

## Summer Reading Challenge 2022

# GADGETEERS

Presented by The Reading Agency.  
Delivered in partnership with libraries.

SCIENCE  
MUSEUM  
GROUP

IGNITING  
IMAGINATION  
INSPIRING  
INNOVATORS

20  
YEARS  
THE  
READING  
AGENCY

## KEY INFORMATION FOR SCHOOLS

[summerreadingchallenge.org.uk](https://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk)

The Summer Reading Challenge is the UK's biggest **free** reading for pleasure programme for children.

The Challenge encourages children aged 4 to 11 to **keep reading during the summer holidays**.

At the heart of the Summer Reading Challenge is a child's ability to shape their reading journey. Help us to spread the word that reading for pleasure is free and fun!



Supported using public funding by  
**ARTS COUNCIL  
ENGLAND**

**SUMMER  
READING  
CHALLENGE**





# SUMMER READING CHALLENGE

## Where?

The Summer Reading Challenge runs in 95% of UK **public libraries** and online at [summerreadingchallenge.org.uk](https://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk)

## When?

The Challenge runs throughout the **summer holidays** across the UK.

The Challenge begins in Scotland and Northern Ireland on **Saturday 25th June**, and in England and Wales on **Saturday 9th July**. Variations apply in some areas, so please check start dates with your local library service.

## What are the benefits for your pupils and your school?

The Summer Reading Challenge can:

- Help to prevent the summer reading 'dip' for pupils
- Ensure your pupils are ready for their return to school in the autumn
- Support the transition between year groups and key stages
- Improve language skills, especially for those for whom English is a second language<sup>1</sup>

## Next steps for teachers

- **In your classroom** Talk to your pupils about the Challenge and help them engage with this year's theme. Let pupils know how they can sign up for the Challenge.
- **Talk to parents** Engage parents around the Challenge through newsletters.
- **Get in touch with your library** Contact your local library service to find out about what they're offering this summer.
- **Get involved in the Challenge yourself!** Read alongside your pupils and colleagues by taking part in the Teachers' Reading Challenge.

See page 3 for more information.

## Teachers can take part, too!



Teachers, School Librarians, and other education staff can also take part in their own Reading Challenge over the summer. The Teachers' Reading Challenge will help expand your knowledge of children's books as well as deepening your understanding of reading for pleasure pedagogy. Set your own reading goal, share your reviews with others, access resources and put what you've learnt into practice with your class in the new term. This year's Teachers' Reading Challenge runs from **27th June – 29th October 2022**.

<sup>1</sup> Renaisi (2022), Summer Reading Challenge Cross-Authority Pilot 2021: Evaluation Summary Report, The Reading Agency

## The benefits to your pupils



- The Summer Reading Challenge can contribute to the achievement of all your pupils.
- It keeps your pupils reading over the summer, maintaining their reading engagement and confidence ready for their return to school in the autumn.
- It supports the successful transition between year groups and key stages. The Challenge encourages children to become more independent in their reading, boosting their confidence and self-esteem.
- Children who take part in the Challenge are more enthusiastic about reading. The Challenge helps to bring together families and communities.
- An independent evaluation found statistically significant increases in reading frequency, reading enjoyment and reading confidence amongst children who participated in the 2021 Challenge versus those who did not.<sup>1</sup>

“ **Before the Summer Reading Challenge I had never stepped into a library. Once I entered the Challenge, once I entered the library I wanted to inspire myself by taking all the books.** ”

- Year 4 participant, Summer Reading Challenge 2021

For children who participated in 2021...<sup>2</sup>

**72%**  
read more over the  
summer holidays

**74%**  
improved their  
reading skills



<sup>1</sup> Renaisi (2022), Summer Reading Challenge Cross-Authority Pilot 2021: Evaluation Summary Report, The Reading Agency

<sup>2</sup> The Reading Agency, Summer Reading Challenge 2021: Annual Report



## How can children take part in the Challenge?

The Summer Reading Challenge is a flexible programme that is designed for all levels of ability.

### At the library

1. A child will visit their local library and sign up to the Challenge for free. They receive their Gadgeteers core pack poster.
2. They set a personal reading goal for the summer (we recommend six books).
3. Borrow and read books, eBooks and audiobooks of their choice.

They can read anything they like: fiction, fact books, poetry, joke books, picture books, graphic novels, audiobooks...

4. Collect special incentives from the library each time they finish a book.
5. Receive a certificate and/or medal for taking part, or for reaching their Challenge goal.

In addition, libraries offer a wide variety of events and activities for families to enjoy throughout the summer.

### Online

Alternatively, children can participate in the Challenge online.

1. Sign up at [summerreadingchallenge.org.uk](http://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk)
2. Set a personal reading goal for the summer.

Receive book recommendations and tips for accessing books for free at home.

3. Each time they finish a book, the child adds it to their online profile and leaves a review. They unlock digital badges and online rewards along the way.
4. Unlock a certificate for reaching their Challenge goal.

Children can also play games, enter competitions, share book recommendations and more on our free, safe, moderated platform.

The Summer Reading Challenge is **open to all** primary school-aged children.

The 2022 Challenge launches on Saturday 25th June in Scotland and Northern Ireland, and on Saturday 9th July in England and Wales.\*

\*Regional variations may apply, so check with your local library to find out when Summer Reading Challenge activity will start and end in your local area.



## What can you do to support your pupils in taking part in the Challenge?

By introducing the Summer Reading Challenge in your classroom, you can help us engage children in the Challenge ahead of the summer holidays. There are lots of ways to get involved!

### Find out about your local offer

Contact your local library to find out more about what's on offer to your pupils.

Contact name

Library name & address

Contact email

Contact telephone

Further details of your local offer

### Let parents know about the Challenge

- Highlight the Challenge in a newsletter and encourage parents to visit the library with their children over the holidays. Our handy newsletter template can be downloaded at [readingagency.org.uk/srcresources](https://readingagency.org.uk/srcresources)
- You could also invite parents into set activities in your school to read with children

### 2022 theme: Gadgeteers

Each year, the Summer Reading Challenge has a new theme. This year, we've teamed up with the **Science Museum Group** to create 'Gadgeteers', a Challenge that's all about science and innovation!

The 'Gadgeteers' materials feature six brand-new fictional characters (pictured on page 2). The Challenge will invite children to join these characters in using their curiosity and imagination to understand the science behind a whole range of interests, from fashion and technology to cooking and music.

The Gadgeteers characters are brought to life by top children's writer and illustrator, **Julian Beresford**.



## Introduce the theme into your classroom

The theme of this year's Challenge is science and innovation. We want to spark children's curiosity and encourage them to see the science and innovation in everyday objects.

- Engage pupils with the theme through **science and innovation-related activities** in the classroom. You'll find Gadgeteers-themed resources, along with links to resources from the Science Museum Group, at [readingagency.org.uk/srcresources](https://readingagency.org.uk/srcresources)
- Choose books from the Gadgeteers **book collection** to share with your class. You can view the book list at [summerreadingchallenge.org.uk/gadgeteers-bc-landing](https://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk/gadgeteers-bc-landing)
- Put up **posters!** You can download A3 and A4 posters from [readingagency.org.uk/srcresources](https://readingagency.org.uk/srcresources)

## Celebrate your pupils' reading

- Talk to your pupils about the Challenge and let them know about the certificates and **incentives** on offer!
- After the summer, encourage children to bring in their **certificates**, hold a special assembly, or congratulate completers in your school newsletter.
- **Challenge your school** to beat last year's total number of completers. Many library authorities offer trophies and prizes for the schools with the highest Challenge participation numbers!

To help you engage your pupils around reading and the Challenge, there are lots of free resources available on our website at [summerreadingchallenge.org.uk/school-zone-src](https://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk/school-zone-src). You can download posters, view book lists, access activity sheets and more. You'll also find the latest offers from The Reading Agency's publisher partners.



## Further information

### Summer Reading Challenge

The Summer Reading Challenge takes place every summer holiday throughout the UK. Run by national charity The Reading Agency, and delivered with the support of the UK public library network, it is the UK's biggest free reading promotion for primary school aged children. The Challenge regularly reaches over 700,000 children each year, motivating children to keep reading during the summer holidays and helping them to maintain their reading skills and confidence.

Visit [readingagency.org.uk/children/quick-guides/summer-reading-challenge](https://readingagency.org.uk/children/quick-guides/summer-reading-challenge) for more information about the Summer Reading Challenge programme and this year's theme.

Visit [summerreadingchallenge.org.uk](https://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk), our official children's website for book recommendations, competitions, videos and games all year round!

### Contact:

Clare Williams, Programme Manager – [clare.williams@readingagency.org.uk](mailto:clare.williams@readingagency.org.uk)  
Olwen Lynch, Programme Officer – [olwen.lynch@readingagency.org.uk](mailto:olwen.lynch@readingagency.org.uk)

### Teachers' Reading Challenge

The Teachers' Reading Challenge is an opportunity for school and library staff to enhance their knowledge of children's literature, share reviews and access free resources, while deepening their understanding of reading for pleasure pedagogy.

Visit [teachersreadingchallenge.org.uk](https://teachersreadingchallenge.org.uk) to find out more.

### The Reading Agency

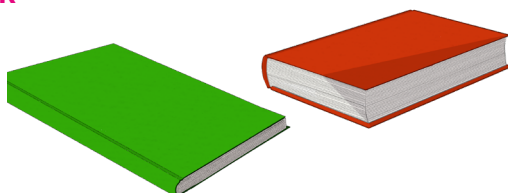
The Reading Agency is a national charity working with people of all ages to tackle life's big challenges through the proven power of reading.

Find out more about our work at [readingagency.org.uk](https://readingagency.org.uk)

Contact: [info@readingagency.org.uk](mailto:info@readingagency.org.uk)

### School Library Association

To continue your partnership with your local public library and your Schools Library Service, visit [sla.org.uk](https://sla.org.uk)



## More programmes from The Reading Agency

### Chatterbooks

Chatterbooks reading clubs help children build a lifelong reading habit. Every month, brand new activities created by leading children's book publishers are available to download for free from [readingagency.org.uk/resources/?programme=chat](https://readingagency.org.uk/resources/?programme=chat). You'll find great suggestions for books to explore and activities suitable for enjoying at school, home or the library. You can see the most recent opportunities for all schools and libraries including display packs, reading group sets of books and author visits here: [readingagency.org.uk/resources/5354/](https://readingagency.org.uk/resources/5354/).

Visit [chatterbooks.org.uk](https://chatterbooks.org.uk) for more information.

### Reading Well

Reading Well for children provides quality-assured information, stories and advice to support children's mental health and wellbeing. Books have been chosen and recommended by leading health professionals and co-produced with children and families. The booklist is targeted at children in Key Stage 2 (aged 7-11)

Visit [reading-well.org.uk](https://reading-well.org.uk) to find out more about the scheme.

### Stay in touch!



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