

Every term, we share the latest news from Read On Nottingham and other literacy-focused activities across the city.

## Read On Nottingham



### Book gifting supporting reading for pleasure

We have been co-ordinating the distribution of books and children's activity comics during these unprecedented times, when few children have been able to access school and many do not have regular access to online resources.

We have distributed over 1,000 books, generously donated or funded by partners including Bloomsbury Publishing and KPMG. We have also distributed 1,500 activity comics and magazines for children aged two to six through our partners at foodbanks, community centres, social housing and children's centres, as well as through our amazing team of volunteer Literacy Champions.

Literacy Champion, Shazia, enjoyed giving books and magazines out to families on her street. She said: *"They are over the moon and appreciating the cause. Most parents and kids said they ran out of books and activities so this is amazing!"*



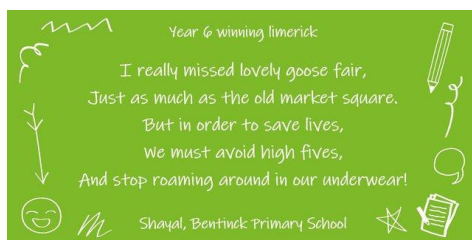
### Read On Nottingham Facebook page

To support, inspire and encourage families in Nottingham to engage with literacy in these challenging times, we launched a new Facebook page in response to school closures in March.

The page is parent-facing and promotes fun and engaging activities that families, children and young adults can do at home to continue developing their reading, writing and language skills. Families have access to a huge variety of resources featured on National Literacy

Trust platforms including [Family Zone](#) (for parents) and [Zone In](#) (for students aged 13+) plus lots of inspiring local content, news and activity from our Literacy Champions and partners.

Find Read On Nottingham on Facebook: [fb.me/ReadOnNottm](https://fb.me/ReadOnNottm)



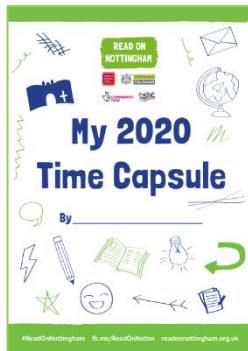
### Limerick competition

In May we launched our limerick competition challenging children aged 9 to 14, living in Nottingham City, to pen witty limericks describing what they love most about their city and the people who live there.

We announced the winners of the competition on National Writing Day in June along with new research from the National Literacy Trust showing that lockdown has inspired a resurgence in children and young people's creative writing, which has in turn played an important role in supporting their wellbeing at a time of great uncertainty.

Each winner received a set of brand new books, family sports tickets (generously donated by Nottingham Rugby Club) and £20 in book tokens. All qualifying entries also received a free book for taking part in the writing competition.

[Find out more about the research and read the winning limericks.](#)



### **Time capsule**

We recently launched a fun literacy resource encouraging families to record their feelings and experiences of lockdown by making their own time capsule.

The resource is available online with extra tips and Literacy Champions have helped distribute a limited number of printed copies into the community too.

Children and young people are also encouraged to send their finished 'letter to myself' page from the resource to Read On Nottingham's online gallery to

receive a free book.

[Find out more and download the time capsule resource.](#)



### **RSE Day, 25 June**

We celebrated Relationships and Sex Education Day sharing special book lists created with Nottingham City Libraries featuring books we love about love.

We selected inspiring stories, novels and non-fiction books – suitable for children and young people from early years to young adult – to help encourage family conversations around the themes of love, trust, respect, resilience, co-operation and communication.

[Find out more about RSE Day.](#)



### **Challenge Nottingham activity packs**

Challenge Nottingham have been distributing activity packs to Nottingham families to keep primary and secondary school children entertained and learning over the summer.

Activities and resources from Read On Nottingham and the National Literacy Trust have been featured, including our Time Capsule and poetry activities!

[Download the activities pack.](#)

## Literacy Champions



### Read On Nottingham's Digital Literacy Champions

We have recruited and trained a team of volunteer Literacy Champions from a wide range of backgrounds to design and deliver projects which improve literacy levels in their community.

As our Literacy Champions have been unable to go out into the community due to COVID-19 restrictions, we supported them to become Digital Literacy Champions – and recruited new ones too – allowing us to reach communities online with literacy events and activities. We have trained 34 Digital Literacy Champions so far,

including five local authors.

These Literacy Champions became invaluable in inspiring and encouraging their communities to engage with literacy through:

- Sharing and signposting resources including those on the National Literacy Trust's online learning platform [Family Zone](#) and on our [Read On Nottingham Facebook page](#)
- Spreading the word on the importance of reading and writing
- Role modelling behaviours and activities that support good literacy
- Creating inspiring content for social media sharing their own resources and activities
- Building an online network to stay connected

[Check out some of brilliant activity Literacy Champions have been sharing on Facebook.](#)

## Early Years



### Time together

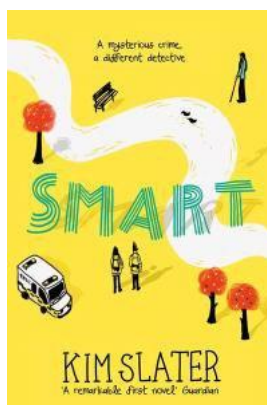
We are very grateful to Small Steps Big Changes for funding 2,200 copies of the National Literacy Trust's Time Together booklet for parents and carers of children up to age five, which have been distributed by their Family Mentor team, Community Midwives across the city and our own Literacy Champions.

The booklet shares seven key ways parents can support their young children at home with lots of tips and fun activities and guidance on how to embed these activities into daily routine. Time Together is also available online in 13 languages providing support to multilingual families.

[Find out more and download the booklet.](#)

The National Literacy Trust has also created a series of bilingual quick tips in 18 different languages for parents and Early Years practitioners to help children develop good talking and listening skills

[Download bilingual quick tips.](#)



### **SMART transition project**

Read On Nottingham is hosting and promoting resources created by Nottingham Emmanuel School and the Farnborough Academy to help Year 6 pupils feel prepared for Year 7 when they join in the autumn.

The activities are based on the book *SMART* by Kim Slater - a fantastic book set in Nottingham that pupils will be reading together in their Year 7 tutor groups. Everyone is welcome to try the tasks as pupils don't need to have the book or have even read it to take part.

This transition project is now in its second year and we are delighted to be working with primary schools in Clifton and the Meadows. Since launching the project, Bluecoat Aspley, Bluecoat Beechdale and Nottingham University Academy for Science and Technology have also planned to use *SMART* with their Year 7's in September.

[Find out more about the SMART resources.](#)



### **Literacy for Learning**

Literacy for Learning is the National Literacy Trust's two-year professional development programme to improve literacy in secondary schools.

12 Nottingham schools are now participating in the programme which has continued throughout the summer term with free on-line training modules on disciplinary literacy, as well as interactive online training sessions on leadership for literacy and literacy in science. We have also held virtual network meetings, including one which brought special schools and alternative provision settings together from across the country and another on the value of using podcasts and audio books in the classroom.

[Find out more about Literacy For Learning.](#)



### **Reading Teachers = Reading Pupils**

We are delighted to have been chosen by the Cheltenham Literature Festival to run their Reading Teachers = Reading Pupils KS3 Book Club programme in Nottingham.

The aim of Reading Teachers = Reading Pupils is to inspire a love of reading because children who read for pleasure experience high levels of wellbeing, engage in learning and are more likely to be successful in life. 16 local teachers will be taking part in the Nottingham programme inspiring children's reading for pleasure via their own teachers book group.

[Find out more about Reading Teachers = Reading Pupils.](#)



#### Summer 2020

Nottingham City Libraries have developed a brilliant range of activities for children of all ages to take part in and enjoy online.

To celebrate the start of the holidays and officially launch the programme, the library held an exciting day of entertainment on Monday 27 July on the [Nottingham Libraries Facebook page](#) with stories, draw alongs, music and an exclusive interactive retelling of Roald Dahl's The Twits.

Read On Nottingham is supporting Nottingham City Libraries, Story Parks and the Reading Agency, promoting their summer activities and encouraging families to take part through incentives and accompanying challenges.

[Download the Nottingham City Libraries summer newsletter.](#)

**If you would like us to include your literacy-focused activities in the next Read On Nottingham newsletter [please get in touch.](#)**

**Please [let us know](#) if you would no longer like to receive this newsletter and we will remove you from the list.**