Dear Parent or carer,

The Euro 2016 football tournament and the centenary of the Battle of the Somme will receive a great deal of coverage this summer. Euro 2016 takes place from 10 June to 10 July in France. England, Northern Ireland, Wales and 21 other countries are taking part. The centenary of the beginning of the Battle of the Somme, which also took place in France, is 1 July. It will dominate the news around that time.

The National Literacy Trust and children’s author Tom Palmer have put together 10 tips on how you can use children’s interest in both these big stories to encourage them to read for enjoyment. We hope you find them useful.

1. Be seen reading about Euro 2016 and the Somme centenary yourself by your children – in newspapers, magazines and books. You are their best and most important role models.
2. Have newspapers in the TV room or at breakfast – or even deliver a newspaper to their room in the morning. Point out stories to do with their favourite team, match reports and player profiles.
3. Watch the news coverage of the Somme centenary and ask them if they would like to read a children’s story about the war. Our school library, local library and nearby bookshops have displays and stock of great First World War fiction and non-fiction titles.
4. Buy children some of the Euro 2016 special edition magazines – or the Euro issues of *Match of the Day*, *Match*, *FourFourTwo* or *World Soccer*.
5. Play Euro 2016 Book Bingo with them during one of the football matches. You can download the game from[www.wordsforlife.org.uk](http://www.wordsforlife.org.uk).
6. Read Tom Palmer’s free online story, *Over the Line 2016,* based in France and responding to the tournament and Somme commemorations as they unfold. Download it daily from 13 June at [www.literacytrust.org.uk/euro-2016/story](http://www.literacytrust.org.uk/euro-2016/story).
7. Watch one of the films of books by Michael Morpurgo – *Private Peaceful* or *War Horse* – then get a copy of the book for your child from the library or bookshop.
8. Contact our local library. Are they doing any special Euro 2016 events? Have they got any extra football or First World War stock in?
9. Challenge your children to a Euro 2016 fantasy football game online or in a newspaper. Find newspapers, magazines and websites that will help them make the best player decisions so that they can try to beat you.
10. Check out World Cup pages online. Many of them will have competitions and interactive activities that will encourage reading and research.

We hope these tips are useful. You can find more about family reading from the National Literacy Trust’s parent-facing website [www.wordsforlife.org.uk](http://www.wordsforlife.org.uk).

Happy Reading!