

Welcome to Sora by Overdrive

At Our Lady of the Wayside, we strongly believe that learning to read is just the first step. We want children to LOVE reading, to feel that thrill of excitement at a story, to be filled with curiosity at the end of a chapter, to love or loathe characters!

Research shows that children who read for pleasure have increased concentration, memory, confidence, greater self-esteem and general knowledge. Reading for pleasure builds empathy, sparks imagination, creativity and language development. These are important and relevant benefits, whether we live in a digital or analogue world. While we get through this pandemic together, we believe children need that opportunity to escape into a book they love. With this in mind, we can now offer our very own e-library.

Sora is a fantastic app which allows your child to borrow e-books and audiobooks.

User guide for logging in and navigating the app.



Download the Sora App (free) onto your device. (This will not work on Kindle Fire. Please see note below)

Click My School is Primary Ebooks NOW

Select Our Lady of the Wayside (How this appears will depend on the device used)

Sign into your school

Our Lady of the Wayside Catholic Primary School

Email Address

Password

Sign in

Use the same Login and Password for SORA as Microsoft Teams. (You have received this information via email earlier this academic year in preparation for Remote Learning.)

You **DO NOT** need to type the whole email address – just the Username.

eg) 79joebloggs is correct

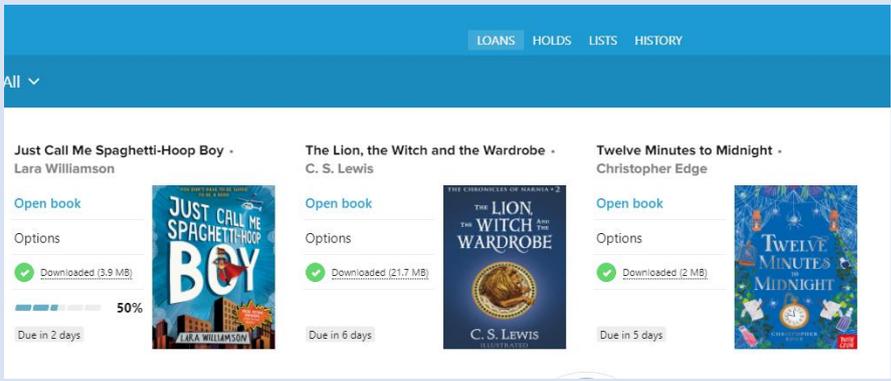
79joebloggs@ol-wayside.solihull.sch.uk is incorrect



Sora is not available as a 'downloadable' app for Kindle Fire at this time and downloading OverDrive (the distributor) is more complicated. We know that many of our children have Kindle Fire Devices and we do not wish for you to struggle to access this fantastic resource.

Please do not worry – your children will still be able to access Sora. We recommend, instead of downloading the App, that you access Sora through your browser on Kindle Fire devices.

Just search for Sora, using the browser on your Fire device (usually Silk) and follow the same instructions as above.



Your child will be able to take out up to 3 books on loan at a time to read on their device.

Each book can be borrowed for up to 7 days with options to renew if needed.

There really is something for everyone. Available to borrow are ebooks, audiobooks and read-alongs. (More detail can be found in Help section below.)

Font size and font itself can also be changed in the settings to suit your child's preference. (More detail can be found in Help section below.)

“What’s all this nonsense about your mother breaking her promise?” asked his father.

Bradley was ready. “She promised she’d take me to the zoo tomorrow, and now she won’t!”

“What?” exclaimed his mother. “I never said I’d take you to the zoo.”

“She did too!” said Bradley. “Since there is no school tomorrow, she said she’d take me to the zoo.”

“I didn’t even know there was no school tomorrow until his teacher called me this afternoon,” his mother protested.

“You promised!” said Bradley.

“Okay,” said his father. “Janet, what time is your appointment tomorrow with Bradley’s teacher?”

“Eleven o’clock.”

“Okay, you can go to your appointment and still have time to take Bradley to the zoo, after lunch.”

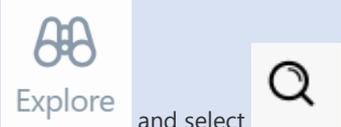
Fantastic accessibility - Dyslexic friendly font.

Your child’s teacher will demonstrate how to use this site during one of their live lessons.

More specific information about Sora and how to navigate it can be found in the Help section below.

[Information from Sora Help](#)

How to search for a book



To search for a book, go to  and select .

You can search for a book title, author, series, or subject.

Select **Advanced search** to search by format, language, reading level, and more.

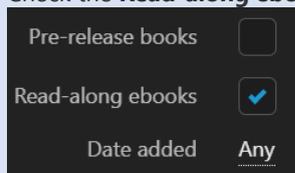
How to find read-alongs

Read-alongs have narration so you can follow along while you read.

To check if an ebook is a read-along, click or tap its cover to go to its details page, then look for "Format: Read-along ebook."

You can also search for read-alongs:

1. Click or tap .
2. Select **Advanced search**.
3. Check the **Read-along ebooks** box. If you'd like, you can set other search options too.



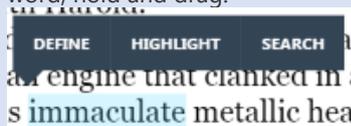
4. Select **Search**.

How to read ebooks

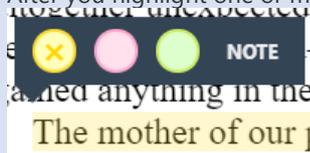
You can start reading ebooks right after you borrow them, or go to  **Shelf** > *Loans* to open them and swipe through the pages as you read.

How to use the ebook reader

- Tap (or click) and hold a word to define it, highlight it, or search for it in other places in the book. To select more than one word, hold and drag.



- After you highlight one or more words, you can add a note.



- On larger screens, select  to make a bookmark. On smaller screens, click or tap the top-right corner of the screen to make a bookmark.

- Use the seek bar at the bottom of the reader to jump backward or forward, or to go to a specific page in the book.



Click or tap  to open the menu. From there, you can:

- Search for a word or phrase in the book.
 - See the ebook's chapters, your bookmarks, and tips.
 - Change your reading settings. You can adjust the text size, font, and lighting for most ebooks.
 - Change the narration speed (for read-along ebooks).
- On larger screens, click or tap  to change how many pages display at a time.
 - For fixed-layout ebooks, click or tap  to zoom in or out.

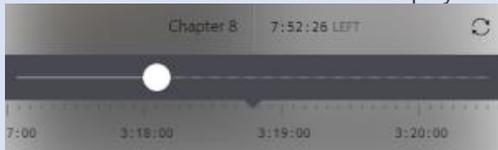
How to listen to audiobooks

You can start listening to audiobooks right after you borrow them, or go to  **Shelf** > *Loans* to open them.

How to use the audiobook player

- Swipe (or click and drag) left to right on the cover to rewind. Swipe (or click and drag) right to left on the cover to jump forward.

- Use the seek bar at the bottom of the player to move to a specific time in the book.



- Click or tap  to switch between common playback speeds. Drag down on  to select a precise speed.

- Click or tap  to set a sleep timer. Drag down on  to change the length of the timer.

- Click or tap  to make a bookmark and, if you'd like, add a note.

- Click or tap and hold  to highlight a section and, if you'd like, add a note.

- Click or tap  to open the menu. From there, you can see the audiobook's chapters, your bookmarks, and more.

How to mark a book as done

Once you finish a book, you can mark it as done:



1. Go to .
2. Select **Loans**.
3. Select **Options**.
4. Select **Mark as done**, then select **Mark as done** again.

When you mark a book as done, it's added to your "Done" list. To see all the books on your "Done" list, go to  **Shelf** > *Lists > Done*.

How to return a book

Books are automatically returned on their due date. If you finish a book early, you can return it before it's due with these steps:



1. Go to .
2. Select **Loans**.
3. Select **Options**.
4. Select **Return**, then select **Return** again.

How to renew a book If you need more time to finish a book, you can renew it starting three days before it's due

with these steps:



1. Go to .
2. Select **Loans**.
3. Select **Options**.
4. Select **Renew**, then select **Renew** again.

What is a hold?

If all copies of a book are checked out, you'll need to place a hold. This will put you on a wait list. Once a copy of the book gets returned, it'll become available for the first person on the wait list.

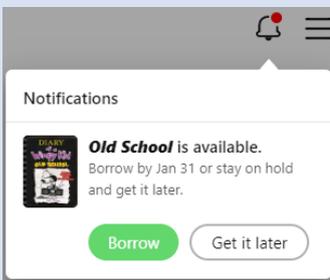


To see all your holds, go to [Shelf](#) > *Hold*s. From there, you can see your [estimated wait time](#), or select **Options** to edit or cancel the hold.

You'll get a notification in Sora when a hold is [available for you to borrow](#).

What's the "Get it later" option for a hold?

When a hold is available, you'll get a notification with two options: **Borrow** and **Get it later**.



If you're not ready to borrow the book (for example, if you don't have time to read it), you can select **Get it later**. This freezes your hold for 7 days and keeps you at the top of the wait list.

Then, after 7 days, your hold will be active. You'll be notified when the next copy is available so you can borrow it.

If you want to freeze your hold for more than 7 days, you can [edit how long it's frozen](#).

How to freeze holds

You can freeze a hold if you don't have time to read the book right now. You'll keep moving up the wait list while it's frozen. If you reach #1 on the wait list, you'll be first in line to get the book once it's unfrozen.

To freeze all your holds:

1. Click or tap .
2. Select **Hold settings**.
3. Select **Active** next to "Hold state."
4. Choose how long you want to freeze your holds, then select **Update all holds**.

To freeze just one hold:



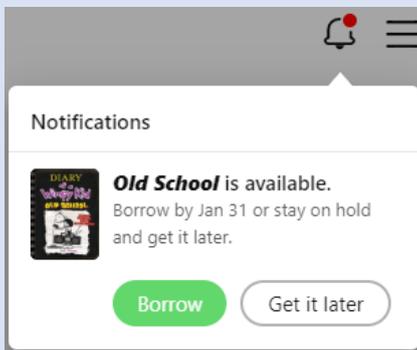
1. Go to Shelf.
2. Select **Holds**.
3. Select **Options**.
4. Select **Edit hold**.
5. Select **Active** next to "Hold state."
6. Choose how long you want to freeze the hold, then select **Save changes**.

How to borrow an available hold



You'll get a notification when a hold is ready for you. You can borrow it right from the notification, or from Shelf > Holds.

You'll have a few days to borrow the hold. If you don't want to borrow it right away, you can choose [Get it later](#) to freeze your hold for 7 days.



How long do I have to wait for a hold?

To see your estimated wait time for a hold:



1. Go to Shelf.
2. Select **Holds**.
3. Click or tap  next to the book.

Your wait time depends on your place in line.

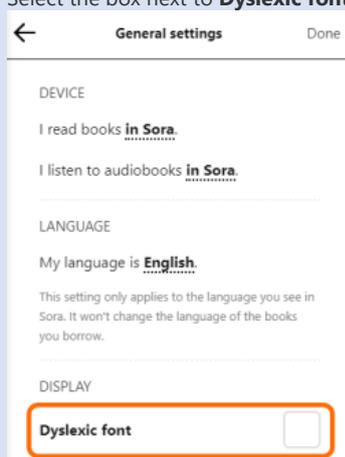
How to enable dyslexic font

Dyslexic font is designed to make text easier to read for users with dyslexia. You can enable dyslexic font for the entire Sora app/website or in individual ebooks.

Note: Some ebooks don't have the dyslexic font display option.

Turning on dyslexic font for the Sora app/website

1. Go to  > *General settings*.
2. Select the box next to **Dyslexic font** (under "Display").



When you enable dyslexic font for Sora, the dyslexic font setting is automatically applied to ebooks you open.

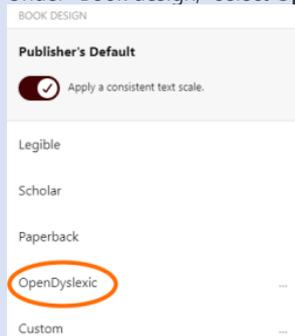
Turning on dyslexic font in an ebook

If you decide not to turn on dyslexic font for the entire Sora app/website, you can still turn it on for individual ebooks.

1. Go to  > *Loans* and open an ebook.

2. Select .

4. Select **Reading Settings**.
5. Under "Book design," select **OpenDyslexic**.



5. Select **Done**.

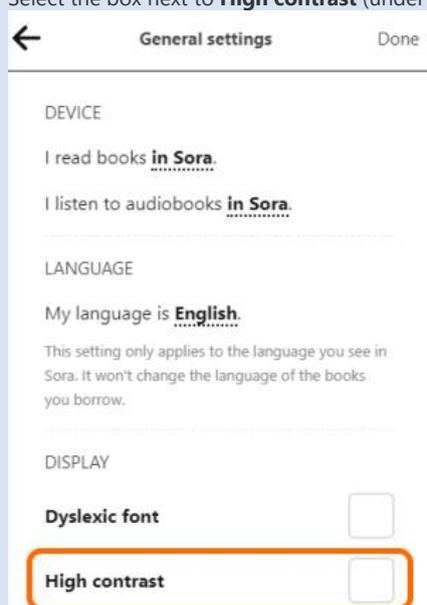
How to enable high contrast mode

High contrast mode is designed to make colors easier to distinguish for users with visual impairments. You can enable high contrast mode for the entire Sora app/website or in individual ebooks.

Note: Some ebooks don't have the high contrast display option.

Turning on high contrast mode for the Sora app/website

1. Go to  > *General settings*.
2. Select the box next to **High contrast** (under "Display").



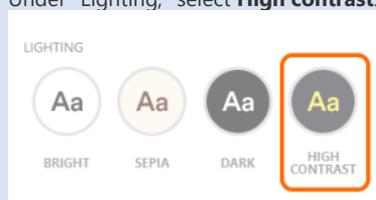
When you enable high contrast mode for Sora, the high contrast setting is automatically applied to ebooks you open.

Turning on high contrast mode in an ebook

If you decide not to turn on high contrast mode for the entire Sora app/website, you can still turn it on for individual ebooks.

1. Go to  > *Loans* and open an ebook.

2. Select .
4. Select **Reading Settings**.
5. Under "Lighting," select **High contrast**.



6. Select **Done**.

How to change download settings

Go to  > *Download settings* to change your download settings and data use.

Note: You can download books in the Sora app and compatible web browsers. You won't see download options in unsupported browsers.

Automatic downloads

You can choose what books download automatically right after you borrow them:

- **Everything:** All books will download automatically right after you borrow them.
- **Books under 20 megabytes:** Ebooks under 20 megabytes will download automatically right after you borrow them, but you'll need to manually download larger ebooks and audiobooks. To choose a different file size, click or tap **20 megabytes** and choose a new one.
- **Nothing:** You'll need to manually download all books.

Download only on Wi-Fi (app only)

Check **Download only on Wi-Fi** to block downloads using mobile data. If you have automatic downloads on, they'll pause until you're on Wi-Fi.

How to download a book

You can download books in the Sora app or a [compatible web browser](#). By default, most books [automatically download](#) so you can read or listen offline.

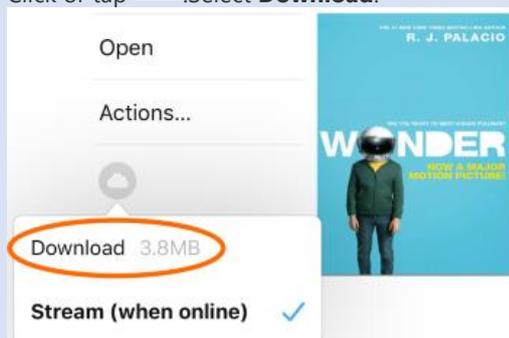
Downloaded books have a  on your **Shelf**.

If a book didn't download automatically, you can download it with these steps:



1. Go to .
2. Select **Loans**.

4. Click or tap . Select **Download**.



What are lists?

Lists let you keep track of books you liked, didn't like, and more. Only you can see your lists, so you can use them however you'd like.

To add a book to a list, select **Add to list** from a collection or details screen, then choose a list. Or, to make a new list, click or tap  .



To see and edit your lists, go to **Shelf** > *Lists*.

You'll see a "Done" list along with the lists you've made. Books are added to the "Done" list when you [mark them as done](#). You can't delete the "Done" list or remove books from it.

Where to find loans, holds, lists, and history

You can find your loans, holds, lists, and history on your **Shelf**.



To go to your **Shelf**, select **Shelf** at the bottom of the app.

Use the tabs at the top of your **Shelf** to switch between your loans, holds, lists, and history.



How to sign out of Sora

To sign out of Sora:

1. Click or tap  .
2. Click or tap **Sign out**.

Once you sign out, you'll have to sign in again to access your account information (like loans, holds, and notes).