Dear parent/carer,

Your child is invited to sign up for this year’s [**Summer Reading Challenge**](https://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk/join-in)**.** Sign up for FREE at your local Havering library!

**What is the Summer Reading Challenge?**

The Summer Reading Challenge encourages children to keep reading during the school summer holidays – and to enjoy reading anything they like! Children aged 4-11 are invited to join in and collect rewards for their reading. It’s completely **FREE** to take part.

It is an amazing way to boost children’s confidence – last year 72% of children taking part felt more confident reading.1

**Why should my child sign up?**

* They will be **better prepared to return to school** in the autumn.
* The Challenge **supports the move into a new year group.**
* Becoming more independent in their reading boosts children’s **confidence and self-esteem.**
* The library provides **free access** to books and fun family activities all through the summer.
* Library staff are on hand to offer support and book recommendations.

Your child will be part of a UK-wide programme developed by [The Reading Agency](https://readingagency.org.uk/) and delivered in partnership with the [public library network](https://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk/library-zone).

**How can my child take part?**

Visit your local library and sign up. Your child will need a library card. These are free to get, just bring something in that’s official with your name and address on. Your child will:

* Borrow and read 6 library books of their choice.
* Receive a Challenge poster and collect special stickers for reading and then talking about the books with our volunteers/staff.
* Enjoy free creative activities in the libraries over the Summer holidays.
* Receive a medal and certificate when the challenge is completed.

**When?**

The Challenge will launch in England on Saturday **6th July** but most children start when their school breaks up for the Summer holidays. In Havering the challenge finishes on Saturday **7th September**.

Head to your local library this summer and sign up!

Yours faithfully,

Havering Library Service

**Want to know more?**

* Find out more about the importance of reading and its impact on children’s success [here](https://readingagency.org.uk/news-and-stories/?category_name=research&programme=summer-reading-challenge).
* Visit the [official Summer Reading Challenge website](https://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk/) for free activities, videos, book recommendations and more.
* Keep up-to-date and be in the know when we launch competitions by following [@SummerReadingChallengeUK on Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/SummerReadingChallengeUK/?locale=en_GB).

**What do families think?**

***“****I never liked reading before because of this challenge I got the* ***courage*** *to read more books and I have more interest in books. This has been the* ***greatest experience*** *ever in my life to read more books than before thanks.****”***

Girl, aged 12+

***“****The challenge encouraged my child to* ***read more often,*** *and in turn encouraged* ***myself*** *as well.****”***

Parent/carer of 6-7 year-old boy

***“****Enabled us to have some fun* ***cheap days out*** *and reading together has* ***brought us closer*** *than before.****”***

Parent/carer of 8-9 year-old girl

***“****We’ve joined the reading challenge for the past 4 years and every year it has inspired and encouraged a deeper* ***joy*** *for reading. For a young dyslexic boy the challenge helps make reading* ***fun.”***

Parent/carer of 6-7 year-old boy

***“****My child lacks confidence. Going to the library and meeting the friendly staff has definitely made him* ***more confident in himself*** *and encouraged him to read more being able to pick his own books to read from their huge collection.”*

Parent/carer of 10-11 year-old boy