

Dear Parent / Carer

Your child is invited to sign up for this year's [Summer Reading Challenge](#). Sign up for FREE at your local library!

## What is the Summer Reading Challenge?

The Summer Reading Challenge encourages children to keep reading during the school summer holidays – and to enjoy reading anything they like! All children are invited to read books and/or complete reading-related activities, and collect rewards. It's completely **FREE** to take part.

It is an amazing way to boost children's confidence – last year 72% of children taking part felt more confident reading.

## Why should my child sign up?

- They will be **better prepared to return to school** in the autumn.
- The Challenge **supports the move into a new year group**.
- Becoming more independent in their reading boosts children's **confidence and self-esteem**.
- The library provides **free access** to books and fun family activities all through the summer.
- Library staff are on hand to offer support and book recommendations.

Your child will be part of a UK-wide programme developed by [The Reading Agency](#) and delivered in partnership with the [public library network](#).

## How can my child take part? (Library OR online)

**In the library.** Visit your [local library](#) and sign up. Your child will:

- Aim to borrow and read six books (any combination of books, eBooks and audiobooks) and/or complete a range of reading-related activities.
- Receive a Challenge folder and collect special stickers and rewards for reading.

**OR**

If you can't get to the library, take part in the **Online challenge** at: [summerreadingchallenge.org.uk](https://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk)

- Sign up on the [official Challenge website](#).
- Set a reading goal and get book recommendations and tips.
- Unlock digital badges and online rewards, including a printable certificate.

## When?

Throughout the summer holidays from 19 July to 6 September. Unsure where your closest library is? Use the Essex Library Service [website](#) to check.

Head to your local library this summer and sign up! If you have any questions, please ask staff in the library.

We look forward to seeing you!

Best wishes

**Essex Library Service**

## Want to know more?

- Find out more about the importance of reading and its impact on children's success [here](#).
- Visit the [official Summer Reading Challenge website](#) for free activities, videos, book recommendations and more.

Keep up-to-date! Follow @EssexLibraries on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [X](#).

## What do families think?

"I never liked reading before because of this challenge I got the **courage** to read more books and I have more interest in books. This has been the **greatest experience** ever in my life to read more books than before thanks."

"My daughter has **moved up a reading level** at school thanks to the Summer Reading Challenge!"

"As a mother of a five-year-old boy I am so happy and thankful for this free summer reading challenge. My boy was putting in effort to read the books so that he will be rewarded with a medal and certificate at the end of the reading challenge. This has **motivated** him to get reading and he was so **excited** to read more."

"My children are reluctant to read during school holidays but the structured Summer Reading Challenge helps **overcome their reluctance**."

"We have taken part for the last 10 years with all of my children. It's almost a tradition to do it. **Staff were brilliant** with my autistic child."