

The Reading Agency and Libraries Present



SILLY SQUAD

Summer Reading Challenge 2020

sillysquad.org.uk



Key messages to share with your children, parents and carers

What is the digital Summer Reading Challenge?

- Sandwell Libraries hosts a Summer Reading Challenge every year where children and families can go into their libraries and sign up for free. The Reading Challenge can be joined at any point during the summer, and gives children an incentive to read at least 6 books during the school holiday. You may have taken part previously
- Due to libraries being temporarily shut, the Reading Agency (who arrange the Summer Reading Challenge nationally) have created a website that you can access for free and participate with the challenge from home
- It's so easy to take part. Children sign up to the easy-to-use website and create their own profile at www.sillysquad.org.uk from 5th June onwards.
- Children set their own reading target, being encouraged to read anything that makes them happy – whether it be comics, joke books, poetry, fiction or non-fiction; in digital or print format; from e-book lending through the public library service or from what they already have at home.
- To borrow free eBooks and eAudio books through your local Sandwell library service please visit www.capitadiscovery.co.uk/sandwell/home. You can join for free if you are not already a member
- Each time they finish a book, children add it to their profile and can write a review. They are rewarded with activities and incentives along the way, such as online badges, games and videos.
- Families are encouraged to join in and 'Get Silly' with downloadable activities, games, quizzes and more. With new content to enjoy each week, the fun will continue throughout the summer to keep families engaged.
- You receive a downloadable certificate once you've completed your challenge!

Summer holiday library activities

Sandwell Libraries will also be hosting a programme of online events throughout the summer holidays to encourage your children to get creative, have fun and read.

These will range from online author events, online stories, craft activities, events by entertainers and more – all linking in with the Silly Squad Summer theme!

Like Sandwell Libraries on Facebook for more information

Why take part with the Summer Reading Challenge?

- It's fun to get involved with, get to know the Silly Squad characters, feel part of the 'club' and search for things children themselves fancy reading
They can do it independently or make it a family thing. It can help children who are missing friends, family and the routine of everyday life to connect to something that others their age are involved with
- It keeps children actively reading over the summer, which helps keep their reading levels up, and supports the transition between year groups and stages. Children will also become more independent in their reading
- Children who take part maintain reading confidence levels over the summer and are more enthusiastic about books and reading
- Reading for pleasure supports mental wellbeing, boosting children's confidence and self-esteem, which is more important than ever during this time. Reading can offer a great distraction and a way of discovering new worlds, interests and experiencing life through different characters which can help build positive mental health in many ways.

How schools can support us

- Promoting the Summer Reading Challenge in your school is one of the most effective ways of spreading the word! Find more resources at www.sillysquad.org.uk
- Tell parents/carers about the Summer Reading Challenge! Use the digital newsletter banner (attached) in your digital newsletters, class blogs, PTA platforms or on your website
- Tell children about the Summer Reading Challenge website at www.sillysquad.org.uk where they can take part, find book recommendations, fun and silly events, downloadable activities, competitions and play games
- **Promote our live Silly Squad assembly to be hosted on the Sandwell Libraries Facebook page on Wednesday 8 July at 1pm.** You could also host a live or online Silly Squad-themed assembly of your own using our template assembly presentation to tell children and families all about the fun happening with the Challenge this summer
- Use activity sheets to engage children with a personalised Silly Squad invitation available at www.readingagency.org.uk/children/practitioners-guides/summer-reading-challenge-resources-for-teachers.html
- Choose books from the Silly Squad collection (list available on the Reading Challenge website) to share with your class through online or live class reading time. Sandwell Libraries also have free eBooks and eAudio available to download on their virtual catalogue.
- Celebrate after the summer! Encourage children to bring in their certificates or congratulate completers in your school newsletter

For more information please contact michelle_blackhall@sandwell.gov.uk and nicola_morris@sandwell.gov.uk

Also please visit the Sandwell Libraries Facebook page for our latest book promotions, events and Summer Reading Challenge news