

SUMMER READING CHALLENGE

MESSAGE FROM BILL BENTLEY, LEAD MEMBER FOR COMMUNITIES AND SAFETY, EAST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

Whilst we experience parliamentary recess, East Sussex children are challenging their parents and carers throughout the 6 week holiday from school.

East Sussex Libraries have a solution to help with their boredom, maintain reading skills and offer a lot of fun which I would like to share with you and I hope you will share in your communities and perhaps promote the video on social media.

The Summer Reading Challenge is an important annual event for the library service. It's run by The Reading Agency and is supported by local authorities nationwide through local libraries. The aim is to ensure that primary school children continue to read through the summer holidays, as evidence has shown that this helps children to maintain literacy levels during the long summer break. To promote the challenge our librarian team visit schools in the summer term and host assemblies to engage with children.

To take part in the Summer Reading Challenge, children need to register at any East Sussex library and read 6 books during the summer break. Names of children finishing this year's SRC will be entered into a prize draw to win a Kobo e-reader tablet (kindly donated by Kobo and Overdrive).

The theme for the 2017 Summer Reading Challenge is Animal Agents, drawn by children's illustrator Tony Ross. From solving the case of the graffiti writing to the strange case of a missing lunch, children will join in the fun with the Animal Agents by reading along. As children read library books they will receive a host of stickers, some with mysterious smells. By collecting these clues in their detective folder, young readers will help the Animal Agents find out what's really been going on behind the scenes.

This year we are supporting the SRC with a video which was written, filmed and produced by our Communications team. It tells the story of how Evil Agent Z's attempt to sabotage the Summer Reading Challenge by planting a device in the library to suck out the ink from the books was thwarted by Secret Agent Henry (an East Sussex librarian) and a group of schoolchildren.

The video has been sent to all schools in the county. It has supported visits to some schools from library staff and ensures that our SRC message can be seen by all pupils. This is an excellent video production that can be viewed here: www.Youtube.com/EastSussexCC

I hope you find it of interest.