



1 July 2020

Dear parents/carers

### **The Summer Reading Challenge**

I hope you are all keeping safe and well. With school life disrupted and many children missing the company of their friends, reading for pleasure is something which can improve their sense of being connected to the wider community. It can increase their understanding of empathy, give them an insight into the lives of others and transport them to faraway places. In the words of Roald Dahl in his book 'Matilda': "So Matilda's strong, young mind continued to grow, nurtured by the voices of all those authors who had sent their books out into the world like ships on the sea. These books gave Matilda a hopeful and comforting message: YOU ARE NOT ALONE."

With this in mind, I would like to draw your attention to The Summer Reading Challenge which is created by The Reading Agency and is funded by Arts Council England. Its aim is to encourage children aged 4 to 11 to set themselves a reading challenge to inspire them to continue reading over the summer holidays and is usually delivered with the support of public libraries. This year, children taking part in the Challenge will join the Silly Squad, an adventurous team of animals who love to have a laugh and get stuck into all sorts of funny books. They will be celebrating funny books, happiness and laughter which we all need in these very uncertain times.

With the disruption caused by COVID-19, the 2020 Challenge, which would normally take place in public libraries, is a digital activity and runs from now until September. It is free to access and features games, quizzes and digital/downloadable activities to encourage children and their families to take part in reading related activities at home. Although library buildings are closed, libraries will also continue to deliver the Challenge through virtual services and e-lending platforms.

Full details can be found on the Summer Reading Challenge website, which also provides information about finding books to read for the Summer Reading Challenge as the children won't be able to go to the local library as they have done in previous years. Just follow this link: <https://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk/about-the-challenge>

I hope your children enjoy this as much as mine did! Happy reading!

Kind regards

**Mrs Kay**