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Wensum English Hub

# *Engaging Readers during Summer*



*A helpful guide for schools, parents and carers to engage  
children with reading during the Summer holidays.*

*By Wensum English Hub*

## The Research

Everyone has been impacted by the Coronavirus pandemic, in one way or another. On average, children have lost 115 days of schooling due to the pandemic.

We want to try to ensure that children close the gap on their loss of learning, whilst still having fun and enjoying their holidays.

### **You may have heard of the term 'summer slide', but what is it?**

The 'summer slide' is when children — particularly those from disadvantaged families — lose skills learned during the school year.



For many children, learning slows way down — or even stops — during the summer months. Poorer families often miss out on the opportunities that many wealthier families take for granted: enrichment camps, lots of books at home, regular visits to the Library and Museums, and family road trips that immerse young minds in new experiences. This lack of learning opportunities can have devastating long-term effects.

With the impact of Covid and lockdown rules, we fully expect that the 'summer slump' will be more prominent and gaps in children's learning will increase this year.

Did you know that 1 in 8 children do not have access to books at home?

## Computer Games

You will have all heard that computer games can be detrimental to children's learning.

The reading gap between disadvantaged children is between 2 months and 7 months.



The reality is that "not only has screen time been linked to language delay and smaller vocabularies, but studies show that the more television infants and toddlers are exposed to, the more likely they are to be inactive and obese, have difficulty sleeping, and show aggression" (Ravichandran and de Bravo 2)  
"Children who spent more than 2 hours per day watching television or using a computer were at increased risk of high levels of psychological difficulties" (Paige et al. e1101)

Equally, worryingly, there is extensive research suggesting that, on average, reading proficiency of pupils from lower income families falls disproportionately behind during the holiday period, with one study stating children in this group fall on average two months behind with their reading after summer. (Elwis, K 2018)

### **Top Tips**

How can you ensure you help to keep your children engaged with reading this Summer and narrow the 'summer slump' learning gap?

- Look at a variety of reading materials- cookbooks, newspapers - bake together, get them to help read the instructions. Read comics, the library service have some available.
- Encourage reading as an enjoyable activity - do not see it as a chore. If children feel like they are being forced to read, they will not enjoy it. Likewise, if adults are not enthusiastic then children won't be either.
  - Choose material that your child would enjoy reading about
- Use 'idle' moments to read - in the car, waiting in doctors surgeries, waiting at bus stops.
- Keep reading to your children-even when they are old enough to read for themselves
  - Short bursts of reading - little and often is the key!
  - Focus family discussions around what you have read
    - Use your local library!
  - Give books as a gift- swap books with friends

### **What is happening in Norfolk?**

We know due to Covid there will be lots of changes to events and restrictions in place this Summer however, there are still lots of exciting events happening in both Norfolk and Suffolk this year. Although not all are linked to reading, these events can help support your child's early language development too. Discussing the events and creating oral stories about what they have done will help support your child, alongside reading daily.



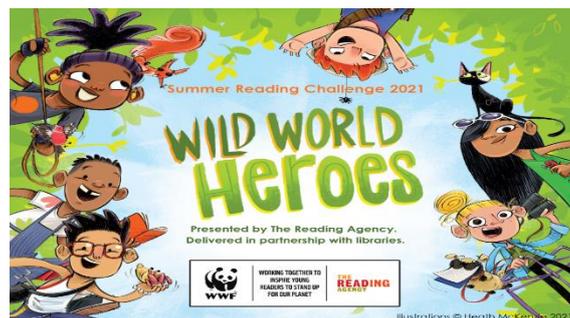
## GoGo Discover - Dinosaur Trail



The trail will start from Dippy's exhibition at Norwich Cathedral and will take you around Norwich's streets - all whilst raising money for Break. The trail will start from Dippy's exhibition at Norwich Cathedral and will take you around Norwich's streets - all whilst raising money for Break. Each sculpture will be a 'canvas for conversation', encouraging everyone to get active, to discover hidden parts of our wonderful city and to learn more about how Break's work is changing the lives of young people and families in our region.

## Summer Reading Challenge

Coming to all Libraries, nationwide, the Summer Reading Challenge is back both in your nearest Library and virtually.



This year the theme is 'Wild World Heroes,' with a focus on raising support for the WWF. Wild World Heroes will feature amazing books, awesome rewards, and plenty of ideas for taking care of our environment.

Visit their Facebook page for a list of all their virtual events.

<https://www.facebook.com/NorfolkLibrariesForFamilies>

## Waterstones

### Virtual Events

**Fantasy Worlds in YA: Kalynn Bayron, Ciannon Smart and Namina Forna - in conversation with Sarah Shaffi / Wednesday 7th July at 7.30pm**

Banner attached and ticket link

here: <https://www.waterstones.com/events/fantasy-worlds-in-ya-kalynn-bayron-ciannon-smart-and-namina-forna-in-conversation/online-events>

**History, Mystery & Friendship: Katherine Woodfine, Lucy Ivison, Ella Risbridger - in conversation with Emma Carroll / Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> July at 4.30pm**

Banner attached and ticket link

here: <https://www.waterstones.com/events/history-mystery-and-friendship-katherine-woodfine-lucy-ivison-ella-risbridger-in-conversation-with-emma-carroll/online-events>

**A Summer Evening with Holly Bourne - in conversation with Tanya Byrne / Wednesday 14th July, 7.30pm**

Banner attached and ticket link here: <https://www.waterstones.com/events/a-summer-evening-with-holly-bourne-in-conversation-with-tanya-byrne/online-events>

**Dara McAnulty in conversation with Chris Packham / Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> July at 6pm**

Banner attached and ticket link

here: <https://www.waterstones.com/events/dara-mcanulty-in-conversation-with-chris-packham/online-events>

**Summer Blockbuster Thrillers with Faridah Àbíké-íyímídé, Holly Jackson and Maureen Johnson in conversation with Sarah Shaffi / Thursday 22nd July, 7.30pm**

Banner attached and ticket link

here: <https://www.waterstones.com/events/summer-blockbuster-thrillers-with-faridah-b-k-y-m-d-holly-jackson-and-maureen-johnson-in-conversation-with-sarah-shaffi/online-events>

## In Store Event

### Morrisons Little Library



- Morrisons will be donating 50,000 books to help families in need
- Customers can also bring unwanted books to Morrisons Little Libraries- where children and families can pick up books for free (Books will be quarantined to be Covid secure)
- Morrisons has launched a book donation and exchange station for children - the Morrisons Little Library - in its stores across the UK which aims to promote reading and literacy in children, particularly those who come from disadvantaged backgrounds.
- The Morrisons Little Library was inspired by Canterbury-based children's author, Rebecca Smith, who approached Morrisons asking for help to tackle the issues surrounding children's literacy and the lack of availability of books at home.
- Morrisons Little Library exchanges will be set up in stores across the UK from this week. Customers can bring along unwanted books to donate and all children, teenagers and parents can pick up a book for free. Books will also be donated through the initiative to local schools and community groups, via Morrisons Community Champions.

## Other Events:

- [https://theforumnorwich.co.uk/whats-on/brick-dinos?start\\_time=2021-07-19T00.00](https://theforumnorwich.co.uk/whats-on/brick-dinos?start_time=2021-07-19T00.00)
- **Rainbow Grey Online Event with Laura Ellen Anderson:** <https://youtu.be/xO6o07aoDDQ> (suitable for younger readers)
- **Heartstopper Vol. 4: Alice Oseman in conversation:** <https://youtu.be/tLT1pvwbeAc> (suitable for teenagers)
- **Dead or Alive - Skulduggery Pleasant 14: Derek Landy & Laura Katie:** <https://youtu.be/te07r6NKzOg> (suitable for teenagers)
- **Isadora Moon Day Online Event with Harriet Muncaster and Sarah McIntyre:** <https://youtu.be/OwOd7fZYfQw> (suitable for younger readers)
- **Concrete Rose : Angie Thomas in conversation with Darren Chetty:** <https://youtu.be/OafG59zp1U8> (suitable for teenagers)
- **Dare To Be You: a family event with Matthew Syed and Lindsey Russell:** [https://youtu.be/oWT\\_ecc-quo](https://youtu.be/oWT_ecc-quo) (suitable for younger readers)
- **Dive into Diary of a Wimpy Kid: The Deep End with creator Jeff Kinney and Radzi Chinyanganya!** <https://youtu.be/b9ITOIIfJavA> (suitable for younger readers)

## References:

Elwis, Karen (2018) What is summer slide or learning loss - and should you be worried about it?

Available at <https://thelearningcauldron.co.uk/enjoy-holidays-but-beware-summer-learning-slide/> Last accessed 15<sup>th</sup> June 2019

Paige, Angie S., Dr., Ashley R. Cooper, Dr., Pippa Griew, and Russell Jago, Dr. "Children's Screen Viewing Is Related to Psychological Difficulties Irrespective of Physical Activity." *Pediatrics* 126.5 (2010): e1011-017. Available at: <http://www.inquiriesjournal.com/articles/1374/too-much-tech-harms-reading-retention-in-young-children> Last accessed 15<sup>th</sup> June 2021

Ravichandran, Padma, and Brandel France De Bravo. "Young Children and Screen Time." *National Center For Health Research*. N.p., 2010. Web. 27 Oct. 2015.< <http://center4research.org/child-teen-health/early-childhood-development/young-children-and-screen-time-television-dvds-computer/>> Last accessed 15<sup>th</sup> June 2021

Start with a Book (2021) "*Why Summer Matters*" Available at: <https://www.startwithabook.org/why-summer-matter> Last accessed: 15<sup>th</sup> June 2021