

Dear Parents,

As you know reading is at the heart of all we do here at St. Joseph's and to support our children's reading journey, we would like to draw your attention to **The Summer Reading Challenge** at <https://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk/join-in>



The Summer Reading Challenge has been running since 1999 and helps to prevent the reading 'dip' that many young people experience during their summer holidays while schools are closed. With the help of local libraries, the Summer Reading Challenge is accessible to all and provides a **fun, free** activity for children

Each year the Summer Reading Challenge has a different theme. This year's theme is '**Ready, Set, Read!**' and aims to keep children's minds and bodies active over the summer break by unleashing the power of play, sport and physical activity through reading.

Through taking part in the free Challenge - which runs until September- children will be able to join a superstar team and their marvellous mascots as they navigate a fictional summer obstacle course. They will be rewarded with lots of incentives and stickers along the way and, more importantly, engage with a whole range of terrific texts. There are also some fabulous fun family activity cards (developed by The Youth Sport Trust) for you to use as well. These cards, along with the official Challenge book list, will help to keep imaginations moving over the school holiday. The Challenge and activity cards are available to access through your local library and also at, <https://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk>

Taking Part in the

There are two ways to do this:

1. Sign up at your local library.

The Summer Reading Challenge is open to all primary school aged children and is designed for all reading abilities. Children can sign up for free at a participating library during the summer holidays.

2. Take part on line

Simply sign up at <https://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk/join-in> Your child will then choose a reading goal - usually about six books. Each time they finish a book, they simply add it to their website profile to unlock special badges and activities.

All the staff at St Joseph's wish to actively encourage all our children to take part in this year's Challenge. Reading for pleasure is incredibly important for our children for many reasons:

- We know that reading for fun improves literacy and maths.
- 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.

We can't wait to see and hear about how the children have completed this year's Challenge and would love you to share photos, book reviews and any reading activities that they – and you – complete via info_stjosephs@emmausmac.com

Happy Reading!

Kind regards,

Mrs Riley

English Coordinator

