

## Reading

*At the Virtual School we understand the importance of reading and how this key skill can open doors in life.*

### Letterbox Parcels

To promote reading engagement we are working closely with the BookTrust and are able to fund the **Letterbox Parcels** for another year for children in **years 1 to 6** currently in the care of Oxfordshire County Council.

The colourful parcels will be addressed to the child and contain books, maths activities, stationery and other complementary materials. The parcels will be delivered **once** every month for **six** months, children in y1 – y6 at the beginning of May 2020 to October 2020. Children that are y1 from September 2020 will receive Letterbox parcels from May 2021. The aim is that after being a member of the Letterbox Club for six months your child(ren) will have built up their own small library of books, a collection of number games and a variety of stationery items. The Letterbox Club is an award-winning programme managed by the BookTrust, in partnership with the University of Leicester.



This exciting opportunity is being funded by the Virtual School for all Oxfordshire Looked After Children in school years 1 to 6 living both in and out of Oxfordshire. Hopefully there will be a **seventh festive parcel** which will be posted out in December 2020 if the BookTrust fundraising bids are successful.

This is a wonderful opportunity for you to share these books with the child(ren) in your care and for you to help develop their enjoyment of reading. The maths games should provide fun ways to develop number skills whilst developing other skills of turn taking and cooperation.

**There are themed booklists, activities and much more available to support reading on the BookTrust website: [www.letterboxclub.org.uk](http://www.letterboxclub.org.uk) .**

**eBooks and Audio for children and adults** Download bestselling eBooks and eAudio titles to your computer or portable device:

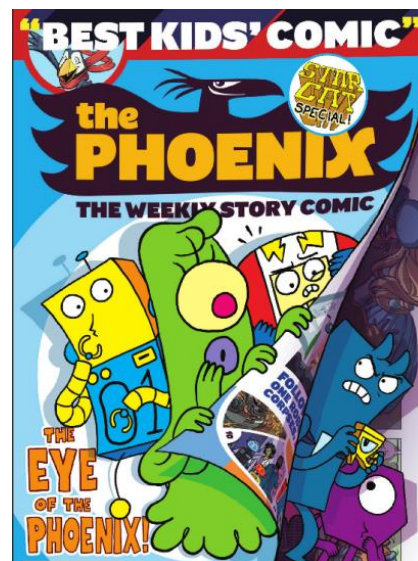
<https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/leisure-and-culture/libraries/library/books-and-reading/ebooks-and-eaudio>

## The Phoenix Comic

For children in Key Stage 2 (years 3-6) we are pleased to be able to send children **The Phoenix Comic**.

The Phoenix is a 32-page comic featuring 7 or more thrilling story strips, a puzzle competition and a new non-fiction strip. It is a **weekly comic** delivered to your door funded by Oxfordshire Virtual School. Each issue is packed with stories from top children's writers and illustrators. All content is original. The Phoenix Comic has the support of many of Britain's best-loved children's writers, including Phillip Pullman, Michael Morpurgo and Jacqueline Wilson.

If you would like information about the Phoenix comics then please visit their website: [www.thephoenixcomic.co.uk](http://www.thephoenixcomic.co.uk)



### Children

If you would like to send in your artwork or have story ideas then carers, please email [fanfare@thephoenixcomic.co.uk](mailto:fanfare@thephoenixcomic.co.uk) and include within the subject header 'OXCC'.

## Dolly Parton's Imagination Library



To help develop reading with children **under 5yrs of age** Oxfordshire Virtual School have enrolled in the **Dolly Parton's Imagination Library** book gifting programme. All children enrolled in the programme will receive **one age appropriate book to keep, every month**, from birth until their 5<sup>th</sup> birthday. The aim of the Imagination Library programme is to promote a lifelong love of books and reading. All books are carefully selected by a panel of experts in early childhood development and reading on behalf of The Dollywood Foundation UK.

The cost of registering a child onto the programme is usually £25 per child per year, but funding from [Make My Day Better](http://www.makemydaybetter.org) are covering the costs: **the books are FREE!**

The books will be delivered by post and personally addressed to each individual child. **There are activities and ideas for the books available from their website and from [North Lincolnshire Council | Imagination Library - North Lincolnshire Council](http://www.northlincolnshire.gov.uk).** Further information about Dolly Parton's Imagination Library please visit their website: [www.imaginationlibrary.com](http://www.imaginationlibrary.com) .