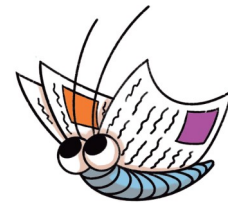




Story Garden



We are facing a national crisis in children's reading. Recent research shows that only 1 in 3 children and young people now enjoy reading, a drop of 33% since 2005 (Clark, et al., 2024) and **1 in 4 children in the UK cannot read well by age 11**. This hugely limits their life choices and skills.

We're on a mission to change this and we need your help!

The Summer Reading Challenge:

- Significantly **improves reading confidence** and independence
- Ensures pupils are **ready for their autumn return**, preventing the summer reading 'dip'
- Aids the **successful transition** between year groups and key stages
- Contributes to *all* pupils' **achievement** and encourages **extra-curricular activity**
- Develops links between your school, the library and the **wider community**

View our [Story Garden video](#) and [West Sussex Library Service](#) website to find out more!

For children who took part in 2024:

95% reading at least once a week since taking part!

*"We've joined the reading challenge for the past 4 years and every year it has inspired and encouraged a deeper **joy** for reading. For a young dyslexic boy the challenge helps make reading **fun**."*

Parent/carer of 6–7-year-old boy



Celebrating Reading for Pleasure—hints and tips for schools

- Share our [Story Garden video](#) to classes before the summer break
- Encourage children to choose books they will enjoy, perhaps linked to a particular hobby or interest
- Suggest different formats, such as audiobooks, comics or dyslexia-friendly books
- Hold a celebration assembly in September for children who have taken part in the Summer Reading Challenge
- Offer merits or house points to children who bring in their certificate to show you in the autumn term
- Bring your pupils to the library! We offer staff-led and self-service class visits from September up until May half-term each year, but **availability is limited** so we need any requests well in advance. Contact FandW.enquiries@westsussex.gov.uk for more information.
- Join the [Schools Library Service](#) for access to high quality resources and expertise to support literacy. You can sign up to their [newsletter](#) without subscribing to their service.



It's **FREE** to join the library and **FREE** to take part
Let's get GROWING!