

1 in 4 children cannot read well by the age of 11.¹ This limits their life choices and skills.

The Reading Agency and libraries are on a mission to change this with a UK-wide programme: the **Summer Reading Challenge**.

You can make a huge difference this year by **encouraging your pupils to take part** in the Challenge over the holidays. It's the UK's biggest reading for pleasure programme for primary school children in libraries - in 2023 we reached close to **700,000 children**.

It's **free to take part** and **all children are welcome**.

➔ Benefits for pupils, families, and your school



Significantly **improves** children's reading **skills and confidence**



During last year's Challenge, children read **over 14 million books**



Prevents the summer 'dip' in reading and aids the **successful transition** to new year groups and key stages

FREE

It's simple and **free for every child** to take part, and libraries run **free activities** for families throughout the holidays

➔ Easy next steps

- **Get in touch with the library** to book a visit
- Talk about the Challenge **in your classroom**
- **Tell parents** about the Challenge



Find tips and free resources on page 2

What you can do now

Get parents and pupils engaged in the Challenge before the holidays start!



Talk about the Challenge in your classroom

- Put up **posters** in your classroom and around school
- Discover exciting new books to share with your class by browsing the **Official Book Collection** on summerreadingchallenge.org.uk
- Make use of our **free activity sheets** and other resources

All this and more is **free to download** from readingagency.org.uk



Get in touch with the library

Contact your local library service to find out what's on offer to your pupils. You can **book a visit or special assembly!**



Tell parents

Download our handy **newsletter templates** to tell parents about the Challenge and encourage them to take their children to the library over the holidays.

Get everyone involved!
Encourage your school to beat last year's number of completers. Many libraries offer **prizes** to the schools with the most participants! Use our template to **spread the word to your colleagues.**

What you can do in September

Celebrate pupils' reading when they get back to school!



Present certificates in assembly

Organise a special assembly to present pupils' Summer Reading Challenge certificates. (They'll get the certificates for free from the library or online.) Or, you could use your school newsletter to congratulate children who have completed the Challenge.

Start dates*

Saturday 22 June in Scotland and online

Saturday 6 July in England and Wales

* Start and finish dates vary, so please check dates for your area with your local library service.

What's on in your area

2024 is all about creativity!

With this year's theme, Marvellous Makers, children will be able to find new reads linked to their favourite **creative arts**, and access free creative activities at the library. From dance to drawing, junk modelling to music, there's something for everyone!

Marvellous
Makers

About the Challenge

80%
of children taking part
read more
over the holidays

● What is the Summer Reading Challenge?

The UK's **biggest** reading for pleasure programme for primary school children in libraries, encouraging children to read for fun during the school holidays.

● Who can take part?

The Summer Reading Challenge is a flexible programme, designed for all levels of ability. It is open to **all children aged 4-11**. Some library services also offer early years activities.

● When does it start and how can children sign up?

The Challenge runs throughout the **summer holidays** in the majority of UK public **libraries**. Children can sign up at any time during the Challenge period, either at the library or online at summerreadingchallenge.org.uk. Check start and finish dates with your local library service.

● What does the Challenge involve?

At the library:

- A child visits their local library to sign up and pick up a Summer Reading Challenge folder
- They set a reading goal and borrow books of their choice
- They collect bespoke stickers and incentives from the library for their reading, including a certificate for reaching their reading goal

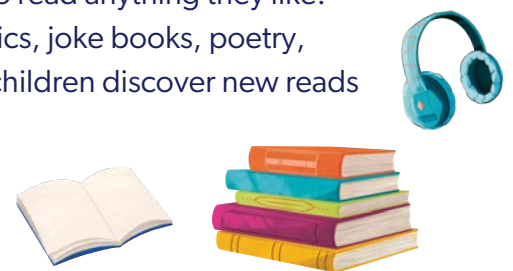
Online:

Alternatively, children can take part in the Challenge online at summerreadingchallenge.org.uk where they will set a reading goal and unlock digital rewards including a PDF certificate. They'll get book recommendations and tips for accessing books for free at home.

● What will children read for their Challenge?

The Challenge is all about reading for fun, so children can choose to read anything they like.

Really - anything! Audiobooks, e-books, fiction, non-fiction, comics, joke books, poetry, graphic novels... it all counts! Library staff and volunteers will help children discover new reads which suit their interests and reading level.



More from The Reading Agency

The Reading Agency is a UK charity with a mission to empower people of all ages to read. Because everything changes when you read.

readingagency.org.uk

Did you know?

We regularly have **free display materials, activity packs** and **sets of reading group books available to schools** throughout the year. Sign up to our newsletter to check these out:

readingagency.org.uk/sign-up-for-our-email-newsletters

We also have **thousands of resources** available on our [Chatterbooks page](#), perfect for primary school children.

Our programmes

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Summer Reading Challenge



[Visit the online platform](#)

[Download resources](#)

Access book recommendations, games, activities and competitions, as well as video content from brilliant authors and illustrators, at summerreadingchallenge.org.uk.



Available all year
round **FOR FREE**

The Summer Reading Challenge is developed by [The Reading Agency](#) and delivered in partnership with public libraries. The 2024 theme has been developed in partnership with **Create**, a leading charity bringing the creative arts to those who need it most. The bespoke illustrations for Marvellous Makers are created by the brilliant illustrator, **Natelle Quek**.

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Winter Mini Challenge

[Find out more](#)

A winter version of the Summer Reading Challenge! This is an online Challenge encouraging children to keep up their reading throughout December, January and February - through the holidays and into the new term. It's free to take part at wintermini.org.uk, where children can log and review books and collect rewards, including a certificate.

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Reading Well

[Browse the book list and download resources](#)

Reading Well for children provides quality-assured information, stories and advice to **support children's mental health and wellbeing**. Books have been chosen and recommended by leading health professionals and co-produced with children and families. The booklist is targeted at Key Stage 2, and includes titles aimed at a wide range of reading levels.