

SUMMER READING CHALLENGE



3 June 2020

Read, get silly and have fun!

Summer Reading Challenge 2020 launches Online this week

Lincolnshire's Library buildings may be closed at present but that's not going to stop Lincolnshire's young readers taking part in this year's Summer Reading Challenge 2020.

Better Libraries in partnership with The Reading Agency and Lincolnshire County Council are going online to launch this year's challenge on Friday, 5th June at: summerreadingchallenge.org.uk

The summer reading challenge promises loads of silly fun for children aged 4 to 11. Once children have signed up they can head to Lincolnshire Libraries' social media channels for fun activities and book recommendations and download the free library app Libby to borrow e-books to complete the challenge.

The theme for this year's challenge is 'Silly Squad' and the aim is to encourage children to read whatever makes them happy, get silly and have fun!

Cllr Nick Worth, executive member for culture at Lincolnshire County Council added: "The Summer Reading Challenge has always been popular with young people in normal times, but our current situation has provided us with online alternatives that are both fun and maybe a little silly! It is great opportunity for our young people to enhance their reading skills and most importantly to have fun while doing it."

After signing up on the summer reading challenge website, and discovering all its free quizzes, games and downloadable activities, children and their families can visit the Lincolnshire Libraries Facebook and Twitter channels @Lincslibraries and join in the fun there. Library staff have all sorts of silliness planned for the summer and every Friday at 10am and 3pm they will be running their online Silly Squad Club sharing crafts, activities and reading recommendations. By downloading the free library app, Libby, children can borrow a range of riveting reads to help them complete the challenge. Library staff have created a special Silly Squad collection of ebooks on Libby too, to help inspire and enthuse young readers around the county.

****ENDS****



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

**THE
READING
AGENCY**

SUMMER READING CHALLENGE

NOTES TO EDITORS:

- The Summer Reading Challenge is the biggest children's reading for pleasure programme in the UK. Last year over 700,000 children and their families took part.
- The first Summer Reading Challenge took place in 1999 and is an annual initiative with a different theme each year. The programme is delivered by The Reading Agency in partnership with public libraries, publishers and schools.
- The Summer Reading Challenge 2020 will run from June to September, with an online virtual party on Friday 5 June to launch the new website.
- The theme for the Summer Reading Challenge 2020 is 'Silly Squad'. The aim is to encourage children to read whatever makes them happy, get silly and have fun!
- Award-winning children's book author and illustrator, Laura Ellen Anderson, has created bespoke illustrations for Silly Squad 2020.
- Reading for pleasure is a more important determination of children's educational success than their families' socio-economic status. [Sullivan and Brown (2013) [Social inequalities in cognitive scores at age 16: The role of reading](#)]
- Studies show that 16-year-olds who read for pleasure outside school are more likely to secure managerial or professional jobs later in life. [Taylor (2011) [Reading at 16 linked to better job prospects](#)]
- Statistics show that 1 in 5 children in England cannot read well by the age of 11 [[DfE \(2015\) Reading: the next steps p.13](#)]
- [A recent survey](#) commissioned by The Reading Agency showed that 45% of young people are reading more during lockdown.
- It has been proven that children aged 10 who read books often, and more than once a week aged 16, gain higher results in Maths, vocabulary and spelling tests at age 16 than those who read less frequently. [OECD (2010) [PISA 2009 Results: Learning to Learn: Student Engagement, Strategies and Practices p. 32-4](#)]

About The Reading Agency:

The Reading Agency is a national charity that tackles life's big challenges through the proven power of reading. We work closely with partners to develop and deliver programmes for people of all ages and backgrounds; our vision is for a world where everyone is reading their way to a better life. We help 1.8 million people benefit from reading every year, through our programmes, our tireless campaigning, our excellent networks and our power to influence, challenge and make change happen. www.readingagency.org.uk [Twitter](#) | [Facebook](#)

About Arts Council England:

The Arts Council is the national development agency for creativity and culture. By 2030 we want England to be a country in which the creativity of each of us is valued and given the chance to flourish and where everyone of us has access to a remarkable range of high-quality cultural experiences. Between 2018 and 2022, we will invest £1.45 billion of public money from government and an estimated £860 million from the National Lottery to help deliver this vision. www.artscouncil.org.uk



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

**THE
READING
AGENCY**

SUMMER READING CHALLENGE

For local press queries about **Lincolnshire Libraries** please contact nicola.rogers@gll.org

For further information on The Reading Agency
please contact Saffeya Shebli - saffeya.shebli@readingagency.org.uk.

For logos and images, please click [here](#).

Summerreadingchallenge.org.uk

#SillySquad2020

Illustrations © Laura Ellen Anderson 2020



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

**THE
READING
AGENCY**