



**WOKINGHAM
BOROUGH COUNCIL**

Tel: Wokingham Library (0118 978 1368)
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Date: May 2026
My ref: SJ - Outreach Schools

READ to the BEAT

RE: Summer Reading Challenge 2026

I am delighted to announce that Wokingham Borough libraries will once again take part in the Reading Agency's Summer Reading Challenge.

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.

The Summer Reading Challenge encourages children to keep reading during the summer holidays, ensuring they are ready for a great start to the new term in the autumn. Children set a reading goal and collect rewards for reading anything they enjoy. Children can join the Challenge free at their local WBC library from Monday 29 June 2026.

This year's Challenge is Read to the Beat!, delivered by The Reading Agency in partnership with public libraries and powered by [Universal Music Group UK](#). The theme inspires children to explore the connection between stories and songs, discovering how reading and music both ignite imagination and creativity.

This year's Challenge is brought to life with illustrations by award-winning author and illustrator, [Harry Woodgate](#).

Summer Reading Challenge – benefits for schools

- The Challenge significantly improves children's reading skills and confidence

- Taking part can prevent the summer 'dip' in reading and aid the successful transition to new year groups and key stages
- During last year's Challenge, children read over 14 million books
- It's simple and free for every child to take part
- Libraries run activities for children & families throughout the holidays

How to get involved

- Display Summer Reading Challenge posters
- Promote the reading challenge in school newsletters
- Print off Summer Reading Challenge worksheets
- Book a school assembly promoting the challenge
- Book a celebration assembly in the Autumn Term

Assemblies can now be booked for after May half term. Please either complete a form or email libraryevents@wokingham.gov.uk (Please use the subject heading *Summer Reading Challenge – school assembly.*)

[Summer Reading Challenge - assembly visit – Prefilled form](#)

Yours sincerely

S. L. Jenkins

Children's and Young People's Librarian

Wokingham Borough Council

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