



Summer Reading Challenge 2023

# Ready, Set, Read!



Presented by The Reading Agency.  
Delivered in partnership with libraries.

## KEY INFORMATION FOR SCHOOLS

[summerreadingchallenge.org.uk](http://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk)



Supported using public funding by  
**ARTS COUNCIL  
ENGLAND**

**SUMMER  
READING  
CHALLENGE**



**YOUTH  
SPORT  
TRUST**

**INSPIRING  
ACTIVE  
READERS**

**THE  
READING  
AGENCY**

# SUMMER READING CHALLENGE

1 in 5 children cannot read well by the age of 11. We're on a mission to change this!

We invite you to encourage your pupils to take part in the **Summer Reading Challenge** - the UK's biggest reading for pleasure programme for children aged 4 to 11.

## Where?

The Challenge runs in the majority of UK **public libraries** and **online** at [summerreadingchallenge.org.uk](http://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk)

## When?

The Challenge begins in Scotland on Saturday 24 June and in England and Wales on Saturday 8 July and runs through the summer holidays. Variations apply in some areas, so please check start and end dates with your local library service.

“The Summer Reading Challenge keeps my son's focus and it makes starting back at school in the new term much less stressful when he then has books to read everyday. It means he starts off in a much better position than when he has a gap of no reading.”

– Parent/carer of 6-7-year-old boy

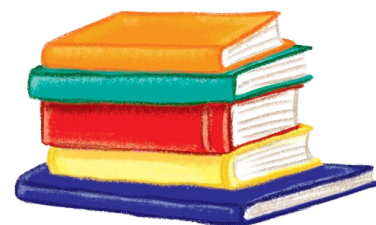
## What are the benefits for your pupils and your school?

The Summer Reading Challenge can:

- Help to prevent the **summer reading 'dip'** for pupils
- Ensure your pupils are ready for their **return to school** in the autumn
- Support the **transition** between year groups and key stages

For children taking part in 2022<sup>1</sup>:

- 77% read more over the summer holidays
- 75% improved their reading skills
- 71% felt more confident about their reading



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

Each year, the Summer Reading Challenge has a new theme. This year, we've teamed up with the Youth Sport Trust to create 'Ready, Set, Read!', a Challenge that's all about sports and games.

Children will join our fictional team pictured below (and their animal mascots!) as they use their skills to weave their way through a summer obstacle course.

The Challenge will celebrate play and participation, encouraging children to engage in games and sports in any way that best suits them. It will showcase how reading can be active and engaged, and can itself involve teamwork and community.

Ready, Set, Read! is brought to life by children's writer and illustrator, **Loretta Schauer**.



## How can children take part in the Challenge?



The Summer Reading Challenge is a flexible programme that is designed for all levels of ability.

### At the library

1. A child will visit their local library and sign up to the Challenge for free. They receive their Ready, Set, Read! core pack folder.
2. They set a personal reading goal for the summer.
3. Borrow and read books, eBooks and audiobooks of their choice.
  - They can read anything they like: fiction, fact books, poetry, joke books, picture books, graphic novels, audiobooks...
4. Collect special incentives from the library each time they finish a book.
5. Receive a certificate and/or medal\* for taking part, or for reaching their Challenge goal.

In addition, libraries offer a wide variety of events and activities for families to enjoy throughout the summer.

### Online

Alternatively, children can participate in the Challenge online.

1. Sign up at [summerreadingchallenge.org.uk](http://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk)
2. Set a personal reading goal for the summer.
  - Receive book recommendations and tips for accessing books for free at home.
3. Each time they finish a book, the child adds it to their online profile and leaves a review. They unlock digital badges and online rewards along the way.
4. Unlock a certificate for reaching their Challenge goal.

Children can also play games, enter competitions, share book recommendations and more on our free, safe, moderated platform.



The Summer Reading Challenge is open to all children aged 4-11. Some library services may also offer early years activities.

The 2023 Challenge launches on **Saturday 24th June** in Scotland, and on **Saturday 8th July** in England and Wales.\*\*

\*Incentives vary depending on your local authority. Please check with your local library service to find out which incentives they are offering this year.

\*\*Regional variations may apply, so check with your local library to find out when Summer Reading Challenge activity will start and end in your local area.

## What can you do to support your pupils in taking part in the Challenge?

By introducing the Summer Reading Challenge in your classroom, you can help us engage children in the Challenge ahead of the summer holidays. There are lots of ways to get involved!

### Find out about your local offer

Contact your local library to find out more about what's on offer to your pupils.



## Let parents know about the Challenge

Highlight the Challenge in a newsletter to parents and encourage them to take their children to visit the library over the holidays with our handy newsletter template ([www.readingagency.org.uk/resources/6621/](http://www.readingagency.org.uk/resources/6621/)) and send a newsletter to teachers to help spread the word ([www.readingagency.org.uk/resources/6620/](http://www.readingagency.org.uk/resources/6620/)).

## Introduce the theme into your classroom

The theme of this year's Challenge is sports and games. We want to celebrate play and participation, and encourage children to be active and engaged with reading.

- Engage pupils with the theme through sports and games-related activities in the classroom.
- Throughout the summer term, you'll find Ready, Set, Read! themed resources, along with links to resources from the Youth Sport Trust, at [readingagency.org.uk/srcresources](http://readingagency.org.uk/srcresources)
- Choose books from the Ready, Set, Read! book collection to share with your class. You'll be able to view the book list at [summerreadingchallenge.org.uk/readyssetread-bc-landing](http://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk/readyssetread-bc-landing)
- Put up posters! Download A3 and A4 posters from [readingagency.org.uk/srcresources](http://readingagency.org.uk/srcresources)

## Celebrate your pupils' reading

- After the summer, encourage children to bring in their certificates, hold a special assembly, or congratulate completers in your school newsletter.
- Challenge your school to beat last year's total number of completers. Many library authorities offer trophies and prizes for the schools with the highest Challenge participation numbers!

To help you engage your pupils around reading and the Challenge, there are lots of free resources available on our website at [summerreadingchallenge.org.uk/school-zone-src](http://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk/school-zone-src). You can download posters, view book lists, access activity sheets and more.

## Further information

### Summer Reading Challenge

The Summer Reading Challenge takes place every summer holiday throughout the UK. Run by national charity The Reading Agency, and delivered with the support of the UK public library network, it is the UK's biggest free reading promotion for primary school aged children. The Challenge regularly reaches over 700,000 children each year, motivating children to keep reading during the summer and helping to build reading skills and confidence.

Visit [readingagency.org.uk/children/quick-guides/summer-reading-challenge](https://readingagency.org.uk/children/quick-guides/summer-reading-challenge) for more information about the Summer Reading Challenge programme and this year's theme. Visit [summerreadingchallenge.org.uk](https://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk), our official children's website for book recommendations, competitions, videos and games all year round!

Contact: Clare Williams, Programme Manager – [clare.williams@readingagency.org.uk](mailto:clare.williams@readingagency.org.uk)  
Olwen Lynch, Programme Officer – [olwen.lynch@readingagency.org.uk](mailto:olwen.lynch@readingagency.org.uk)

### The Reading Agency

The Reading Agency is a national charity working with people of all ages to tackle life's big challenges through the proven power of reading.

Find out more about our work at [www.readingagency.org.uk](https://www.readingagency.org.uk)

Contact: [info@readingagency.org.uk](mailto:info@readingagency.org.uk)

### School Library Association

To continue your partnership with your local public library and your Schools Library Service, visit [sla.org.uk](https://sla.org.uk)

### Youth Sport Trust: Join our #PledgetoPlay!

19-25 June 2023

**#PledgetoPlay** to keep children active for 60 minutes a day, for the UK's biggest annual celebration of PE and school sport.

[www.youthsporttrust.org/nssw](https://www.youthsporttrust.org/nssw)





## More programmes from The Reading Agency

### Chatterbooks

Chatterbooks reading clubs help children build a lifelong reading habit. Every month, brand new activities created by leading children's book publishers are available to download for free from [readingagency.org.uk/resources/?programme=chat](https://readingagency.org.uk/resources/?programme=chat). You'll find booklists, great suggestions for books to explore and activities suitable for enjoying at school, home or the library. You can see the most recent opportunities for all schools and libraries including display packs, reading group sets of books and author visits here: <https://readingagency.org.uk/resources/5354/>.

Visit [chatterbooks.org.uk](https://chatterbooks.org.uk) for more information.

### Reading Well

Reading Well for children provides quality-assured information, stories and advice to support children's mental health and wellbeing. The collection of books has been chosen and recommended by leading health professionals and co-produced with children and families. The booklist is aimed at children in Key Stage 2 (aged 7-11) and includes titles for a wide range of reading levels.

Visit [reading-well.org.uk](https://reading-well.org.uk) to find out more about the scheme and accessing the books.

### Stay in touch!



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#ReadySetRead