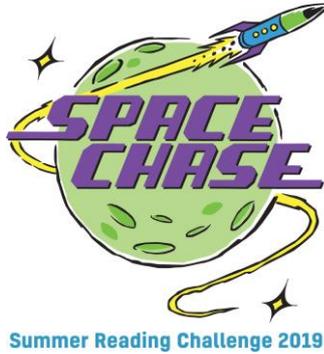


The Reading Agency and Libraries Present



Space Chase - Coming to a library near you!

Aimed at 4-11 year olds the Summer Reading Challenge produced by the Reading Agency and delivered by libraries is simple and fun. Children are encouraged to read six or more library books during the summer holidays and receive rewards along the way. Children can sign up at their local Wiltshire library from Saturday 13th July, it's absolutely free and lasts until 7 September.

Each year there is a different theme - this year it is Space Chase, an out-of-this-world adventure inspired by the 50th anniversary of the first moon landing. Over the summer children will help the super space family the Rockets track down books nabbed by mischievous aliens! As they read library books, they will solve clues and collect special stickers to complete their mission folder. Children will also receive a special Space Chase wristband when they reach book 4 and a medal and certificate on completion.

Last year nearly 9,400 children took part reading 40,500 books in total. Children and their parents and carers love the challenge – it can make a real difference in avoiding the 'summer reading dip':

'[My seven year old boy] has really enjoyed the reading challenge. He is having reading interventions at school and I think this has really helped his confidence. Thank you for making my little boy smile and enjoy his reading through the summer.'

There is also a dedicated website: spacechase.org.uk, for children taking part in the challenge. As well as keeping track of their progress online, there are games and competitions, children can send messages and even find out what to read next using the Book Sorter.

Children will need a library card to borrow books, if they don't already have one, to join the library children must have an adult guarantor.

This year we will also be running an additional activity produced in partnership with Wiltshire Council leisure services – the 'Astronaut training programme' - six fun and healthy challenges for children do as they are reading. Each challenge will highlight positive messages about health eating, physical exercise and good hydration. On completion the trainee astronauts will receive a small prize and be entered into a prize draw.

For more information contact your local library or visit: wiltshire.gov.uk/libraries