

Dear Colleagues,

We hope this finds you safe and well.

Since the school closures on Friday, 20th March, the Lancashire English and Literacy team from LPDS have been busy thinking about how best we can support you and your school during this most testing of times.

We are conscious that you are working tirelessly to support your children in their education via home learning – no mean feat!

To this end, the team has been busy creating some new and exciting 'Read and Respond' units to support home learning in English and Literacy. The 'mini units', available for Years 1-6 inclusive, provide daily English lesson plans and have been designed for you to send home to parents on a weekly basis. (Reception guidance for Literacy will also be included, though in a slightly different format). All weekly plans are presented on either a single or double page and are written in a parent-friendly, accessible way.

In compiling these plans, the challenge for the team has been the availability of texts. Some of our children may have an abundance of texts they can share at home whilst others may have very few. To address this, all the plans use text extracts freely downloadable from LoveReading4Kids, Oxford Owl or websites with free audio recordings. **We would advise providing parental guidance on how to sign up to LoveReading4Kids and Oxford Owl.**

Texts have also been carefully chosen for another reason. Usually, in school, we would recommend the use of shared texts that are appropriately challenging for our children. However, our aim in this endeavour is to keep children reading and keep motivation levels high. For this reason, we have selected well-known titles and popular authors – some of which may already be firm family favourites! (As you can tell, we are sticking to our mantra about prioritising audience and purpose!)

To address the distinct possibility that this situation may continue for many weeks, an overview of units has been created for summer term 1. The plans will be released on a weekly basis every Thursday via the Lancashire portal and will be free to all Lancashire schools. Following week 1, week 2 will be released on Thursday 23rd April. It is suggested that each unit is sent to parents with an accompanying letter as a way of the class teacher personally introducing the unit of work. This will provide the teacher with the opportunity to address any particular sections of the plan, provide supporting materials (e.g. a writing frame) where appropriate for learners, and/or make reference to any prior learning. An editable example of how this might look is included in the word file - Dear Parent – Sample intro letter.

The team sincerely hopes that these plans will be of use to you and your school community. Please do get in touch to offer feedback – we always value your thoughts and comments.

In the meantime, take care and keep safe.

With very best wishes,

The Lancashire English and Literacy Team