



4 April 2022

Dear parents

The holidays are almost upon us!

Dates to Diarise

Up ahead next Wednesday, 13 April is our annual Interhouse Cross Country event. House Captains will be appointed this week. The children will need a house T shirt – available at the uniform shop. We do keep the uniform code strict at these events so please do order your child's shirt. School closes at 10am.

Grade Two Parent Coffee and Connect is set for 7 April at the Rose House. Please liaise with the class mums for more information if you are in that grade.

Holiday Club Opportunities

Please see attached a flyer for a Lego Holiday Club and also for a Drama Holiday Club. Both these offerings are arranged by external providers. Please make all arrangements with them directly.

Reading

Apps can offer helpful features that facilitate kids reading including word highlights, different reading modes (e.g. read-to-me, read along, read-aloud, etc), and more. The purpose is to inspire a love of reading in kids and help them become better readers. Here are some to try in April:

1. FanFaria Stories to Read Along

FanFaria Stories is a storybook app that provides a wide variety of read-alouds for kids 1- to 9. The collection includes over 1000 popular kids books covering various genre such as bedtime stories, nursery rhymes, songs, educational books, and more. Some of its main features include read-to-me functionality, standards-aligned reading level badge, common core reading levels,, read along option, offline access, and more.

Compatibility: [Android](#) and [iOS](#); **Age:** 4+; **Price:** Free, offers in-app purchases.

2. Little Stories: Bedtime Books

Little Stories app offers over 40 beautifully illustrated fairy tales. Simply select the age and gender of your child and let the app provide custom fairy tales with pictures and beautiful melodies selected specially for your child. You can even create your own audiobook by recording your voice and using it as a voice-over for the story.

Compatibility: [Android](#) and [iOS](#); **Age:**4+; **Price:** Free, offers in-app purchases.

3. Epic

Epic is one of the best digital reading platforms that offers reading materials for children 12 and under. Epic's library includes over 40.000 books, a huge collection of audiobooks, and numerous interactive learning videos. The personalised recommendations feature provides children with reading suggestions based on their reading level and interest. Epic also includes a tracking system that enables kids and parents to keep track of reading progress. Rewards and badges are offered to keep children motivated. Check out [Epic full review](#) to learn more about this reading app.

Compatibility: [Android](#) and [iOS](#); **Age:** 4+; **Price:** Free, offers in-app purchases.

4. Storybook: Sleep & Massage

This app is designed with the goal of improving kids sleep through bedtime stories, lullabies, and massages. The app's library contains over 60 massage series and bedtime stories for children 1-12 years old. 'Play lullabies and listen to bedtime stories together as you massage your child into a restful state of relaxation.'

Compatibility: [Android](#) and [iOS](#); **Age:**4+; **Price:** Free, offers in-app purchases.

5. Novel Effect: Read Aloud Books

Novel Effect is a good app that brings to life stories and helps promote kids learning and imagination. Here is how it works: search the app for books to read, start reading aloud to your child from a storybook, the app follows along and provides interactive music, sound effects, and character voices when needed. The app's library embeds a huge collection of soundscapes to choose from. However, only premium users have unlimited access to the library.

Compatibility: [Android](#) and [iOS](#); **Age:**4+; **Price:** Free, offers in-app purchases.

6. Make Way for Books

Make Way for Books offers a wide range of educational materials including books that you can read together with your children. There is also a section called 'in book tips' where you can access ideas and tips on how to improve your child's reading skills. Use the search functionality to find educational videos and activities to work on with your child and help them build their early reading skills.

Compatibility: [Android](#) and [iOS](#); **Age:** 4+; **Price:** Free, offers in-app purchases.

7. Fairy Tales

Fairy Tales is a storybook app that offers a growing library of bedtime stories. Popular titles include The Beauty and The Beast, The Three Little Pigs, The Prince and the Pea, The Tinderbox, The Wolf and Seven Kids, Aesop's Fables, and more. Each bedtime story is further enriched with educational games, puzzles, and activities to help make reading more fun and entertaining. Other features provided by the app include: both Read-to-Me and Read-Myself modes, interactive stories with animated characters and fully narrated, offline reading, and more.

Compatibility: [Android](#) and [iOS](#); **Age:**4+; **Price:** Free, offers in-app purchases.

8. Bedtime Stories Book

As its name suggests, Bedtime Stories app provides access to a wide collection of stories including bedtime stories, Aesop's Fables, Fairy tales, early reading stories, moral stories,

among others. The app supports both the Read-by-Me and Read-for-Me modes thus helping children develop both reading and listening skills. Some of the interesting features Bedtime Stories app offers include: word highlight, interactive animations, rewards for kids achievements, storybook suggestions based on kids reading interests, and more. Some popular stories included in the app are: Cinderella, Three Little Pigs, The Thirsty Crow, The Fox and The Grapes, The Boy Who Cried Wolf, among others.

Compatibility: [Android](#) and [iOS](#); **Age:**4+; **Price:** Free, offers in-app purchases.

9. Vooks

Vooks is your go-to library for read-aloud stories for kids. Vooks offers kids the option to watch or read Vooks anywhere with Internet connection. As kids engage with their stories, they get to develop language skills and boost their emotional learning skills. 'Vooks inspires and motivates young readers with intentional read-along pacing and highlighting to create a visual connection with the text. The stories teach valuable life lessons that promote social-emotional development to provide readers the tools to become leaders.'

Compatibility: [Android](#) and [iOS](#); **Age:** 4+; **Price:** Free, offers in-app purchases.

10. Booka

Booka is another good eBook app for kids 1 to 9 years old. The app features interactive kids books from award-winning children's book publishers and Booka library. Books are narrated by actors and are selected based on kids age, interest, and activity. The app's read-to-me function allows kids to listen to their favourite books anywhere they are.

Compatibility: [Android](#) and [iOS](#); **Age:**4+; **Price:** Free, offers in-app purchases.

Enjoy the week ahead and remember that a hard copy book always goes down well too and presents with lovely sharing opportunities.

Alison M Scott (Mrs)

Executive Principal