



SAINT NORBERT'S CATHOLIC VOLUNTARY ACADEMY

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Mission Statement: To live, love and learn in the footprints of Jesus.

13th July 2026

Dear Families,

Please see the information below from the North Lincolnshire Library Service.

Go all in for the National Year of Reading 2026: join the FREE Summer Reading Challenge at the library!

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 ([Clark, et al., 2025](#)), and 1 in 4 children in the UK cannot read well by age 11 ([DofE, 2025](#)). This hugely limits their life choices and skills.

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

The Reading Agency and public libraries are working to change this with the Summer Reading Challenge – a free, UK-wide programme. You can make a huge difference by encouraging young people to take part in the [Summer Reading Challenge](#). It's the UK's biggest reading for pleasure programme for children aged 4 to 11, delivered via public libraries. Children can sign up for free at their local library or online.

In 2025, over 575,000 children took part nationally. Together, we can make 2026 even bigger and get even more children fired up about reading! Last year, in North Lincolnshire, 1089 children joined the Challenge.

The Read to the Beat theme and interest pathways

Sing from the rooftops! We're so thrilled that the theme for the Summer Reading Challenge 2026 will be music.

The official [Read to the Beat Collection](#) includes books about musicians, characters discovering music, sound science, cultural traditions, rhythm, storytelling through sound, breaking down barriers to music, creative expression and following your dreams.

The Summer Reading Challenge:

- Significantly improves children's reading skills and confidence as well as reading enjoyment
- Prevents the summer 'dip' in reading and aids the successful transition to new year groups and key stages
- During last year's Challenge, children read almost 12 million books
- It's simple and free for every child to take part, and libraries run free activities for families throughout the holidays
- 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

For children who took part in 2025:

- 97% of participants increased or maintained reading enjoyment
- 73% read more over the summer – and 98% are now reading every day or nearly every day
- 62% of families talk more together about books and reading

"This is the third year completing the Summer Reading Challenge and our son's reading for pleasure has increased immensely as a result. Being dyslexic, reading has always been a challenge. However, being able to select his own books and share his thoughts has resulted in our son's reading fluency now exceeding expectations in his age group."

Parent/carer

"I enjoyed this year's summer reading challenge. It was so much fun as I went with my friends too. We read many books and shared stories together. I loved it"

Boy, 8-9-years-old

How it works:

- Children can sign up at their local North Lincolnshire library From Saturday 4th July, where they will receive a special sticker booklet
- They set their own summer reading goal and choose books, eBooks, or audiobooks of their choice – logging their reading will earn rewards such as stickers.
- North Lincolnshire Libraries will be running a programme of free themed events and activities too.
- All events will appear on our North Lincolnshire Facebook Page.
- Children who complete the Challenge are presented with a certificate and a medal.
- All completers will be entered into a draw to win amazon vouchers and the popular musical lollies.

Read to the Beat is available in all North Lincolnshire Libraries from Saturday 4th July to Saturday 5th September.

Yours sincerely,



A Dawson