, teachers and children can view Puffin Storytime on Puffin's YouTube, Instagram and Facebook channels #PuffinStorytime

The Full 'Puffin Storytime' Schedule:

Mondays & Fridays, 3.30pm - *Storytime & Draw-alongs for little ones 0-5.*

Launching on 6th April with Look Up! By Nathan Bryon and Dapo Adeola

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 3.30pm - *Sam Copeland will serialise, in 20-minute episodes, the entirety of his hilarious book Charlie Changes into a Chicken for readers 7+*

Wednesdays, 3.30pm - *Story Starters for ages 6-11. Puffin authors will read extracts from their books to help inspire children to discover their next read.*

Launching on 8th April with an extract from the bestselling Murder Most Unladylike read by Robin Stevens.

- **The Puffin Podcast:** A new 3-part Puffin Podcast series will launch on Sunday 19th April (via Spotify, Apple Podcasts, Acast and YouTube Kids), where comedian, children's author and YouTube personality Humza Arshad hosts laugh-out-loud stories, games and jokes guaranteed to give you the giggles! Aimed at unlocking creativity, taking stories to imaginations worldwide and inspiring children to dream big, the podcast will be available at www.puffin.co.uk/podcast
- **Puffin Schools:** To support teachers, parents and caregivers now tackling home-learning, the Puffin Schools website has been restructured to make Puffin books and resources accessible to children who need them. A huge collection of easy to discover resources to bring stories to life, including bite size activities and new categories such as Writing Prompts, Activity Ideas and Picture Book Packs, can be found at <https://www.puffinschools.co.uk/>

BBC

The BBC Bitesize daily lessons launched this week.

Watch the online introductory videos on iplayer.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/group/p089nk5f>

Then access the full set of lessons online,

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/dailylessons>

The twitter announcement is here

<https://twitter.com/bbcbitesize/status/1252139726586482688>

BBC Children's has announced new programming, recognising that most children are now spending the majority of their time indoors. These fast-turnaround commissions will reflect themes which relate to changes in routine, home-schooling, separation from wider family and friendship groups, as well as promoting exciting staycation activities, looking after our health and discovering new things to do and learn. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/mediacentre/latestnews/2020/childrens-commissions>

DfE

The DfE has launched the Oak National Academy,

"We are an online classroom and resource hub created by teachers, for teachers.

Our aim is to support teachers to support their pupils. We provide a bank of high-quality, sequenced video lessons and resources for teachers to use as they wish. We'll cover a range of subjects including Maths, English, art and languages."

<https://www.thenational.academy/>

Careers Resource

A free Skills and Careers Activities booklet "perfect for young people to work through at home, and for schools and organisations to share. It is editable so you can use it exactly how you want to."

<https://www.youthemployment.org.uk/free-skills-careers-activities-booklet-for-young-people/>

NSPCC

- List of resources suitable for both parents and professionals:
- [Net Aware](#) website is our bite-size guide to the latest and most popular social networks, apps and games that kids are using. The 'In the news' section is packed full of information to support this and focuses on new platforms and online trends to help users keep up-to-date with the online world. We will be posting articles over the coming weeks about different communication platforms, such as Zoom, that you can read.
- We also have our **free Online Safety Advice Line** which you can call on **0808 800 5002**. They can help with any questions about parental controls or about a social network.
- [NSPCC Learning](#) have lots of reports and information generally on safeguarding and working with young people. I have found the below pages that might be helpful but please do feel free to explore the website further for other information:
- [How to have difficult conversations with children](#). This page offers top tips on preparing for a difficult conversation and also having a difficult conversation with a child.
- Finally, the NSPCC Helpline is always there for anyone with a concern about a child. You can call **0808 800 5000 Monday to Friday 8am – 10pm and 9am – 6pm at the weekend** whether it's to report abuse or whether you just aren't sure what to do.

StarLine

Justine Roberts, the founder of Mumsnet, is one of those backing the StarLine service, which aims to offer confidential advice to families from qualified teachers and parenting experts, including advice on behaviour and timetabling as well as help for those looking after children with special educational needs or disabilities. Calls to the helpline use a local rate number, 0330 3139162, from anywhere in the UK.

<https://www.theguardian.com/education/2020/apr/24/new-helpline-help-parents-struggling-home-schooling>

National Numeracy Day Virtual Festival - 13 May

The National Numeracy team together with partners & National Numeracy Day Heroes are hosting a day of online events to help with numeracy while the nation is at home:

- Helping children with maths
- Improving your own self-confidence with numbers
- Getting to grips with finances.
- Visit [numeracyday.com](https://www.numeracyday.com) and follow updates via social media.

Arts & Creativity

Culture In Quarantine: full line-up for the Big Book Weekend announced, including Michael Morpurgo. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/mediacentre/latestnews/2020/culture-in-quarantine-big-book-weekend-full-line-up>

Andersen Press

"We start and finish each day with stories" - Staying Home with Sally Nicholls. Andersen Press are offering the book free of charge online, with a first-look agreement on future printed editions, should lockdown become a regular part of family life.

<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/news-and-features/features/2020/april/staying-home-by-sally-nicholls/>

STEM

- We've launched a new page on our website (www.stem.org.uk/home-learning) to provide free content and resources for home learning. The content will be updated weekly with new activities and covers primary and secondary and across maths, science, computing and D&T.
- We are curating a selection of flexible projects to support teachers looking after children who are still attending school (www.stem.org.uk/in-school-activities)
- Our STEM education specialists are now responding to the Live Chat function on our website, so teachers, parents and others can get immediate advice on their questions and needs. We had over 1000 chats with teachers and other educators yesterday
- We are active on Twitter, Facebook and other social media, including #ScienceatHome (used by Explorify, STEM Learning, Primary Science Teaching Trust, Sanger etc) which encourages parents of primary pupils to get active in science and share their home learning projects and activities.