Dear School,

**Free access to e-books and e-audiobooks**

**to support The Summer Reading Challenge 2020**

I understand that this e-mail finds you at a particularly challenging point in an unbelievably challenging year. I will try to be as brief as I can in explaining what I hope is an exciting (AND FREE!) opportunity for your students.

I’m sure you are aware of The Summer Reading Challenge: The annual challenge for children aged 5-12 to read 6 books over the Summer holidays. Each year the Challenge, delivered with the support of public libraries, motivates over 700,000 children to keep reading to build their skills and conﬁdence.

This year, Silly Squad, the Summer Reading Challenge 2020, will celebrate funny books, happiness and laughter. Children taking part in the Challenge will join the Silly Squad, an adventurous team of animals who love to have a laugh and get stuck in to all different kinds of funny books!

With the disruption caused by COVID-19 and the impact of social distancing on schools and public libraries, the 2020 Challenge will launch as a digital activity to keep children reading over the summer and support parents and carers with children already at home. The Challenge will run from June to September, launching on Friday 5 June 2020.

The digital Challenge will be free to access, featuring games, quizzes and digital and downloadable activities to incentivise and encourage children and their families to take part in reading related activities at home.

Cornwall Library buildings are currently closed and, although we are looking at ways to safely reopen, library borrowing will not return to normal in the near future. **So - to help give children free access to reading material, Cornwall Library Service in association with the Education Library Service would like to offer all primary school children a digital library card. This will enable them to access an exclusive junior version of Borrowbox, Cornwall Libraries e-book and e-audiobook platform which contains thousands of titles to read or listen-to including many of the newest bestsellers. The platform can also be accessed through school technology if students do not have devices at home. This digital card can, if desired, be upgraded to a full library card when our libraries re-open again – just visit your local branch.**

A handful of Cornish schools have been trialling this successfully over the past few months and have been really pleased with the positive effect on home-reading that it has prompted.

The set-up basically involves you issuing all of your children with an individual 14 digit library card number (no actual card) and a short information/instruction sheet. I have attached this information – feel free to cut/paste/personalise. I have also included some information about how you create the library card numbers for your pupils. Hopefully it should be a fairly simple process and your pupils will be up and running in no time.

In the coming weeks I will send details of exciting additions, including the opportunity for Cornwall Libraries to publish your school’s own ebook (full of stories, reviews, pictures) which can be added to Borrowbox and made available for all of Cornwall’s library users to borrow. I stress again, there is no cost involved in any of this.

I hope the information contained here is enough for you to be able to set-up your students with Borrowbox. If you have any questions about this exciting offer please feel free to contact me or ELS colleagues (els@cornwall.gov.uk)

Kind Regards,

Paul

**Paul Evered** | **Library Resources Team Leader**

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