



Dear Head Teacher and all school staff,

*The national curriculum for English aims to ensure that pupils develop the habit of reading widely and often for both pleasure and information.*

Organised by The Reading Agency ([www.readingagency.org.uk](http://www.readingagency.org.uk)) and the UK public library network since 1999, the **Summer Reading Challenge** is the UK's biggest annual reading promotion for children aged 4 to 11. Last year, in **Norfolk, over 12,500** children took part.

The **Summer Reading Challenge** combines **FREE** access to books with fun, creative activities in the library during the summer holidays. Throughout the Challenge, library staff and teenage volunteers support the children, helping them to discover new authors and to explore a wide range of different types of books and ways of reading,

#### **How the Challenge works**

- Children sign up at their local library and receive The Big Friendly Read collector folder
- Children borrow and read at least six library books of their own choice during the summer, collecting special cards to complete their folder and rewards along the way
- Library staff and teenage volunteers are on hand to advise and run family-friendly activities
- Children who complete the **Summer Reading Challenge** are presented with a certificate and a medal

#### **How do schools benefit?**

- The **Summer Reading Challenge** is intrinsically inclusive and can contribute to the achievement of **ALL** your pupils including those with special educational needs, disadvantaged pupils and the most able
- It enhances and supports your school's reading policy and your mission for all children to read more widely and for pleasure
- It encourages parental engagement and family involvement in reading and helps your school make links with the library and the wider community
- It can be the start of a child's reading journey and prevent the tendency for children's reading to dip over the holidays
- It takes place at your local library and is a brilliant opportunity for extra-curricular activity

You can download a special school resource pack full of fun, creative ideas and activities to inspire children and families to take part in the **Summer Reading Challenge** at: [www.readingagency.org.uk/schools](http://www.readingagency.org.uk/schools)

Here is a link to a school assembly PowerPoint with a link to a trailer:

<https://readingagency.org.uk/resources/1512/>

Over the next few weeks library staff will be visiting schools to promote the challenge, if you would like a visit and haven't yet been contacted please get in touch with your local library as it may be possible for them to fit in another promotion. If it is not possible do please use the PowerPoint and other resources to encourage children to have fun with reading over the summer.

The whole family can get reading at your local library or mobile library this summer with the special pre-school Big Friendly Read and for 11 – 18 year olds let your ImagiNation go wild with ideas for art, music, photography, poetry inspired by the books you enjoy over the summer.

Sign up for a summer of reading at your local library from Saturday 16 July and through the summer. The school resource pack includes a piece to include in school newsletters to encourage families to take part in the challenge.

By championing the **Summer Reading Challenge** in your school, you will be continuing to support your pupils' learning during the holidays, ensuring they return ready for a great start to the new academic year.

**It's FUN! It's FREE! It's LOCAL!**



In Norfolk this summer there is a wonderful new writing competition for children 5 – 13 years Write on Norfolk. Norfolk County Council is working with the EDP and Jarrold's.

To enter, children aged from 5 to 13 need to submit a piece of original creative writing – a poem, a story, a letter or anything in between – so long as it is no more than 500 words long. The only criterion is that the piece mentions Norfolk in some way. The closing date is 31st August and there are some great prizes donated by Jarrold's.

For more information and to find out how to enter : [www.norfolk.gov.uk/writeon](http://www.norfolk.gov.uk/writeon)