

Dear Parent/Carer,

Your child is invited to sign up for this year's [Summer Reading Challenge](#) 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 anything they like to read! Children aged 4-11 are invited to set a reading goal, and collect rewards for their reading.

It's **FREE** to take part, and last year 75% of children taking part improved their reading skills over the holidays.¹

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 [Essex Library Service](#).

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

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

- Set a reading goal for the summer and borrow and read books, eBooks and audiobooks. Your child can choose anything they like to read!
- 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

- Sign up on the [official Challenge website](#).
- Set a reading goal and get tips for accessing books for free at home.
- Unlock digital badges and online rewards, including a printable certificate.

When?

Throughout the **summer holidays from 15 July to 2 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

[1] The Reading Agency (2022) [Summer Reading Challenge 2022: Annual Report](#)



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

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."*

Girl, aged 12+

*"The challenge encouraged my child to **read more often**, and in turn encouraged **myself** as well."*

Parent/carer of 6-7 year-old boy

*"Enabled us to have some fun **cheap days out** and reading together has **brought us closer** than before."*

Parent/carer of 8-9 year-old girl

*"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

*"My child lacks confidence. Going to the library and meeting the friendly staff has definitely made him **more confident in himself** and encouraged him to read more being able to pick his own books to read from their huge collection."*

Parent/carer of 10-11 year-old boy

