



Dear Teacher

Organised by the charity, The Reading Agency (www.readingagency.org.uk) and delivered in partnership with 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 Nottinghamshire 9,075 children took part.

Usually, the Challenge takes place in libraries across Nottinghamshire (and the country). This year, with the disruption caused by COVID-19 and the impact of social distancing on schools and public libraries, the 2020 challenge will be an **all-new, all-digital challenge**. Children will set their own personal reading goal and take part online to unlock digital rewards. As Inspire library staff will be unable to visit schools this term to promote the challenge - we'd love for you to share with your pupils and their families that the challenge is still running this year – albeit in a slightly different form.

The theme for 2020 is Silly Squad- a celebration of funny books, happiness and laughter, featuring bespoke artwork from award-winning children's author and illustrator, Laura Ellen Anderson.

How the 2020 Digital Challenge will work

- Children sign up at www.sillysquad.org.uk to create their profile and set their personal reading goal.
- Children read books and enter them on the website to unlock digital rewards and badges. Children choose the books they want to read on their Challenge; novels, fact books, joke books – all reading counts.
- This year, rather than only books borrowed from the library counting for the Challenge, children can read any books they have at home, maybe from school or available online via the library. As libraries slowly start to reopen we hope some families will have the chance to borrow physical books too.
- Children who complete the **Summer Reading Challenge** by reaching their reading goal (this can be adjusted as the challenge progresses if any child has been too ambitious) will be able to download a certificate.

Though the challenge may look a little different this year, Inspire Libraries will be there every step of the way to cheer on our Nottinghamshire Silly Squad. There are ebooks available online to borrow. We'll also be creating a range of online activities to support the challenge and will be on hand to answer any questions from children and families about the Summer Reading Challenge. www.inspireculture.org.uk/summerreadingchallenge

How do schools benefit?

The Summer Reading Challenge

- can enhance and support the school's mission for all children to read more widely and for pleasure.
- continues to support pupils' learning during the holidays
- helps prevent the tendency for children's reading to dip over the holidays

School Resources

- We'd be grateful if you were able to spread the word about the Summer Reading Challenge to your families.
- To assist, there are resources available on the Inspire website at www.inspireculture.org.uk/srcresources. These include; Silly Squad graphics, suggested text for newsletters and/or websites, and a PowerPoint classroom presentation.

Yours sincerely,

Carolyn Gallagher

Libraries and Culture Officer, Inspire: Culture, Learning & Libraries

Tel: 0115 804 4325 | Email: carolyn.gallagher@inspireculture.org.uk