



The Summer Reading Challenge 2020 will launch on Friday 5th June, with a fantastic virtual 'Let's Get Silly' Launch Party. You can join in the fun on Facebook by following the link:

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

Although library buildings remain closed, libraries will continue to deliver the Challenge through virtual services and e-lending platforms.

The Summer Reading Challenge, delivered in partnership with public libraries and funded by Arts Council England, encourages children aged 4-11 to read during the long summer break, with research showing a dip in reading levels if children do not have regular access to books. They can join the Silly Squad on a new adventure by setting their own personal reading challenge to complete this summer. Create a free profile to keep track of their books, reviews, and all of the special rewards they unlock along the way. They'll also find heaps of super silly activities, quizzes, videos, games and more to keep them entertained at home. This year's Challenge runs from June to September, so there is plenty of time to take part and get silly this summer. We will be recognising children's achievements in a special celebration assembly when we return to school.

Let's Get Silly Launch Party Schedule:

- 4.00pm - [Sam & Mark](#) (as seen on CBBC) launch the Summer Reading Challenge 2020 and introduce you to the Silly Squad, telling you how you can sign up and start your seriously silly summer
- 4:10pm - Comedian, author and presenter, [David Baddiel](#), reads from his children's book *The Taylor TurboChaser*
- 4:15pm - Author [Gareth P Jones](#) reads from his book *Dinosaur Detective: Catnapped!* and takes us on a real adventure
- 4:20pm - Drawing with award-winning author and illustrator [Rob Biddulph](#)
- 4:30pm - Poet and author [Joseph Coelho](#) reads *Funny Fish* from his book *Poems Aloud*
- 4:35pm - President of [Libraries Connected](#), Carol Stump, reads a book from the official 2020 Summer Reading Challenge booklist - *You Can't Call an Elephant in an Emergency* by Patricia Cleveland-Peck & David Tazzyman
- 4:40pm - Crafts, colour and creativity with the original queen of colouring, Johanna Basford
- 4:45pm - Authors [Katie and Kevin Tsang](#) read from their book *Sam Wu is Not Afraid of Zombies* - including some super silly dress up!
- 4:50pm - Let's Get Silly with longest-serving female BBC Blue Peter presenter and author [Konnie Huq](#)
- 4:55pm - Presenter, author and adventurer, [Ben Fogle](#) reads an extract from his *Mr Dog* book series

5:05pm - The British Library shares content from their Discovering Children's Books [website](#) where you can find a whole range of creative activities. In this video, Viviane Schwarz shows you fun ways of developing silly characters

5:10pm - How to Build a Super Silly Reading Den with BBC's [Katie Thistleton](#) and [Hacker T Dog](#)

5:20pm - Children's author [Philip Ardagh](#) reads from his book *Bunnies on the Bus*

5:25pm - [Arts Council England's](#) Director of Libraries, Sue Williamson, reads her favourite poem

5:30pm - Silly Squad draw-along with author and illustrator, [Laura Ellen Anderson](#), who is the Summer Reading Challenge 2020's official illustrator!

5:40pm - Award-winning comedian, actress and writer [Samantha Baines](#) reads from her novel *Harriet Versus The Galaxy*

5:45pm - [Konnie Hug](#) gets super silly with the Silly Squad

5:50pm - [Shed School](#) Magic with the nation's favourite teacher, Mr Bates

6pm - The nation's favourite comedian and presenter [Paul O'Grady](#) will read an excerpt from his favourite children's book, *The Borrowers*

6:05pm - Author [Jennifer Killick](#) reads from her book, *Alex Sparrow and the Zumbie Apocalypse* and shows us how to do a very silly dance - join in!

6:15pm - Children's author (and game designer!) [Gabrielle Kent](#) reads from her book, *Knights and Bikes*

6:25pm - Actor [Owen Teale](#) (Game of Thrones) reads from his favourite book, *A Child's Christmas in Wales* by Welsh poet Dylan Thomas.

6:30pm - Jokes with our Ambassadors! Including Quick Reads 2020 author [Milly Johnson](#), [Samantha Baines](#), and [Konnie Hug](#)

6:35pm - Actor and writer [Shobna Gulati](#) (Dinner Ladies, Coronation Street) will read *Tiny Ant* from the Official Book Collection

6:40pm - Author and illustrator [Laura Dockrill](#) shares her favourite poems including her own poem *My Mum's Growing Down* as well as one by Benjamin Zephaniah from *Talking Turkeys* and a Carol Ann Duffy poem!

6:45pm - It's time to hear the official 'Let's Get Silly!' theme song! Written and performed by [Harry Baker](#) and [Chris Read](#)

6:50pm - Closing the Launch Party with a bedtime story, actor [Charlie Condou](#) (Holby City, Coronation Street) reads *This is Gus* from the official Summer Reading Challenge book collection

7pm - End

Once you have celebrated with the Silly Squad at the Launch Party head on over to sillysquad.org.uk to start your seriously silly Summer Reading Challenge! Keep an eye on the Summer Reading Challenge [Facebook](#) page throughout the summer to catch even more fantastic videos from the wonderful ambassadors and book collection authors!

Keep safe, keep connected, and keep reading.