



Join the Silly Squad Summer Reading Challenge – it's free!

The Summer Reading Challenge is a great time to share and talk about books as a family and to celebrate your child's reading achievements. We know that reading for fun improves literacy and will help your child at school (and later in life too!). Joining a Challenge is a great way to keep motivated too.

The Challenge has changed this year due to COVID-19 and instead of children joining via their local library and reading library books, sign-up is online and any books can be read.

By getting involved in the Summer Reading Challenge, your child is:

- Improving their literacy. We know that reading for fun improves literacy
- Supporting their studies. Reading for pleasure is one of the most important factors in children's academic success
- Improving their wellbeing; reading for pleasures improves your mood and acts as an escape from life's problems
- Learning to understand others and their point of view. Studies have also found that those who read for pleasure have higher self-esteem and are better able to cope with difficult situations
- Having a great time! Joining thousands of other children across the country, reading books, sharing their thoughts, and taking part in some great activities.

How to join the Challenge:

- Join online at SillySquad.org.uk
- It's **free** to join
- Children can get rewards, play games and earn badges as they read
- Children can rate and review the books they read
- The website features video content, games, quizzes and digital and downloadable activities
- Check out the [Home Zone](#) on the SillySquad website for families which includes step-by-step instructions on how to join as well as ideas for activities.

Books to read:

- Although this year's theme is Silly Squad, any books can be read
- The books this year do not have to be from the local library
- Encourage your child to read comics, joke books, information books and story books
- E-books count too. Manchester Libraries has been adding to the children's e-book selection on Borrowbox. It's free to use and you don't have to have a physical library card. See [here](#) for information on how to get started.
- There will be a phased reopening of some Libraries from 4 July with reduced hours and service. Families will be able to borrow books, but there will be no activity offer and a limit on numbers entering, so there may be queues. See [here](#) for more [details](#).

Manchester Libraries' Activity programme

Manchester Libraries is supporting the Summer Reading Challenge with nine weeks of online activities. These include weekly Draw-Alongs with Nick Sharratt, weekly poetry with Dommy B and storytelling, crafts and other simple activities to do together either at home or school. See [Facebook](#) @manchesterlibraries every day at 11.00 a.m. or catch up via the Manchester Libraries [Youtube](#) channel.

See who is involved in our [Silly Squad crew](#) and check out the weekly schedule [here](#).

Showcase your talent and win with our Silly Squad competitions!

Children are encouraged to get involved in our two competitions. Why not encourage your child to write a book review? A template can be downloaded from the website, or you can create your own. Our second competition is *The Silly Squad made me do it!* which invites children to show us any work or creations they have made at home or school after watching the short activity videos. Full details of both of these competitions are available [here](#).

You can find further information about the Summer Reading Challenge here - manchester.gov.uk/summerreadingchallenge