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ISSUE 21

MARCH / APRIL 2022



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Hello to all our readers around Amber Valley,

BOOM is proud to bring you our 21st edition and to announce our exciting Children's Book Festival event happening on **Saturday 30th April and Sunday 1st May** as part of the Belper Arts Trail.

To celebrate all things literature this magazine is dedicated to promoting our children's love of books.

We bring you ideas to make reading fun and cozy at home, some literature reviews and top-rated books, voted for you our readers.

Lindsay from local group 'Phonics with Robot Reg' gives us the low down on phonics explained and Nikki from Bridge the Gap Children's Mental Health Service in Derby highlights the important role books play in our children's emotional understanding of the world.

We have a great piece from local historian Adrian Farmer on what reading and libraries looked like in Belper's past. We end with a bit of fun poked at World Book Day costume mayhem!

As always, we give you the updated timetable of classes and groups for 0-5s in Belper and a fab list of spring and Easter activities and events taking place in the coming months. Please pause to take a look at all the wonderful local businesses and services we have on offer in the surrounding area for you and your family.

Happy reading and we look forward to meeting many of you in person at the Children's Book fest in Spring!

*Jo, Sascha
& Zoe*

Editors



Sascha Landskron and Jo Leigh

Editors of Boom Magazine and local mums

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You can pick up a copy of Boom at many places around Belper

INCLUDING

Nurseries, Pre-schools and Reception classes, in Belper, Ripley, Ambergate, Holbrook, Kilburn, Little Eaton, Codnor Turnditch, Duffield, Milford & Crich. Also baby & toddler groups, cafes, gyms and shops around Belper.

Thanks for sending in photos of your children reading at home. Here is our chosen cover star Dorothy age 4, sharing her love for books.



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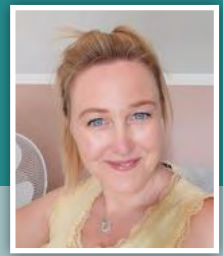
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FUN WITH BOOKS AT HOME

By Jo Leigh – Mum of 2, Primary School teacher, Co-editor of Boom Magazine and Co-director of Boom House Books



Reading books at home with your children...is it just a school requirement? An occasional activity when you finally get them off tech? Or a fun part of your everyday?

Every family will have different priorities and experiences when it comes to the part books play in your home.

Whether your child loves looking at books, writing their own stories or is reluctant to engage with them, I hope these ideas help inspire a love for reading in your home as they have with my own children and the primary school kids I teach.

A love for reading from an early age will carry with them as they grow, so many of these ideas are focused on younger children...

1. Make it cosy and inviting

A dedicated area in your house for book time is a lovely way of raising its value. By making it inviting and cosy it's a place where a child can get lost in their imagination. Maybe a cosy corner of cushions, or if lacking space, an easy put-together den under a table or a canopy hanging from the ceiling with a beanbag. In our house we have a den under my 4 year olds bed, but reading *together* usually takes place laying on a rug or snuggled up in my bed.

Of course reading can take place anywhere and it may also be fun to challenge them to read in unusual places such as inside a cupboard with a torch or weather-permitting outside under a tree. It's also been found that kids can feel more at ease reading to pets. Let them come up with the ideas!

2. Keep it fresh

If you have lots of books all squeezed into a book box or shelf, the amount of books to choose from can be a little overwhelming and may become chaotic and dog-eared. Sometimes putting just a selection out at a time and rotating them every so often can keep it fresh and appealing. Don't forget to leave their favourites out all of the time though...kids love to go back to their most familiar stories time and time again which is wonderful for a grasp of story language and re-enacting imaginary play ideas (but maybe a little tedious for the grown-ups I admit!)

Maybe have a shelf (or the popular IKEA spice racks) to feature their favourites.

Try and always have a mix of fiction and non-fiction books. In my experience as a primary teacher, boys in particular seem to love information books. They play an important part in stimulating their interest in topics and aiding learning about the world. Don't forget exposing them to a range of books is easy

when you have a library card. Belper's new library has a great kids section!

3. Add extra props

Teddy bears, puppets, painted story stones, instruments, costumes and paper & pencils are all lovely additions to a reading area. They encourage children to bring a story alive and interact with the characters, language, sound effects and illustrations within the book. Making characters from their own puppets on sticks and putting on voices or a puppet show is particularly fun for those children who enjoy getting crafty.

Drawing from photos they find inside information books, making posters and adding/copying the labels etc encourages writing and reading skills too!

4. Read with your child

Many children find reading and writing a struggle and if their reading pace is slow and they need to sound out every word, then the story line can get lost along with the joy of reading. Of course practise is the way forward, but it is also just as important to read to your child where you will naturally model all of those other reading skills such as pace, intonation, expression and responding to the punctuation. Also talking about the book and reinforcing understanding of the characters, their feelings or the concepts being highlighted is a great way of enhancing your child's comprehension skills. But MOST importantly it allows them to get fully immersed in books above their reading ability with all the suspense, humour, joy and intrigue that books can bring.

5. Make their own books

My 8 year old has recently found a love for making up his own stories, but is less forthcoming in getting them written down. So whilst he comes up with the ideas and story language and recites it to me, I tap away on my laptop and get it all typed up for him. He loves to print it off and make it into a proper folded book or stapled together with a front cover that he draws on or sticks on pictures from the web.

He was so proud of his recent story about his class going on an adventure, that he took it in to read out for Show & Tell and the class loved it, much to his

delight (it got him some House Points too)!

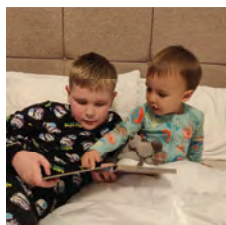
If your child finds coming up with ideas hard, why not copy a story or take a familiar story such as the Gingerbread Man and change it slightly 'The Cookie Girl' or perhaps 'The 3 Monkeys' set in a jungle instead of bears in the woods, then follow the same language patterns to retell it.

6. Use tech

Maybe as lovely as the above ideas are, you just can't convince your child to swap their devices or TV for some book time- I feel your pain, I've been there, especially during lockdown school! But there are plenty of ways of encouraging reading through tech; look out for online books, comics, reading apps and games that get them reading and following instructions. It may still be screen time but if that's what they really enjoy, then they will be practising and upskilling in reading at the same time.

I do think though, that nothing beats a good page-turning 'paper' book, but maybe I'm biased after starting our sister company Boom House Books! www.boomhousebooks.co.uk

If your child would love to meet local Children's Authors and be inspired to read and write books don't forget to pop Saturday 30th April and Sunday 1st May on your calendar for Belper's first 'Children's Book Fest', which will be in conjunction with Belper Library and part of this year's Belper Arts Trail. There will be some fab FREE workshops for kids of all ages to get involved with. Keep an eye on Boom's social media for more details.



THE LOW-DOWN ON PHONICS

By Lindsay Taylor



You have probably heard the word 'phonics' before but do you really understand what it means? I have met hundreds of parents over the last decade or so that have asked me such questions: What is phonics? How can I help my child? What age should I help them?

What is Phonics?

Phonics is a way of teaching children to read and spell. It teaches children that there are 42 phonemes or sounds. Blending these sounds together will make words - so that children can say the sounds and then read the word in front of them. This is then used for spelling, so that children segment the word back into the sounds and then write the graphemes (letters that represent the sounds) down. It is these skills combined that help children to decode new words they see or hear and allow them to take their first steps towards reading.

Why Phonics?

Over the last few decades, research has shown that when phonics is taught in a structured and systematic way, it is the most effective way of teaching young children to read. It gives most children the skills to tackle new and unfamiliar words and allows them to write down their ideas in a way that is phonetically plausible (and therefore everyone can read it).

In the beginning...how young?

Before children are ready to recognise the letter sounds they need to be exposed to a range of skills. We are talking about the preschool and even toddler years here. This would include - learning about environmental sounds, instrumental sounds, rhythm and rhyme, alliteration, voice sounds and oral segmenting and blending (sounding out). Preschool and nurseries will be enhancing these but there are a variety of games you can play at home that will support your little one in developing these skills. Making it fun, memorable and fast paced is the key I find.



Here are a few ideas:

- go on a listening walk
- make your own instruments and talk about the sound they make
- read lots of rhyming books
- bring nursery rhymes to life and act them out
- play games that involve making animal sounds (singing Old MacDonald etc)
- go on a sound hunt for a particular letter sound - for example finding things that start with 's'
- play oral segmenting and blending games: 'Can you put on your h/a/t?' so children begin to learn to blend the sounds and work out what you're asking them to do.

At School...

Once your little one is at school, you will know which scheme the school uses to teach phonics and they will talk to you about this. As always, there will be lots of fun ways that you can support this at home but it is always best to discuss this with your child's teacher first to make sure you're all working together effectively.



Here are some activities you could include:

- helping with letter recognition by playing games that match the sound to the grapheme (the written letter - pointing at the letters when you say the sound or vice versa)
- practice linking objects to their initial sounds (making sound bags of certain objects or using a muffin tray tin to collect small objects in)
- once children can read the letter sounds they can start to read simple sentences, You could use magnetic letters to make words, creating sound buttons (pebbles for example) under the letters to help children segment and blend.

Continuing...

Once children have learnt the single letter sounds they then need to learn double and triple letter sounds. A double letter sound is called a DIGRAPH (for example: 'sh' 'ch' 'ai') and a triple letter sound is called a TRIGRAPH ('igh') The children will know these words and often this surprises parents when children come home talking about trigraphs and digraphs!

After these have been learnt children will also be taught about split digraphs and other alternative ways to make sounds - for example 'a_e' in cake or 'u_e' in cube.

BOOKS

Throughout all of this what we must remember is that we are trying to create a love of reading in children. Phonics is the tool that equips them to access this BUT the love of reading will come through a variety of ways we expose children to books. Reading books together, sharing stories from memory, making up stories, visiting libraries, reading online books, reading to different people, listening to audio books...making it fun. If we can do this then we have truly succeeded in our mission. By exposing children to a range of literacy and language we are helping our little ones develop a love of literacy - one that hopefully stays with them for life.

Lindsay is a primary school teacher of 21 years. She also runs a business that promotes early literacy and language skills for 1-4 yr olds in Belper and other areas across Derbyshire.

"Phonics with Robot Reg" offers toddlers and preschoolers sessions that aim to open up a world of literacy. Classes are fun, high energy, fast paced and educational. Weekly sessions take place across Derbyshire whilst Lindsay and Anna also offer a bespoke package for Nurseries, Preschools and childminders

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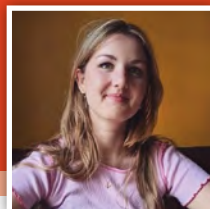
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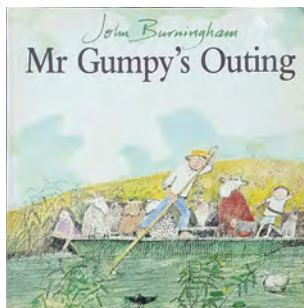
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CHILDREN'S BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS



Local Belper graduate, and book enthusiast Ella Fothergill has some great children's books she recommends for differing ages, so enjoy her write-ups and see if you're tempted to seek them out at your local library or book store...

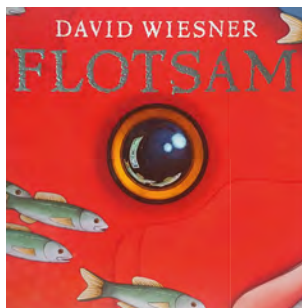


Mr Gumpy's Outing by John Burningham (Age: 2+)

Mr Gumpy is an older gentleman who lives a quiet life by the water. One sunny day, he hops onto his small boat to enjoy a lazy ride on the river.

The warm breeze, chirping crickets and vibrant blue water make it such a perfect outing. So perfect, in fact, that Mr Gumpy soon has a queue of animals hoping to join him. A cat, a dog, a rabbit, a pig, a sheep, a chicken, a calf and a goat all pile onto the teeny-tiny boat, with the only request that they **MUST NOT FIGHT**. What will happen?

The gently-coloured pictures and rhythmic writing makes for a sweet, calm bedtime read. It's a simple, subtle story with a high quality finish. Mr Gumpy's Outing is a New York Times Best Illustrated Children's Book and Boston Globe-Horn Book winner. It's gentle illustrations won John Burningham the Kate Greenaway Medal twice. A lovely read.



Flotsam by David Weisner (Age: 5+)

On a family trip to the beach, an inquisitive, young boy comes equipped with his bucket, magnifying glass and microscope. You see, his favourite beach-time activity is to collect, examine and record flotsam - bits and bobs washed up by the tide. His usual finds include: sea glass, bottles, toys and jewellery. But this time, he makes an unusual discovery ...

Instead of his usual treasures, the young boy finds a seaweedy, old camera, which has secrets hidden inside!

Flotsam doesn't use words to tell its story; instead, it uses beautifully detailed illustrations. Through these pictures, we journey across the ocean, sandy shores and even back in time! This lovely book is magical - encouraging imagination and exploration.



The Chocolate Tree: A Mayan Folktale by Linda Lowery & Richard Keep (Age: 7+)

“Chocolate Ice-Cream. Warm cocoa. Fudgy brownies. Can you imagine a world without chocolate? This is a folktale about how chocolate came to all of us on Earth. It begins nearly 1,000 years ago in a rainforest in Mexico.”

The Chocolate Tree is a beautifully illustrated, well-told story about Mayan life in the Mexican Jungle. Specifically, it details the fascinating folk tale about the origin of chilli hot chocolate! The book involves battling gods, exotic animals and mouth-watering descriptions of chilli cacao, making it a sure favourite for any history or chocolate-loving kid.

It's colourful illustrations and clear writing style makes it a perfect read for 7+ age groups, allowing them to improve their reading skills and knowledge of history. Enjoy this story with a homemade hot chocolate for a more exciting, immersive experience.

We also asked you, our readers, to fill out a short survey on our Boom social media to find out what books your children enjoy so that we can share top picks with other families. Here are your recommendations:

Top 5 Authors:

Julia Donaldson
Jill Murphy
Sue Hendra
Lauren Child
Michael Rosen



Favourite Chapter Book Authors:

Tom Fletcher
David Walliams
Dav Pilkey
J K Rowling
Cressida Cowell
Liz Pichon
Sophie Anderson
Andy Griffiths & Terry Denton
Enid Blyton
Ben Miller
Roald Dahl

Find lots more recommendations on the World Book Day 2022 website: www.worldbookday.com



Favourite Book titles:

Supertato
The Tiger Who Came for Tea
Winnie the Witch Series
Gordon's Great Escape
The Gruffalo
Horrid Henry Series
The Cat In The Hat Series
Elmer the Elephant
We're Going on a Bear Hunt
Aliens Love Underpants
The Baby Who Wouldn't Go To Bed
Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus
The Captain Underpants Series
Can You Cuddle Like a Koala
Henry and Mudge Collection
Mr Men Collection
Usborne lift-the-flap learning books
Treats for a T-rex'
The Smeds and The Smooos
Stick Man



NEW BOOK !!!

Would you like your little ones to enjoy more fruits and veg?

This colourful, easy-read picture book, adds creative flair to a scientific method to help introduce young children to new vegetables. Written by local mum and paediatric dietitian, Sascha Landskron, and illustrated by primary school teacher, Hannah Hawley, this book will help to spark your child's interest in fruit and vegetables!

Buy your advance copy on www.boomhousebooks.co.uk for only £5!



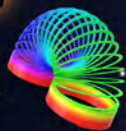

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If you are a new group and wish to be listed in later editions...
please get in touch info@boommagazine.co.uk

Belper Baby Club

Building confidence and community for parents and babies
No. 28, Market Place
Thurs, 1-3pm, PAYG

Twistin Tinies - Babies 0-18m (non-walkers)

@ Belper Community Hall
Mon 12:30-1:30pm
Tues 12:30-1:30pm
Fri (now running in Ripley)
Weekly or Block Bookings

Twistin Tots - 0-5yrs

@ Belper Community Hall
Mon 9:45-10:30am & 11-11:45am
Tues 9:45-10:30am & 11-11:45am
Fri (now running in Ripley)
Weekly or Block Bookings

Belper Library

Story Time

Wed 11-11:30am (under 5s)

Rhyme Time

Fri 11-11:30am (under 5s)

Craft Drop-In Sessions

1st Sat of the month.

Hourly slots between 10am & 2pm
(5 yrs and over) (01629532590)

BOOK for all sessions

Inspirational Languages

Spanish classes

"Caramelo" Baby & Toddlers

Mon 11.15am - 11.45am - Online

Mon 1.40pm - 2.40pm - Heanor

Tues 10-11am

Fri 9:45-10:45am

- Vanessa's School of Dance, Belper

BOOK

Phonics with Robot Reg

Vanessa's School of Dance

Fri:

9:30am Mini Class (1yr+)

10:30am Mini Class (1yr+)

11:30am Preschool Class (2.5-4yrs)

BOOK

Gymkids - 'not just Gymnastics'

Belper Leisure Centre

Wed 9:15, 10:15 & 11:15am

3 classes available for movers to

pre-schoolers BOOK

Sunshine Forest School Toddler

Group (0-4yrs)

Wed 10am-12pm

High Woods, off Sandbed Ln - BOOK

Belper Early Years Centre

Toddler Group

Mon & Fri 10-11:30am,

No need to book (£1 donation)

B.E.A.R.S. Breastfeeding

Support Group

Please contact the BEARS team via Facebook/messenger for details of zoom meet/walk & talk sessions. See Fb page for breastfeeding support and upcoming announcements of face to face session

Derbyshire Toy Library

Stay & Play

Belper Community Hall

Wed 9:30-11am

Kilburn Village Hall Thurs 9.30 - 11am

Book your place on DTL fb page or website

Toy Hire

Click & Collect or Click & Browse Service:

Strutts Community Centre

Wed 9.30am - 12pm

Sat 9am-12:30pm

Fri 9.30am - Express Party Package

Collection & Return

See fb page for ideas and to book a

slot for pick up. Database available:

www.derbyshiretoylibraries.org/shop

Post Natal Pilates

Fit Pit

Post Natal Reformer (babies

welcome)

Thurs 10:30am

Pregnancy & Post Natal Pilates

Wed 6.15-7pm

Fri 10:30am

BOOK

Little Church

St Peter's Church

Wed 10am-12pm

Prams & First Shoes Meet-Up

St Mark's Church

Thurs 9:30-11:30am (0-2.5s)

Messy Church

St Swithun's Church

2nd Sat in the month 4-6pm.

St Mark's Church, Openwoodgate

4th Sat in the month 4-6pm.

The Little Baby Sanctuary

@ Sage Yoga Studio

Baby Massage (6wk - crawling)

Fri 1.30-2.30pm

Baby Yoga (8wk - crawling)

Thurs 10-11am

BOOK

Nursery Ballet (3-4yrs)

Vanessa's School of Dance

Mon 4:15-4:45pm

BOOK

Baby Sensory

Lion Hotel

Wed:

10-11am (Birth-6m)

11:30am-12:30pm (6m-13m)

1-2pm (Birth-13m)

BOOK

Nest & Nurture

@ Nest & Nurture Studio, Belper

North Mill

Hatchlings (6wks-5m)

Mon & Thurs 11:45am - 12:45pm

Nestlings (4/5m - crawling)

Mon & Thurs 10-11am

Tree Babies (newborn to 12 mths)

Outdoor baby sessions in local

woodlands, Wed (time tbc)

Pregnancy Yoga

Mon 7pm-8:30pm (14 wks+)

Nest & Nurture Tea Club -

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group for expectant and new parents

in Belper and surrounding area.

Tues 10.30am - 12.30pm

BOOK for all sessions

** Please note that this information was correct at the time of publishing. The current COVID-19 situation may change when, where and how these groups are available. Please check all details before attending.

To advertise please email us on: info@boommagazine.co.uk

EVENTS MARCH APRIL 2022

Events happening locally for all ages!



Derbyshire Toy Libraries Virtual Toy Sales

Thurs 10 March, 7 April & 12 May
Buy preloved toys at a bargain and raise vital funds. Go to Derbyshire Toy Libraries Selling and Fundraising FB Group and message them if you have toys and books to donate. www.derbyshiretoylibraries.org

Derby Theatre

NDCW: Discover Dance
A fun relaxed interactive performance
Fri 4 March, 1pm

The Emperor's New Clothes
A brand new adaptation of the Hans Christian Andersen Classic
Fri 1 - Sat 16 April
Book at Derbytheatre.co.uk

Clip n climb 'Meet Chase'

Fri 11 March
Calling all Paw Patrol lovers! Chase will be making an appearance during the 4:45pm session. Open to all ages.

Wirksworth Heritage Centre

Sat 12 March - Earth & Nature: Clay impressions using items from nature.
Sat 26 March - Make a pop up Easter card or bunny ears to wear!
Fri 8 April - Needle felt for Easter. Age 13+
Sat 9 April - Woodturning - Egg Cup or Small Box.
Fri 22 April - Creepy Critters: Learn about creepy crawlies, investigate live larvae, search the museum as a bug detective and create your own museum critter (1-3pm).
St John's St Wirksworth, DE4 4DS

Belper Repair Café

No.28 on the Marketplace
Sat 26 March & 23 April
10am-1pm

Markeaton Park Easter Egg Hunt

Can you find all six Easter Eggs hidden around the park? Download your Markeaton Park Easter Egg Hunt Trail map, which will help you find all six Easter Eggs hidden around the park (available from Tues 5 April).

Derby Museums

What if? Machine @ Museum of Making

Sun 13 March
What if... we could create an over-engineered, contraption designed to send a chain reaction around the ground floor of the Museum of Making to complete a simple task? Sign up a team or come and marvel at the ingenious contraptions being created on the day!
FREE/Donations

Tots Make and Do: How many of me makes a Hippo? @ Derby Museum & Art Gallery

Fri 18 March - 10-11.30am
Come and find out all about measuring looking at some of the largest and smallest objects in the Museum. Drop-in session, suitable for children 2-5 years old with their carers. FREE/Donations

Crafty Tuesday: Groovy prints @ Pickford's House

Tues 12 April - 10am-12pm
A crafty holiday session where you can design your own patterned fabric inspired by the flamboyant spirit of 60s fashion.
Drop session, suitable for children aged 5-12 with their adults. FREE/Donations

Denby Pottery Village

Toddler Tuesdays (every Tuesday in term time)

Children's creative craft sessions plus a free hot drink with a slice of cake included at Bourne's Coffee Shop for each parent booked onto the session. Denby Craft Studio, £5 per child

Museum Monday's

Enjoy half-price tickets to the Denby Museum Experience, every Monday!

Mothers Day Tippy Tea

Sun 27 March - 12 & 2pm
Treat your mum this Mother's Day and indulge in a delicious Afternoon Tea. Enjoy a selection sandwiches and homemade cakes & scones all served on beautiful Denby tableware. A special Denby keepsake is included for all adults.

Also available: Children's parties

www.denbypottery.com/parties

Deda Dance, Derby

Déda Youth Performance

Friday 25 March 7.30pm

Interface 22 will showcase the best youth dance talent from schools, youth and community groups from across Derby and Derbyshire.

This event promises to deliver an evening of inspirational performances, as young people aged 11 – 19 demonstrate their energy, creativity and skill on Déda's professional stage.

Dinky Disco Easter Special

Disco for Mini Ravers with smoke machines, DJs and disco balls

Sat 9 April, 2:30-4:40pm

Ecclesbourne Valley Railway

Steam Trains running over Easter weekend

St George's Day Celebrations Belper

Sat 23 April, 1pm

The Black Pig Border Morris will be performing at various spots around King Street, Belper

Bluebells Dairy

Easter in Wonderland event – see latest details online: www.bluebelldairy.co.uk

Heights of Abraham

Bonkers Bunny Bonanza

Fri 15- Mon 18 April

Follow the trail to find the hiding bonkers bunnies, collect the letters to make a magic word then find the Easter Bunny hopping around the summit to receive your tasty treat!

Please note: Anything could change due to the current COVID-19 situation - watch social media for any updates, and double check before you arrive. We will share new events on the Boom Magazine FB page, when we see them!

Severn Trent Easter Trail – Carsington Water

Sat 9 – Sun 24 April

The Easter Bunny has left a trail of eggs around the Stone Island trail at Carsington Water. Follow the route to find the eggs and answer the questions. No need to pre book, just head to the Visitor Centre to buy your activity sheet. £3 per trail sheet - pushchair friendly route.

Visit stwater.co.uk/events for more info.

Good Food Fridays

4 fabulous businesses with the environment in mind have joined forces to bring 'Good Food Fridays' to The Gatehouse at De Bradelei in Belper. Eartharmony have zero waste essentials, Vegan Revelation provide eat in or takeaway meals, 'Earthed Up!' have a pop-up edible plant nursery and you can also collect your Pingle Produce organic veg box (order online by Wednesday) Every Friday from 11am.

Belper North Mill Easter Crafts

Craft activities taking place within the North Mill Museum (more details to follow)

Tues 12 & 19 April

<https://www.belpernorthmill.org.uk>

Belper Arts Trail

Sun 1 - Mon 2 May, 10:30am-4:30pm

An interactive trail of creativity around Belper where artists will exhibit and promote their work. Utilising every possible space as a venue over the weekend, artists and their work will be found in a variety of unusual spaces around town. Get your trail map which is within the Arts Trail brochure and your wristband from the Market Place, Memorial Gardens, Strutts and at other selected venues. £5



Belper Children's Book Festival

Sat 30th April & Sun 1st May

As part of the Belper Arts Trail, Boom Magazine will be hosting a celebration of Children's Books in collaboration with Belper Library and some fabulous local children's authors. Join in with Free workshops, meet the authors, get your face painted and find new reading inspiration. Follow Boom Magazine on social media for more information.



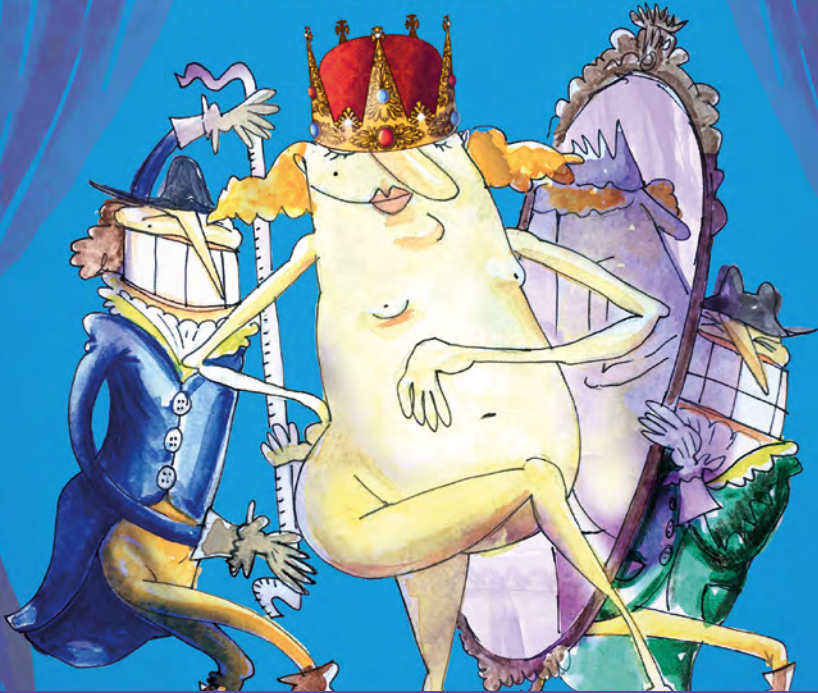
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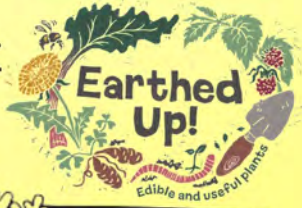
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Wirksworth Heritage Centre

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- Drop in children's craft workshops including Easter themed
- Family workshops including woodturning and needle felt
- Wirksworth Book Day - local writers inc. children's authors and illustrators
- New exhibition in our museum - 'Open All Hours' a look at local shops through the ages
- Fresh food in our cafe
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Check out our website for up to date activities and events



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LEARNING TO READ IN BELPER



by Adrian Farmer, Chair of Belper Historical Society

When the Strutt family built their mills in Belper, they pushed to ensure that all their workers, no matter how young, could read, write and have basic numeracy skills. This meant they could read signs and write and add up in ledgers so they stayed safer and were more useful as employees. Everyone benefits when you have an educated workforce.

The first 'learning space' was a schoolroom in the attic space of the North Mill (above the present day museum); children worked long hours in the mill most of the time, but had half-a-day's schooling each week in the attic, which was more than most children received in those days. Eventually this school moved to the bottom of Long Row – and the attic (pictured in 1964) was used for storage until the mills closed.

The earliest surviving children's book published in Belper (that we know of) is 'The History of Tom Tucker', which was written



anonymously and printed by John Rosewarne of Bridge Street, who started there in the early 1830s, and by 1842 was including 'children's books' as part of his retail offer.

The History of Tom Tucker is a short little book, ideal for child-sized hands, and with a big illustration on each page. In rhyme, it tells the story of Tom

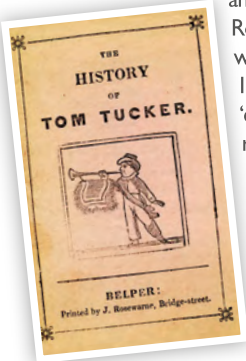
Tucker who starts life as a 'blockhead' who skips school and gets thrashed for it, who turns over a new leaf and becomes a clever and successful boy.



There were a number of libraries in Belper during the 19th century, which required a membership fee – but the Strutts also provided free reading rooms for their workers. A public library opened at The Hollies on Bridge Street in 1937. Opening hours were extended for the junior library in 1971 so children had a greater chance to choose and borrow books (pictured). The move to the old Empire Music Hall on Derwent Street took place in 2021.



You can find out more about Belper's history from the Belper Historical Society website belperhistoricalsociety.co.uk/ and at Strutt's North Mill, the museum by Belper Bridge and the Horseshoe Weir. Opening times can be found at www.belpemorthmill.org.uk



EMOTIONAL LITERACY & READING

By Bridge the Gap Child's Mental Health CIC



BRIDGE THE GAP



When Boom Magazine mentioned their Children's Book Festival around the corner in May, I stopped to have a think about why reading is so important to me, as an adult and a parent. For me, losing myself in a good book provides an escape from the world for a little while. A time where I can switch off my busy thoughts and instead let my creative, imaginative side take over. A sense of escapism is a definite must when entering parenthood and a good book doesn't have to even have words to make that escapism a possibility (there is something comforting about flicking through an old favourite childhood picture book).

I have loved reading since I was a small child – sharing books with parents and siblings before bed. Then later through my teenage years, escaping the chaos of my 4-sibling home, into a cosy corner to flick through page after page. Fresh into parenthood took away the ability to slip off quietly to read and I really struggled with the parting of my favourite hobby. It took a good 4 years for me to be able to pick up a book again and it was like finding an old friend when I did. I now find nothing better than snuggling into a pair of cosy pyjamas, wrapped in a blanket reading a good crime thriller. I now don't feel guilty for slipping off and having a

deep bath with a good book, but it took me a long time to move through that parent guilt.

One of the joys of parenthood has been sharing my love of reading from very early days with my two children – right from day one (and before, even in utero!) I have read to my children every night. We poured through the good old favourites of when I was younger – Mr Men, Roald Dahl, Old Bear, and onto new favourites in line with their generation – The Gruffalo, Gangsta Granny, Harry Potter. A recent clean out, as they hit 7 and 9 years old found me crying in a heap in the bedroom over young children's book they have parted with; I felt weirdly emotional about these attachments to books and kept a few behind to pass on when they have their own children (just as my parents did.) I feel happy that my children have just reached the age now where they will choose to read – not because they have to, but because they too find joy in reading and find a state of escapism from their busy heads.

Our children and young people today face a multitude of pressures at school, home and in their social lives. I believe reading really allows them to switch off from an always switched-on world. I definitely find my children are both more



hyperactive and sensitive if they have been on tech for too long, whilst reading makes them calmer and more relaxed.

In my work as a Mental Health Nurse at 'Bridge the Gap' in Derby, we have a great range of books available to the families that we work with; we use stories with children as it assists emotional literacy skills. Books are an invaluable source in developing our children's emotional literacy – it broadens their vocabulary, so they are able to express their feelings more accurately. It normalises people experiencing big and difficult emotions, so they don't feel different. It allows them to explore coping strategies that they can relate to, because their favourite characters use those strategies too. It gives children an outlet for their own emotions. It can also help to increase their self-confidence and self-awareness as it fosters an interest in learning, curiosity, problem solving and understanding other points of view. There are lots of books that we use at Bridge the Gap that also weave emotional health into their story line, which only supports children further.

Any sort of reading is good for the soul, giving children time out from their busy, tech-centred lives and helping them to relax and unwind – fiction, comics, poetry, audio books, picture books all have a place in improving children's emotional wellbeing. Books can make us cry and laugh out loud – and what a brilliant start to exploring emotional literacy.

As my children have grown older, I have phased out a little of the times at night where we share a book together but continuing to share books together brings many additional benefits including fostering connection, closeness and conversation, developing empathy and listening skills. Modelling reading yourself will support your own children in wanting to pick up a book and sharing books together will also increase the likelihood they choose to use reading as a tool for their mental health.

Nikki Webster
Director, Senior Mental Health Nurse.
Bridge the Gap Child Mental Health CIC.



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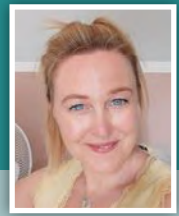
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WORLD BOOK DAY... LOVE IT OR DREAD IT?

By Jo Leigh, teacher, mum and co-editor of Boom



This year on the 3rd March 2022, World Book Day celebrates its 25th Year of 'changing lives through a love of books and shared reading'...

...But It's the one day in the school calendar that has the nation divided!

Parents across the country go into a panicked stupor when their kid comes home announcing they need a costume (and more often than not they only get this memo the day before!) Or... maybe not... maybe the parent is already ON IT, they know exactly what their child will wear; after all they have spent the last month planning this epic costume and it's even better than last years!

So here's my low-down on the nations World Book Day reaction... Have a giggle deciding which parent you are most like or maybe you've been all of them... a parents dedication to school activities can certainly change a lot from Reception to Yr 6!



The 'all singing, all dancing' parent...

The parent that wants nothing more than to see their child full of excitement for the day, adorned in accessories and a painstakingly home-stitched costume that is so unique you won't find another kid in the country, let alone school with the same take on their book character.

This is the parent that's spent hours of an evening researching Pinterest, ebay & fabric sites and scoured the charity shops for those finishing touches! Other parents don't know whether to applaud them with admiration or roll their eyes with despair!



The 'who's got time for this?' parent...

I hear it every year from fellow parents it goes something like this... "So & so has just told me they need a costume for this Friday, they want to go as Gangster Granny, how on earth am I meant to have time to sort this?" Then in true parent style somehow they pull together something, maybe a bit half-hearted, but passable in convincing their kid that a football kit must cover a character in one of David Walliams books somewhere. Or maybe their fellow tribe have come to the rescue via a cry for help on the parent WhatsApp thread with a mish mash of accessories... some beads, a wig, their daughters old school dress... or even a Where's Wally costume, who cares, it will do!



The 'love it – but kids won't play along' parent...

Well that's me! I've always LOVED an excuse to get creative & theatrical and ABSOLUTELY LOVE fancy dress parties, so the challenge of preparing a World Book Day costume really gets me hooked in! BUT... for all my efforts my son has always blankly refused to dress up in any of my clever creations because, well quite frankly, he hates dressing up! The feel of the outfit and the attention-grabbing effects embarrass him. So refusing to give in, every year he gets a white t-shirt with his favourite book character painted on the front! And if you're like me you'll probably find yourself offering to help with the other kids outfits in the class too... any excuse to utilise all that dressing up you've collected over the years!



The 'I didn't know' parent...

Despite being told on the newsletter, email & maybe even a school text message, there's always that one kid in the class in their school uniform, the parents oblivious to this annual day of promoting all things books or maybe just happy to bypass all the silliness- after all it's not the end of the world... or is it?
P.S. to this parent – it's happening on the 3rd of March 2022!!

But hey – joking and stereotyping aside, WBD is just an opportunity to highlight the joy kids can get from books, so don't sweat it just let them enjoy a different kind of day at school, where they have fun guessing each other's costumes and get some down time from the usual busy curriculum!



Oh and in case you're wondering, there's a whole list of teacher types too... from the ones who turn up adorned from head to foot with wig and face paints thrown in (that's me), to the token onesie that makes its annual reappearance and of course the teacher who accidently on purpose forgot because dressing up is way too cringy and 'Early Years' for them!

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