

Encourage your pupils to join the FREE Summer Reading Challenge at the library!

Dear Schools

We are facing a national crisis in children's reading. Recent research shows that only 1 in 3 children and young people now enjoy reading, a drop of 33% since 2005 (Clark, et al., 2024) and **1 in 4 children in the UK cannot read well by age 11**. This hugely limits their life choices and skills.

We're on a mission to change this and we need your help!

You can make a huge difference by encouraging your pupils to take part in the [Summer Reading Challenge](#). It's the UK's biggest reading for pleasure programme for children aged 4 to 11, delivered via public libraries. Children can sign up for free at their local library or online.

Last year in Hillingdon, 5,600 children joined the Challenge.

The Summer Reading Challenge:

- Significantly **improves reading confidence** and independence
- Ensures pupils are **ready for their autumn return**, preventing the summer reading 'dip'
- Aids the **successful transition** between year groups and key stages
- Contributes to *all* pupils' **achievement** and encourages **extra-curricular activity**
- Develops links between your school, the library and the **wider community**

For children who took part in 2024:

95% reading at least once a week since taking part!

*"We've joined the reading challenge for the past 4 years and every year it has inspired and encouraged a deeper **joy** for reading. For a young dyslexic boy the challenge helps make reading **fun**."*

Parent/carer of 6–7-year-old boy

How it works:

- Children can sign up at their local library, where they will receive a special sticker booklet
- They set a summer reading goal and choose books, eBooks, or audiobooks of their choice – logging their reading will earn sticker rewards
- To complete the Challenge, children must visit the libraries 4 times and borrow at least 1 book on each visit (we recommend reading at least 6 books over the summer)
- When they complete, children will receive a certificate and medal plus be entered into a prize draw to win some fabulous prizes, including a Kindle Fire tablet
- Libraries will be running a programme of free themed events and activities! See [Summer Reading Challenge 2025 - Discover Hillingdon](#) for more details
- Children can take part online if they prefer! www.summerreadingchallenge.org.uk

Next steps:

- Please **tell parents & carers** about the Challenge and encourage them to take their children to the library over the holidays.
- Display the **launch poster** at school.
- **Book a library school visit.** We can tell your pupils more about the Challenge and even present a special assembly. Contact your local library to book.
- **Book onto one of our Virtual author events to launch the Challenge on Friday 4 July.** Join Mo O'Hara, the author of the Honey's Hive series, for a fun session on storytelling, nature and buzzing bee facts-perfect for sparking young imaginations! See attached poster for more details and how to book.

Combining **FREE** access to books at local libraries with creative activities to take part in during the summer holidays, the Summer Reading Challenge is the perfect way to support your pupils' learning during the holidays, ensuring they return ready for a great start to the new academic year.

Yours sincerely,

Gill Day
Children's and Young People's Engagement Officer
Hillingdon Libraries