



As libraries start to recover and we begin getting services up and running again as we come out of Covid-19, children will be able to sign up to the 2021 Challenge digitally, but will still be able to come into the library to pick up their starter pack and choose books. The challenge starts from 10<sup>th</sup> July until 11<sup>th</sup> September.

Dear Head Teacher

The Summer Reading Challenge, presented by The Reading Agency and funded by Arts Council England, encourages children aged 4 to 11 to set themselves a reading challenge to help prevent the summer reading 'dip'.

*The national curriculum for English aims to ensure that pupils develop the habit of reading widely and often for both pleasure and information.*

In 2020, The Reading Agency developed a digital challenge platform and working with libraries the Silly Squad - themed challenge was available to support children to continue to read for pleasure over the summer.

The Summer Reading Challenge website had more than 1.2 million-page views and reached a total of 527,354 children and families in 2020 through public libraries, schools community partners and the digital platform.

The 2021 Summer Reading Challenge will be a celebration of reading, nature and action for the environment. Developed in partnership with WWF, the world's leading independent conservation organisation, **Wild World Heroes** will inspire children to stand up for the future of our planet.

Children will be able to join six fictional characters- "wild heroes"- to help solve some of the threats to the environment, while helping to restore nature levels in the neighbourhood of "Wilderville".

The characters and landscape will be illustrated by children's author Heath McKenzie.

Wild World Heroes will feature amazing books, awesome rewards, and plenty of ideas for taking care of our environment.

The digital challenge will be FREE to access, featuring games, quizzes and digital and downloadable activities to incentivise and encourage children and their families to take part in reading related activities at home.

[www.wildworldheroes.org.uk/](http://www.wildworldheroes.org.uk/)

The Reading Agency have provided lots of information for parents about signing up for the challenge and this can be accessed from the Summer Reading Challenge website.

<https://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk/parents-carers>

The **Video Trailers** can be found [here](#) or you can access them through [YouTube](#).

### How the Challenge works:

- Children can sign up to the easy-to-use website from the 10<sup>th</sup> July onwards and create their own profile at <http://wildworldheroes.org.uk/>

Because we are unsure how things will be with Covid-19, children can of course do the digital challenge, but we will also make up physical packs too for the children to collect from the library, to enable them to complete the challenge in the normal way with stickers and prizes etc, **so they will benefit from both online and physical rewards.**

We will encourage children to come into the library throughout the holidays, dependant on social distancing restrictions.

Once registered on the website children can collect their Wild World Heroes pack from their nearest Stockport library. The pack will include the fold out poster with 3 packs of stickers, some of which are scratch and sniff, as well as the prizes for reading up to 4 books.

Children will be able to hopefully come into the library to collect their medal and certificate upon reading 6 books and completing the challenge.

We will do a similar thing for pre-school children taking part in the mini challenge.

- To complete the challenge, we ask children to read 6 books, with children being encouraged to read about environmental issues, including plastic pollution and deforestation to wildlife decline and nature loss; in digital or print format. Stockport Libraries have provided a FREE range of e-books and e-audiobooks that will be available via <https://www.stockport.gov.uk/ebooks-and-audiobooks> There are many copies of these titles so children will not have to wait to borrow any!

The Reading Agency have also provided a book sorter to help you chose a book to read!

<https://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk/book-sorter>

- Every time children finish a book, they add it to their profile and write a review. They are rewarded with activities and incentives along the way, such as online badges, games and author videos.
- Children receive a downloadable certificate once they've completed their challenge! Or they can come into the library to receive their medal and certificate.

Please note we will not be running the inter school cup challenge this year in Stockport libraries.

If any parents or your children are not members of the library, they can join online or call into their library.

To join the library please visit <https://www.stockport.gov.uk/join-your-local-library>

### How do schools' benefit?

- The **Summer Reading Challenge** is intrinsically inclusive and can contribute to the achievement of **ALL** your pupils including those with special educational needs, disadvantaged pupils and the most able.
- It enhances and supports your school's reading policy and your mission for all children to read more widely and for pleasure.
- It encourages parental engagement and family involvement in reading and helps your school make links with the library and the wider community.
- It can be the start of a child's reading journey and prevent the tendency for children's reading to dip over the holidays. It allows children to become more independent in their reading when choosing books and encourages using imagination and empathy to explore a text beyond the page
- Celebrate after the summer! Encourage children to bring in their certificates or congratulate completers in your school newsletter.
- You can also download a special school resource pack full of fun, creative ideas and activities to inspire children and families to take part in the **Summer Reading Challenge** at: [www.readingagency.org.uk/schools](http://www.readingagency.org.uk/schools)

By championing the **Summer Reading Challenge** in your school, you will be continuing to support your pupils' learning during the holidays, ensuring they return ready for a great start to the new academic year.

**It's FUN! It's FREE! It's LOCAL!**

**\*\*Keep up to date on activities in Stockport Libraries by following us on twitter @SMBC\_Libraries and facebook Stockport Libraries**