Dear colleague,

**Summer Reading Challenge 2024: Marvellous Makers! Saturday 6 July – Sat 31 August**

1 in 4 children cannot read well by the age of 11. This hugely limits their life choices and skills. We’re on a mission to change this and we need your help!

We invite you to encourage children to take up the **[Summer Reading Challenge](https://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk/).** It’s the UK’s biggest reading for pleasure programme for children aged 4 to 11, delivered via public libraries. Children can sign up for free at their local library or [online](https://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk/) – please see below for further details.

Last year, in Derby almost 2,000 children joined the Challenge.

**You can make a huge difference to children’s lives by encouraging more to take part.**

**Summer Reading Challenge overview:**

When they join Marvellous Makers, children will be introduced to the Marvellous Makers characters, brought to life by the brilliant children’s illustrator, Natelle Quek.

The Marvellous Makers are all part of their local creative club, where they enjoy coming up with fun creations, exploring ideas and telling stories together and this summer they are creating pieces inspired by their favourite reads to show to their friends and family at a big festival. However, the day before the festival, some objects mysteriously go missing from the club’s creative toolbox.

Can the festival still go ahead?

Children will join the Marvellous Makers as they search for the missing objects to complete their creations. They’ll also meet one or two cheeky animals and hopefully discover where all those missing objects have gone as well as picking up some rewards along the way!

**Summer Reading Challenge benefits:**

* Significantly **improves reading confidence** andindependence
* Ensures children are **ready for their return to school,** preventing the summer reading ‘dip’
* Aids the **successful transition** between year groups and key stages
* Contributes to **achievement**
* Encourages **extra-curricular activity** – encouraging family engagement with reading
* Develops links between your organization/area of work, the library and the **wider community**

**For children who took part in 2023:**

* **80% read more** over the summer holidays
* **70% improved** their reading skills
* **72% felt more confident** about their reading

**How it works:**

* Children sign up through their local library and receive a collector’s poster which they use the help them complete the challenge.
* They set a reading goal and borrow books of their choice from the library during the summer, collecting special stickers and incentives.
* Library staff and volunteers help children to discover new books that suit their interests and reading level and run a programme of free themed activities in the library.
* Children who complete the Challenge are presented with a certificate.
* Children can take part online, too! [www.summerreadingchallenge.org.uk](http://www.summerreadingchallenge.org.uk/)

**Next steps:**

* Display **posters** to promote the Challenge. Find printable A3/A4 posters [here](https://readingagency.org.uk/resources/?query=poster&programme=src).
* Send a **newsletter** to your families with information about the Challenge. You can use the handy template [[here](https://readingagency.org.uk/resources/7269)](https://readingagency.org.uk/resources/6621/) – just adapt it so it’s suitable for you
* **Book a visit** from your local library staff who can tell children and families more about the Challenge. (If you are interested in this please contact me).

Combining **FREE** access to books at local libraries with creative activities to take part in during the summer holidays, the Summer Reading Challenge is the perfect way to support children’s learning during the holidays, ensuring they return to school ready for a great start to the new academic year.

Regards

Collette Levers

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