

A message from the Library Service:

As we approach the end of summer term please may I take this opportunity to bring to your attention the 2026 Summer Reading Challenge, Read to the Beat, taking place in Cumberland Libraries. Below are some promotional materials which may be of interest.



Starting on Saturday 11 July!



National
Year of
Reading
2026



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**ARTS COUNCIL
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Delivered in partnership with libraries
summerreadingchallenge.org.uk

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Summer Reading Challenge 2026 – *Read to the Beat*

We're excited to share that the **Summer Reading Challenge 2026** is just around the corner – and this year's theme is **Read to the Beat!**

Children are invited to visit their nearest library to take part in this fun, free activity that encourages a love of reading over the summer holidays.



How to Take Part

- **It's completely FREE!**
- All you need is a Cumberland Libraries membership – which is also free to join.

What's Involved?

To complete the challenge, children are encouraged to read **six books** of their choice during the summer holidays.

This can include:

- Fiction
- Non-fiction
- Poetry
- Joke books
- Picture books
- Graphic novels
- eBooks and eAudiobooks via **BorrowBox**, our free digital service.



Read and Collect!

- Collect themed Read to the Beat stickers along the way.
- Receive your own Summer Reading Challenge kitbag.
- Once completed, children will be awarded a medal and certificate to celebrate their achievement.

When Does It Start?

The challenge begins in all Cumberland Libraries on **Saturday 11 July 2026** and continues throughout the summer.

- **Mini Challenge** (for ages 0–3, alternative age-appropriate rewards)
- **Main Challenge** (for ages 4–11)

Find Out More:

- The Reading Agency: summerreadingchallenge.org.uk
- Cumberland Libraries: <https://www.cumberland.gov.uk/libraries-0>
- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/CumberlandLibraries/>

We hope children will join in and enjoy a summer full of stories, creativity, and fun!



Summer Reading Challenge 2026 – *Read to the Beat*

Promotional videos produced by the Reading Agency

Voice over: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sMuo6FoK8bk>

(No voice over): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SwxbVpsS9eE>

What children love about the Summer Reading Challenge

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oOg0QKhMGmo>

Children share some of their favourite books

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MYsPHmB9U0Q>