

23/4/2026

READ to the BEAT



Dear Head Teacher / Literacy Co-ordinator

The Reading Agency and libraries are excited to introduce Read to Summer Reading Challenge 2026.

About the Challenge

The Reading Agency, along with the UK public library network, delivers the Summer Reading Challenge across the country every year. It is the UK's biggest annual reading promotion for children aged four to eleven. Throughout the Summer Reading Challenge, library staff, along with teenage and adult volunteers, help children to discover new authors and explore a wide range of different types of books, giving them a positive experience of reading for pleasure.

You can make a huge difference by encouraging your pupils to take part.

The Summer Reading Challenge:

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

You can find additional information and free resources to support children's reading for pleasure in the Summer Reading Challenge School Zone:

www.summerreadingchallenge.org.uk/school-zone-src

The Challenge will begin in libraries on **Saturday 5th July** and end on **Saturday 6th September**.

To take part in the Challenge children need to read six books of their choice that they have borrowed from the library or downloaded from our [e-book library](#) over the summer holidays. They are given rewards for each book they read and a certificate and medal if they manage to complete the Challenge.

The Challenge is for all children, whatever their reading ability. Children who are not reading independently can share their books with a family member or friend, or they might prefer to listen to audio books. We have materials to enable children with additional needs to participate as well. You can find out more about these by emailing library.enquiries@eastsussex.gov.uk or by speaking to your local library contact.

Children can be signed up at www.eastsussex.gov.uk/src They will need to login to their library account (library card number and PIN) to complete the registration process.

Promoting Read to the Beat in schools

We recognise the importance of telling children in schools about the Summer Reading Challenge. We will send enough invitations to your school for every child. We will also send you information that you can put on your school website. We will be contacting schools in April and May to book visits to assemblies towards the end of the summer term to tell your pupils about the Challenge. If you have not already heard from us, you can request a visit or a virtual assembly by contacting library.enquiries@eastsussex.gov.uk

We will be offering the children the opportunity to receive their certificates in school and hope you will be able to celebrate your pupils' success by handing out the certificates in celebration assemblies. So that every child has the chance to complete the Challenge, we will send the certificates to your school in the **week beginning 5th October**. If there are children who were expecting a certificate but did not receive one, please let your local library contact know. We will be happy to send certificates on to school. We would be grateful if certificates could be presented before half term where possible.

We will contact you again towards the end term with information for your summer newsletter and website.

We look forward to welcoming your pupils into our libraries this summer. If you have any questions please email library.enquiries@eastsussex.gov.uk or contact or me.

Yours sincerely

Claire Morley
Librarian