



With the disruption caused by COVID-19 and the impact of social distancing on schools and public libraries, the 2020 Challenge will launch as a digital activity to keep children reading over the summer and support parents and carers with children already at home, from 5th June through to 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'.

Each year the Challenge, delivered with the support of public libraries, motivates over 700,000 children to keep reading to build their skills and confidence. Last year, in Stockport 3882 children took part.

This year, Silly Squad, the Summer Reading Challenge 2020, will celebrate funny books, happiness and laughter. Children taking part in the challenge will join the Silly Squad, an adventurous team of animals who love to have a laugh and get stuck in to all different kinds of funny books!

The 2020 challenge will feature bespoke artwork from award-winning children's author and illustrator Laura Ellen Anderson (Amelia Fang; Evil Emperor Penguin; I Don't Want Curly Hair).

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.sillysquad.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>

How the Challenge works:

- Children can sign up to the easy-to-use website from the 5th June onwards and create their own profile at <http://sillysquad.org.uk/>
- Usually we ask children to read 6 books, but this year they can set their own challenge to read any amount of books, with children being encouraged to read anything that makes them happy – whether it be comics, joke books, poetry, fiction or non-fiction; 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> from 5th June. 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 videos.
- Children receive a downloadable certificate once they've completed their challenge!

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, receive a temporary number via email and start borrowing straight away.

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.
- 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

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!

**Yours sincerely,
Stockport Libraries.**

Illustrations © Laura Ellen Anderson 2020



Raising the profile of reading and celebrating excellence and originality in UK children's books



<https://www.stockport.gov.uk/topic/stockport-childrens-book-awards>



Due to the COVID-19 effect, this year we have also extended the closing date of the Stockport Children's Book Award so that children can continue to read the shortlisted titles over the summer holidays.

The Stockport Children's Book Award is a reading for pleasure programme that celebrates some of the best current UK fiction for children aged 5-11. Children can read the shortlisted titles in their chosen category and vote for their favourite. They can also enter the art competition to win books for school. More details can be found by visiting our website <https://www.stockport.gov.uk/2020-childrens-book-awards>

****Keep up to date on activities in Stockport Libraries by following us on twitter (smbc libraries) and facebook (stockport libraries)**