

Dear Parents,

Thank you for all you are doing to support your children at home. We know that juggling work, family and home learning is far from easy. Please know that we appreciate all that you. To help you further, we would like to draw your attention to **The Summer Reading Challenge** which will be launched at **4pm on Friday 5th June** at <https://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk/>



Usually this challenge is run through libraries however, this year, with the disruption caused by COVID-19 and the impact of social distancing on schools and public libraries, the 2020 Challenge will run as a digital activity.

This year's Challenge will celebrate funny books, happiness and laughter. Children taking part in the Challenge will join the Silly Squad, an adventurous team of animals who love to have a laugh and get stuck in to all different kinds of funny books!

The digital Challenge is **free to access** and will feature games, quizzes and digital and downloadable activities to incentivise and encourage children - and their families - to take part in reading related activities at home.

With school life disrupted and many children missing the company of their friends, this year's fun-filled Summer Reading Challenge will be all the more vital as a way of helping parents and carers find fun, family-friendly activities, maintain literacy levels and create a safe space for children to connect with their peers.

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.

- 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@st-joe-st.dudley.sch.uk.

Happy Reading!

Kind regards,

Mrs Riley

English Coordinator