Summer Reading Challenge 2021



Dear Head Teacher, Deputy Head Teacher, Literacy Coordinator, Librarian, SENCO,

The Reading Agency's annual Summer Reading Challenge will launch again in Sandwell on Saturday 10th July and will run throughout the Summer Holidays.

As the challenge aims to encourage children to choose and read books for pleasure we hope that you can help promote the challenge with your families to allow children to benefit from our free library offer and fun incentives available.

Organised by charity The Reading Agency (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.

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

It also helps to encourage a reading habit to help maintain reading levels during the school holidays.

How the Challenge works

- Children sign up through their local library and receive a Wild World Heroes collector poster
- Children set a reading goal and borrow and read library books of their own choice during the summer, collecting special stickers to complete their poster and extra incentives along the way
- Children who complete the Summer Reading Challenge are presented with a certificate and a medal
- The official Challenge website, <u>wildworldheroes.org.uk</u>, hosts digital rewards, author videos, games and more for children to enjoy all summer

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 allows children to become more independent in their reading when choosing books and encourages using imagination and empathy to explore a text beyond the page
- It takes place at your local library and is a brilliant opportunity for extra-curricular activity

• It keeps your pupils reading over the summer, ready for their return to school in the autumn, and supports the successful transition between year groups and key stages

Please find enclosed some additional information about the **Summer Reading Challenge** and videos for you to play during assembly. If you would be able to arrange for these to be shared, we would appreciate your support as it is disappointing not to be able to visit and speak in assembly this year as we normally would.

Sandwell Libraries Virtual Summer Reading Challenge Assembly link

https://youtu.be/kCVYR5RfrEQ

and Reading Agency presentation link for you to share to everyone in your school.

https://readingagency.org.uk/resources/5161/

You can find additional information and free resources to support children's reading for pleasure in the Summer Reading Challenge School Zone: <u>wildworldheroes.org.uk/school-zone-src</u>

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!

Yours sincerely,