

Meeting all children's needs

If your child is vision impaired or finds printed books tricky, your library may be able to help suggest alternatives. The free RNIB Library (which covers braille, giant print and Talking Books) can be used to borrow books for the Summer Reading Challenge and throughout the year, and most libraries can help you with this.

rnib.org.uk/childrensbooks

Library services are increasingly aware of the needs of children with autism and some libraries run relaxed autism friendly sessions.

More fun and games!

spacechase.org.uk

Space Chase has a dedicated website for children taking part in the Challenge. They can play games, enter competitions, and post book reviews. They can also use the brilliant **Book Sorter** to find great books recommended by other children.

“It's on in almost every locality, it's a delight for the children to take part in and... it's one of the few things where you're delighted and it does you good! What could be better?”

Michael Rosen

Author and Professor of Children's Literature,
Goldsmiths University.
Past UK Children's Laureate

Why is reading for pleasure important?*

- Currently, 1 in 5 children in England cannot read well by the age of 11. We know that reading for fun improves literacy.
- Reading for pleasure is more important to children's academic success than their parents' level of education or socio-economic status.
- Embedding a love of reading in children can help their wellbeing later in life. 19% of adult readers say that reading stops them feeling lonely.
- Studies have found that those who read for pleasure have higher levels of empathy, greater self-esteem and are better able to cope with difficult situations.

The Summer Reading Challenge gets around 700,000 children into libraries each year to keep up their reading skills and confidence during the long holidays.
It's fun, it's free and it's local!

*For references visit readingagency.org.uk/about/impact/002-reading-facts-1/



ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND
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20 YEARS SUMMER READING CHALLENGE THE READING AGENCY

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The Reading Agency and Libraries Present

SPACE CHASE

Summer Reading Challenge 2019



Illustrations © Adam Stower 2019
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spacechase.org.uk

This year's Summer Reading Challenge is Space Chase; an out-of-this-world adventure celebrating the 50th anniversary of the first moon landing.

Your child can help our super space family, the Rockets, on a special mission - and have tons of fun along the way!



- Sign up for the Challenge at your local library.
- Your child will be given a special mission folder to keep a record of their reading.
- Read at least six library books and collect stickers and rewards.
- They receive a certificate when they finish.
- It's fun and totally free!



At the heart of the Challenge is children choosing and sharing any books – in any format – that they like. Novels, fact books, joke books, e-books and audio books all count and your library has staff and volunteers to help your child choose books they will really enjoy. Teachers tell us that children return to school with a new enthusiasm for reading too.



Fun for all the family

The Challenge is a great time to share and talk about books as a family and to celebrate your child's reading achievements. Sitting down with your own book, newspaper or magazine sets a good example to kids – they will copy you – and reading a book together can really encourage a love of stories.



Explore your library

While your child chooses their books for Space Chase, why not pick up a book yourself and discover the range of other great things on offer at the library?

From reading groups to computer use, it's your library, so let us help you make the most of it!

