

# Barrington Stoke Homeschooling Help for Lockdown

Advice, information and free resources for parents  
and carers of children with dyslexia

## Click to jump to each section

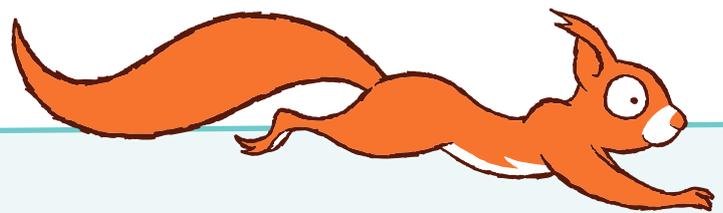
- Introduction 2
- Expert tips for homeschooling in lockdown 3
- Our top tips for reading 4
- Did you know ... 4
- How Barrington Stoke can help 5
  - Choosing the right books 5
  - Dyslexia-Friendly Classics 5
  - Using our website 6
  - Young Editors 6
  - Our free resources 7
  - Fun activities 8
- Specialist support during lockdown 9
- Other websites and initiatives we love 12

## Introduction

As school gates remain closed and thousands of parents and carers become teachers, finding the resources to help you homeschool your children can be both overwhelming and time-consuming.

Barrington Stoke has over 21 years' experience of publishing fiction for those who find reading a challenge. During that time we have developed our own tips and advice, and have also collaborated with many wonderful organisations to help support families. We have put this pack together to highlight what we and they are offering, particularly focusing on those home-help tips, advice and resources for families with children and young people with dyslexia.

There are positives too: Caroline Bateman, Founder of Achieve Now, says: "When life gives us lemons there are chances to make lemonade! This is a unique opportunity for dyslexic children to learn in ways that suit them away from the stresses and strains of school life."



### Get in touch

We want this pack to grow and evolve, so please do send us your comments and share ideas.

 [info@barringtonstoke.co.uk](mailto:info@barringtonstoke.co.uk)

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**NEW!**

Chat with the team direct from [our website](#), live every weekday from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.!

## Expert tips for homeschooling in lockdown

- School is not always an effective place for those with dyslexia to learn. Having this time at home gives dyslexic students the chance to learn in ways that are better suited to their needs and to explore new and different ways of working.
- Videos and recorded lessons can be much easier for those with dyslexia. They can pause and rewind, and not worry about having to take notes at a fast pace while trying to absorb new information.
- Technology designed to teach reading skills using multi-sensory techniques and other more dyslexia-friendly teaching methods can be tried.
- Online learning platforms that break the whole syllabus into mini videos with accompanying notes pages, quizzes, exam questions and marking schemes are really helpful.
- Having a hobby outside of school is healthy for any student, but for those who find school hard, it is even more valuable. Now is a great time to learn new things, with so many organisations offering expert content for free.

With thanks to  
Caroline Bateman  
from [Achieve Now](#)



## Our top tips for reading

- Try not to get stressed about reading issues. Take a positive approach instead. Rave about books and ensure adults are seen reading.
- If they give a book a go and don't like it, don't insist they finish it.
- Remember children with poor recall may find multiple readings of the same text helpful.
- Ask the child to cover all the words they can't read on one page with a finger. Not enough fingers? The text is too difficult.
- Reading aloud to children boosts memory, vocabulary and listening skills. There's no 'right' age to stop. Follow the text with your finger as you read, and let kids read a few words themselves.
- To improve understanding, chat about how you picture the story, characters and setting, and discuss illustrations.
- When the child reads to you, get them to pause when they are stuck on a word. After a second, read it out. If you make them puzzle it out, they'll lose track of the story.

## Did you know ...

- that black text on white paper can hurt sensitive eyes, while off-white paper helps? We recommend printing worksheets onto coloured paper and experimenting with what colour works best.
- that careful spacing between letters and lines can help new and struggling readers? We recommend [this video](#) for some great tips on understanding and using the accessibility features in Office 365.

## How Barrington Stoke can help

### Choosing the right books

Finding the right books can be overwhelming, especially if your child has a lower reading age. To help, we've put together our top 12 recommended Barrington Stoke titles for each year group.

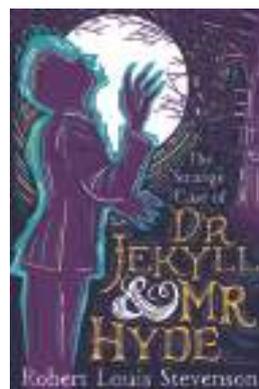
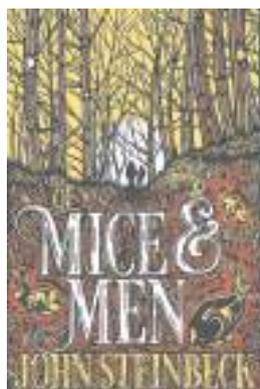


[Click here](#) to view page layouts for each series.

### Dyslexia-Friendly Classics

To help every reader access classic literature, we offer a range of unabridged editions in our dyslexia-friendly format. We also offer an abridged retelling of *Jane Eyre*.

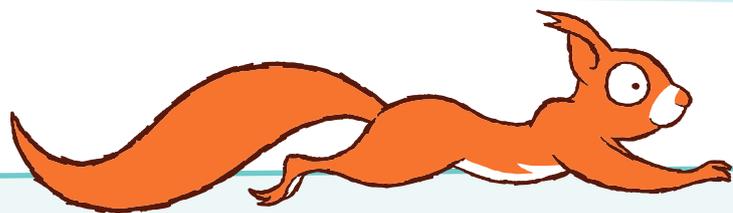
Click on the images below to find out more!



## Using our website

[www.barringtonstoke.co.uk](http://www.barringtonstoke.co.uk)

- **View all of our titles** at a glance by Reading Age and Interest Age
- Read sample chapters for every book
- **View page layouts** for each series
- **Download free resources**
- **Sign up to the blog**



## Young Editors

- A fun project for budding editors
- Be the first to read our new books and feed back on the stories before they're published
- Content for primary and teen readers
- A quick and engaging at-home project that helps build reading confidence

Click [here](#) to find out more!

## Our free resources

### Discussion guides

We provide discussion guides and activities for a lot of our books. Here are some of our favourites for each year group:

#### 5+

- **My Name is Not Refugee**  
by Kate Milner
- **The Red Dread**  
by Tom Morgan-Jones

#### 8+

- **Owen and the Soldier**  
by Lisa Thompson
- **Run Wild**  
by Gill Lewis

#### 12+

- **Jane Eyre: A Retelling**  
by Tanya Landman
- **The Fall**  
by Anthony McGowan

#### 14+

- **Of Mice and Men**  
by John Steinbeck
- **Moose Baby**  
by Meg Rosoff

You can find lots more to choose from by clicking [here](#).

### WWI resources

We've got a host of videos and resources from the brilliant Tom Palmer and Linda Newbery on our Reading War page. Click [here](#) to find out more.

## Fun activities

We've got plenty of activity sheets with lots of fun options for keeping readers engaged and entertained! To view them all [click here](#) or we've linked to some of our favourites below:

- Test your knowledge with a [space quiz](#)
- [Build your own globe theatre](#)
- [Imagine your own monster](#)
- [Build a straw-powered rocket](#)
- Test your knowledge with a [history quiz](#)
- Help Grandpa and his rocket through a [maze](#)



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## Specialist support during lockdown

The good news is that there are a lot of general articles and tonnes of advice on the internet for those families currently homeschooling children. Here are some of the best links we have found that are aimed specifically at young people with dyslexia and their families:

### Achieve Now

Caroline Bateman is mum to three dyslexic children and an expert in the relationship between dyslexia and technology. There are extensive resources on her [Facebook page](#) and [website](#). Some of the videos we particularly like are:

- [‘The benefits of using technology to teach children to read’](#)
- A [playlist of videos](#) to build confidence and encourage dyslexic children

### Anna Freud National Centre for Children and Families

Expert advice and support for families on supporting mental health and wellbeing during lockdown.

### BBC Bitesize Parents SEND Toolkit

Resources, activities and support on wellbeing and learning from home.

### British Dyslexia Association

Expert support for parents and children including free resources and an email helpline. Download their [‘Empowered Parents Pack’](#), and we particularly love this article from author Margaret Rooke:

[‘Learning in a lockdown when you’re a young person with dyslexia’](#)

## Dyslexia Assist

A small charity started by parents with dyslexic children to share information, tips, ideas and experiences.

## Dyslexia Scotland

Scotland's leading dyslexia charity offering information, resources and a dedicated helpline. We recommend checking out:

- A list of [useful links](#) to resources and organisations
- [‘The Addressing Dyslexia Toolkit’](#)
- [Dyslexia Unwrapped](#) – an online hub for young people with dyslexia

## Helen Arkell Dyslexia Charity

A not-for-profit organisation offering support for adults and children with dyslexia and other learning needs. Their site includes specialist tuition, consultations and courses for parents available online or by video chat. We love their tips on [‘Fun ways to help your child spell tricky words’](#).

## Institute of Education

Various expert articles on homeschooling children with SEND including:

- [‘Managing the transition to homeschooling’](#)
- [‘Homeschooling children with SEND’](#)

## SEN Teacher

Free special-needs teaching resources across various subjects.

## The School Run

A learning hub with resources and expert tips for children of all ages:

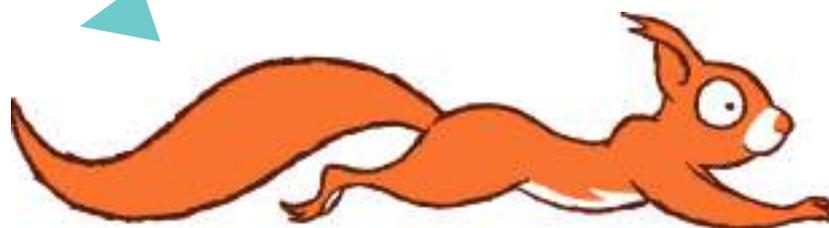
- 'Homework tips for children with dyslexia'
- 'Help your dyslexic child enjoy reading'

## The Studying with Dyslexia Blog

A blog run by a parent and assistive technology advocate. Has lots of advice and free resources, and is currently offering **emotional wellbeing support** for parents of dyslexic children.

## UK Government Website

Currently offering online education resources including links to various SEND resources for home learning.



## Other websites and initiatives we love

### #UnitedByBooks

Over on Twitter the children's book community is sharing lots of free resources, advice and information to help everyone learn at home.

### Authorfy

Free author videos and writing resources.

### BBC – Five tips for Homeschooling

Top-tips for homeschooling from teachers and education experts.

### BookTrust HomeTime Hub

Free online picture books, activities, competitions and lots of video content.

### Centre for Literacy in Primary Education

Free literacy and teaching resources, plus lots of author and illustrator videos over on their [YouTube channel](#).

### Empathy Lab

Creative activities to try at home to help families understand, explore and practise empathy.

## **The Independent – Homeschooling during lockdown**

With links to further homeschooling help from major organisations.

## **LoveReading4Kids**

Book-recommendation site with free resources, blogs and video content.

## **National Shelf Service**

A new daily YouTube series run by librarians every weekday at 11 a.m.

## **The Reading Agency Hub**

A newly created hub of reading ideas and resources.

## **Reading Well**

Supporting children's mental health with information and advice on coping with feelings and worries, daily life and getting through a tough time.

## **Reading Zone**

Book reviews, news, competitions and activities for all ages.

## **RHS Kew Gardens**

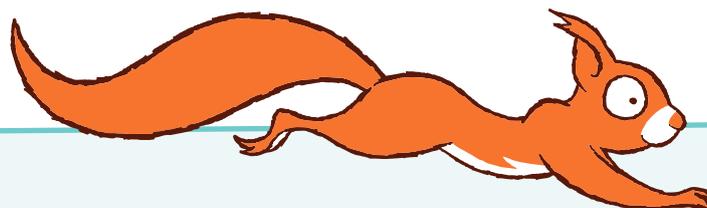
Lots of learning-at-home resources including videos and activities across all year groups.

## Summer Reading Challenge Book Sorter

A fun book-recommendation page for children to help them pick their next read.

## Toppsta

A book-community website curating book reviews and recommendations for children aged 0–14. Lots of resources, blogs and giveaways!



## Get in touch

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Every child can be a reader

Barrington  Stoke