**Dear Mrs Falls**

Organised by charity The Reading Agency ([www.readingagency.org.uk](http://www.readingagency.org.uk)) and the UK public library network since 1999, the **Summer Reading Challenge** is the UK’s biggest annual reading promotion for children aged 4 to 11.

The Summer Reading Challenge combines **FREE** access to books with fun, creative activities during the summer holidays. Throughout the Challenge, library staff and young volunteers support the children, helping them to discover new authors and illustrators and to explore a wide range of different types of books and ways of reading.

**How the Challenge works**

* Children sign up through their local library and receive a Gadgeteers collector poster.
* Children set a reading goal and borrow and read library books of their own choice during the summer, collecting special stickers to complete their poster and extra incentives along the way.
* Library staff and volunteers are on hand to advise and run family-friendly activities.
* Children who complete the Summer Reading Challenge are presented with a certificate and a medal.
* The official Challenge website hosts digital rewards, author videos, games and more for children to enjoy all summer: [www.summerreadingchallenge.org.uk](http://www.summerreadingchallenge.org.uk)

**How do schools benefit?**

* The Summer Reading Challenge is intrinsically inclusive and can contribute to the achievement
of **ALL** your pupils including those with special educational needs, disadvantaged pupils and
the most able.
* It enhances and supports your school’s reading policy and your mission for all children to read more widely and for pleasure.
* It encourages parental engagement and family involvement in reading and helps your school make links with the library and the wider community.
* It allows children to become more independent in their reading when choosing books and encourages using imagination and empathy to explore a text beyond the page.
* It takes place at your local library and is a brilliant opportunity for extra-curricular activity
* It keeps your pupils reading over the summer, ready for their return to school in the autumn, and supports the successful transition between year groups and key stages.

By championing the Summer Reading Challenge in your school, you will be continuing to support your pupils’ learning during the holidays, ensuring they return ready for a great start to the new academic year.

**Please find attached a Gadgeteer’s invitation and poster for you to display in school. It would also be great if you could include some information about the Challenge in your school newsletter.**

**It's FUN! It's FREE! It's LOCAL!**

Yours sincerely,

Angela Kerrigan & Kate Devine

Branch Managers – Strabane Library