



Sensory Inclusion Service

Information for parents and schools regarding service provision during the coronavirus COVID-19 situation

During this very difficult time, we in Cheshire East Sensory Inclusion Service want to assure all our parents and schools that we are here to support you and are continuing to provide key services, albeit through new and different means of communication. In order to provide the best support in these unprecedented times, we have changed some ways of working as follows.

Currently:

- All members of our team are working remotely.
- This includes all Specialist Teachers for hearing, visual or multi-sensory impairment, Specialist Teaching Assistants/ Habilitation Specialists, the Service Technician, Sensory Production Base staff and our dedicated Business Support Officers.

We will aim to continue to provide the following:

- Specialist advice and guidance to parents, preschools, schools, and other agencies
- Guidance for management of specialist equipment
- Links to useful information, which are also available on the attached sheet

Contact

As far as possible, within Government Guidelines for social distancing and the minimising of contact, all members of the team will aim to work flexibly with parents and families, educational and medical professionals, as well as any other agencies that may be involved with the child.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact us via our service email:

sensoryinclusionservice@cheshireeast.gov.uk

or by contacting members of staff direct, if you have individual contact details.

All emails to our service email will be acted on and we will aim to respond as soon as possible.

Referrals – we are still accepting new referrals

Children are usually referred to the service directly by medical professionals, although other agencies can also refer, provided there is medical evidence of a diagnosed visual condition or hearing loss. Please use these regular channels to refer students, using the usual criteria to do so.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch with us if you need to. We know that this is a difficult and challenging time for us all, but the Cheshire East Sensory Inclusion Service is here to help you in any way we can.

We hope you and your families are, and remain, safe and well.

USEFUL LINKS AND INFORMATION ARE ATTACHED OVERLEAF

USEFUL LINKS AND INFORMATION

Cheshire East Live Well Sensory Inclusion Service information page

https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/livewell/local-offer-for-children-with-sen-and-disabilities/education/supporting-send-in-education/sensory_impairments.aspx

Hearing Impairment

Retubing a hearing aid:

<https://youtu.be/8E9j3qI-yhA>

Helping to prevent feedback (whistling) while waiting for new moulds:



OTOFERM Comfort Cream eases insertion and secures hearing aids. This silicon-based lubricant makes it easier to insert hearing aids. The greaseless cream allows ear moulds to slide in easily, and keeps them snugly sealed. Available at Connevans, Boots, Amazon and eBay.

Guidance and information is also available from:

<https://www.ndcs.org.uk/>

Visual Impairment

Audible – free stories for duration of school closures

<https://stories.audible.com/start-listen>

Paths to Literacy

<https://www.pathstoliteracy.org/>

Positive Eye

<https://www.positiveeye.co.uk/general-news/activity-shares-for-families-and-professionals-covid19/>

and Facebook page

RNIB

www.rnib.org.uk/children

RNIB Bookshare

Available to parents during the crisis.

[Special arrangement information is available at](#)

<https://www.rnibbookshare.org>

If you have a child who has a print disability that affects their reading RNIB Bookshare can help with access to curriculum and leisure titles in accessible formats at all educational levels. If your child does not already have access through their school, we don't want any child to miss out on the books and resources they need whilst they learning at home.

You can email us with proof of their disability along with your name and your contact details and we will make sure they get access to the services for titles they need.

Membership of RNIB Bookshare allows downloading of curriculum resources, from our online catalogue for use by learners with a print-disability only, as defined under the Copyright and Rights in Performances (Disability) Regulations 2014. A guide to Print-disability definitions is available.

We will review memberships provided during the COVID-19 arrangements again once learners are able to return to school-based learning. Under normal circumstances, RNIB Bookshare is accessed by learners through a school membership.

[Seeing Ear: accounts to download books.](#)

<http://www.seeingear.org>

[Guided Access](#)

Guided Access is a set of tools that we can use to manage how the iPad and apps are being used by our young people.



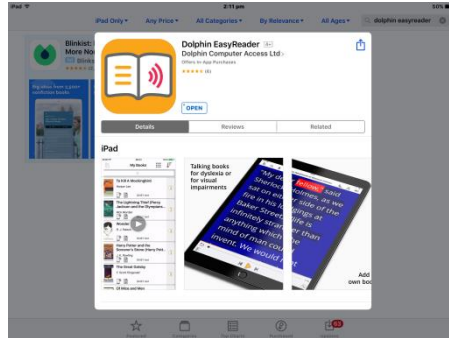
Guided_Access_Step
-byStep.pdf


[E-Reader Guide: attached on next page](#)

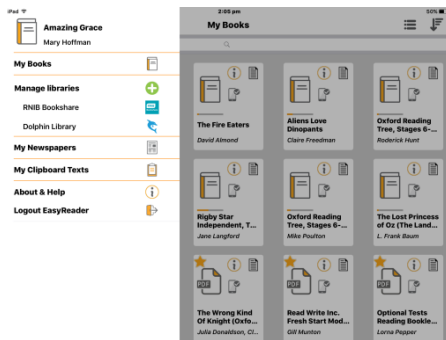
Guide to using RNIB Bookshare with E-reader apps

Internet access is required for downloading apps and books. Once downloaded, books can be accessed without an internet connection.

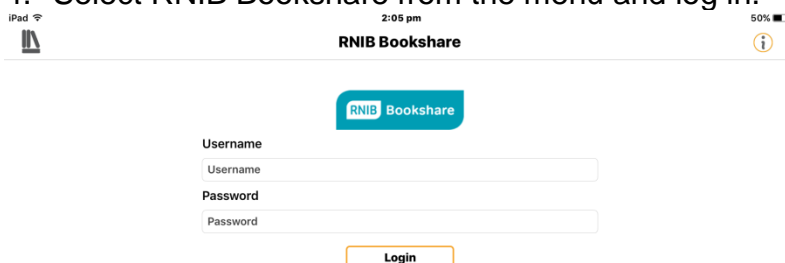
1. Sign up to www.rnibbookshare.org
2. Download Dolphin EasyReader from the app store on your iPad (or Playstore on your tablet.)



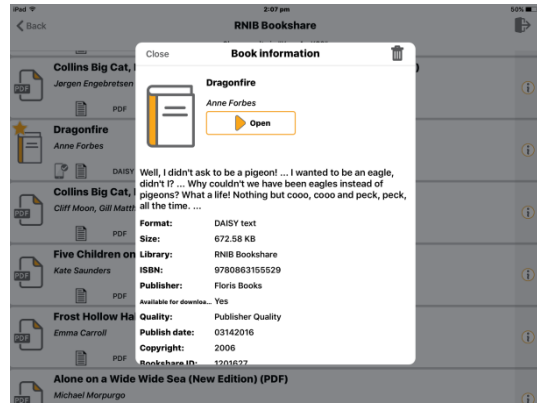
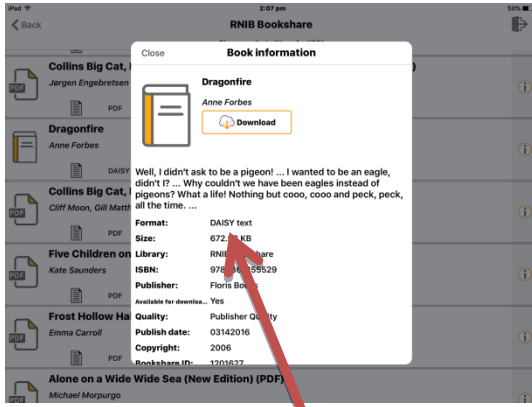
3. Open Dolphin EasyReader and click book icon  at the top left of the screen. This will open a drop down menu.



4. Select RNIB Bookshare from the menu and log in.



5. Use search function to find a book to download.



6. Downloaded books will be saved in the 'My Books' section of the Dolphin EasyReader app, to be accessed at any time.

