

The Reading Agency and Libraries Present

# SILLY SQUAD

Summer Reading Challenge 2020

[sillysquad.org.uk](http://sillysquad.org.uk)

## Have fun with the Silly Squad digital Summer Reading Challenge

Norfolk's libraries may be closed but that isn't stopping the return of the Summer Reading Challenge, which for 2020 is all about funny books, happiness and having a laugh.

With the disruption caused by Covid-19 and the impact of social distancing on schools and public libraries, this year's challenge has launched as a digital activity to keep children reading over the summer and help prevent the summer reading 'dip'.

The theme for this year's challenge is the 'Silly Squad', a team of animal friends who love to go on adventures and get stuck in to all different kinds of funny books. It features bespoke artwork from award-winning children's author and illustrator Laura Ellen Anderson.

Councillor Margaret Dewsbury, Cabinet Member for Communities, said: "With school life disrupted and many children missing the company of their friends, this year's Summer Reading Challenge is all the more important. It's 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."

Children aged 4-11 can join the Silly Squad on a new adventure by setting their own personal reading challenge to complete from now until September. The new online platform will help them keep track of their books, reviews and the rewards they unlock along the way. Although children can't borrow physical books from libraries at the moment, they can choose from thousands of e-books to download free from the library service using the Libby app - see [www.norfolk.gov.uk/ebooks](http://www.norfolk.gov.uk/ebooks) for more details.

The Summer Reading Challenge is produced nationally by The Reading Agency and is being delivered by libraries across the country through virtual services and e-lending platforms. Realising that not everyone has access to digital services, The Reading Agency is working to supply printed Silly Squad materials to libraries able to reach families without digital access.

Norfolk Libraries are providing lots of online activities during lockdown. You can find out what's on and join in with their Summer Reading Challenge online events at their new facebook page for children and families -

<https://www.facebook.com/NorfolkLibrariesForFamilies/>

Sign up to take part in the Silly Squad Summer Reading Challenge at [www.sillysquad.org.uk](http://www.sillysquad.org.uk) where you'll find book suggestions, tips on keeping reading when schools and libraries are closed, quizzes, games and more.



**Norfolk** County Council