Date: 30 March, 2020

Dear Parent,

The Coronavirus has plunged the world into uncertainty and the constant news about the pandemic can feel relentless. Children are likely to be anxious and disturbed as these are not normal times - they're likely to have to spend days and nights indoors with parents or guardians. So how can parents help them cope? As households begin this forced experiment in enclosed living, we at Bal Bharati, Jharli advocate setting a clear routine, particularly for younger children - such as a couple of hours of school work in the morning or a specified time for craft work or reading in the afternoon and evening.

This can be the perfect time for kids and teens to crack open a great book. Whether it is learning the art of how to read or reading to learn important information, engaging children to read is key. The fundamental skill of reading can be difficult for some children. Finding ways to make the reading experience enjoyable can influence a child's reading success. Having a special place and time to read makes reading part of family time. Children will come to look forward to this time. Teens are social beings — using technology to connect with other readers, discussing books through author blogs or joining book clubs may help inspire teenage readers. Whatever the age of your child, you can instil the love of reading by encouraging reading at home. There's no better time to pick up a book and encourage reading at home than today. Make time for reading. Allow reading to be a relaxing and enjoyable time, free from pressure. Set aside a regular read- aloud time with your children. Choose a variety of high-quality literature that appeals to your child's age and interests. Audio books are another great option for a reluctant reader. And don't abandon read-aloud time when your children get older—no one is too old for a great read-aloud. Look for a variety of reading material. Try buddy reading with your struggling reader. Buddy reading can help improve a child's fluency and make him feel more comfortable with reading on his own. Exhibit a love of reading. When your kids observe that you love to read, they're more likely to develop a love of reading themselves. The more children are exposed to literature, the more reading will become part of their daily life. A child is introduced to new information, concepts, and phonemic awareness with every story.

Technology is changing the way we all learn, and it can have a positive impact on kids and their reading. Let them use e-readers. E-readers can be adapted to each person's specific needs. If you have a kid who needs larger font or less lines per page in order to improve their reading ability, e-readers are perfectly suited to this kind of tailoring. Ereaders are adaptive for students with learning disabilities as well, and can help level the playing field for children who learn differently.

It's a daunting prospect for parents, taking over what the state has offered for well over a century - daytime education and childcare. But might there be another way of looking at things to ensure the coming weeks and months are more bearable? We've got to look for the silver lining in all this."

We believe this practice of reading to your children or encouraging them to read will help you as a family to tide over this difficult time while providing a priceless experience from it. Here are a few books that could benefit your child:

Suggested links and titles:

https://newcastlepa.libraryreserve.com/ www.amazon.in > Free-Kindle-eBooks-Store

SUGGESTED LIST OF BOOKS FOR PRIMARY CLASSES

- Charlotte's Web by E.B. White 1
- 2 The Secret Garden by Frances Hodgson Burnett
- 3 Anne of Green Gables (Anne of Green Gables, #1) by L.M. Montgomery
- 4 Matilda by Roald Dahl
- Charlie and the Chocolate Factory (Charlie Bucket, #1) by Roald Dahl 5
- 6 7 Where the Wild Things Are by Maurice Sendak
- Little House in the Big Woods (Little House, #1) by Laura Ingalls Wilder
- 10 A Wrinkle in Time (Time Quintet, #1) by Madeleine L'Engle
- 11 Where the Sidewalk Ends by Shel Silverstein
- 12 Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone (Harry Potter, #1) by J.K. Rowling
- 13 The Hobbit, or There and Back Again by J.R.R. Tolkien
- 14 Green Eggs and Ham by Dr. Seuss
- 15 Little House on the Prairie (Little House, #3) by Laura Ingalls Wilder
- A Little Princess by Frances Hodgson Burnett 16
- Pippi Longstocking by Astrid Lindgren

- 18 Winnie-the-Pooh (Winnie-the-Pooh, #1) by A.A. Milne
- 19 Heidi (Heidi, #1-2) by Johanna Spyri
- 20 The Very Hungry Caterpillar by Eric Carle

SUGGESTED READING FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS

- The Hound of the Baskervilles Holmes in top form vs. spectral hound on the moor. By Sir Arthur Conan Doyle
- 2. Island of the Blue Dolphins by Scott O'Dell
- 3. Treasure Island by Robert Louis Stevenson
- 4. Anne Frank: The Diary of a Young Girl (2011)
- 5. The Red Badge of Courage by Stephen Crane
- 6. Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry by Mildred D. Taylor
- 7. Bless Me, Ultima. by Rudolfo Anaya
- 8. The Call of the Wild by Jack London
- 9. The Crucible by Arthur Miller
- 10. Great Expectations by Charles Dickens
- 11. Lord of the Flies by William Golding
- 12. My Antonia by Willa Cather
- 13. The Old Man and the Sea by Ernest Hemingway
- 14. The Outsiders By S. E. Hintón
- 15. The Pearl by John Steinbeck
- 16. Sounder by William H. Armstrong
- 17. Animal Farm By George Orwell
- 18. Great Tales and Poems of Edgar Allan Poe by Edgar Allan Poe
- 19. The House on Mango Street by Sandra Cisneros
- 20. Jane Eyre by Charlotte Bronte

SUGGESTED READING FOR SENIOR STUDENTS

- 1. Of Mice and Men By John Steinbeck
- 2. A Raisin in the Sun by Lorraine Hansberry
- 3. Romeo and Juliet by William Shakespeare (2011)
- 4. Black Boy by Richard Wright
- 5. Brave New World y Aldous Huxley
- 6. The Catcher in the Rye by J. D. Salinger
- 7. Frankenstein by Mary Shelley
- 8. The Good Earth by Pearl S. Buck
- 9. The Great Gatsby by F. Scott Fitzgerald
- 10. I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings by Maya Angelou
- 11. The Joy Luck Club by Amy Tan
- 12. The Odyssey by Homer
- 13. Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austen
- 14. The Scarlet Letter by Nathaniel Hawthorne
- 15. Sense and Sensibility by Jane Austen
- 16. The Sun Also Rises. By Ernest Hemingway
- 17. A Tale of Two Cities by Charles Dickens
- 18. For Whom the Bell Tolls by Ernest Hemingway
- 18. Wuthering Heights by Emily Bronte
- 19. Beloved by Toni Morrison
- 20. The Grapes of Wrath By John Steinbeck

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