

Join the "Read to the Beat" Summer Reading Challenge 2026!

Dates: 4 July to 5th September 2026

The 2026 Summer Reading Challenge invites children aged 4-11 to enjoy reading through the exciting theme ***Read to the Beat!*** - a celebration of music, rhythm, and storytelling, illustrated by Harry Woodgate and delivered in partnership with Universal Music Group UK.

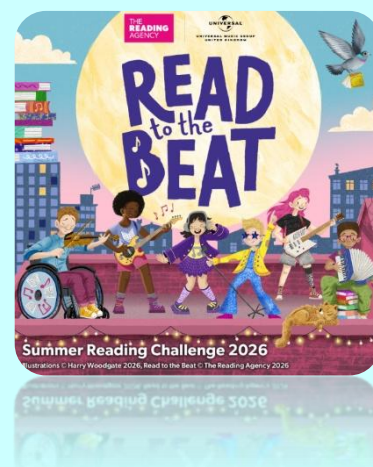
What Is *Read to the Beat!*?

This year's challenge explores how music and stories connect, encouraging children to discover rhythm, melody, and narrative through books and creative activities. Children can read **any six library books**—including audiobooks, eBooks, and graphic novels - to complete the challenge.

How to Take Part

How to Participate:

- **In-Person:** Visit any Kent Library for a joining pack.
- Children sign up to receive a free starter pack, set their own goals, and collect stickers, cards, medals, and certificates as they reach their reading targets.
- **Online:** Sign up at summerreadingchallenge.org.uk.



Rewards

Children who complete the challenge receive:

- A *Read to the Beat!* medal
- A personalised certificate
- Stickers and incentives along the way

These rewards help build confidence and keep children motivated throughout the summer.

Events & Activities

Libraries will host free events such as:

- Music-themed workshops
- Creative arts sessions
- Storytelling and rhythm activities
- Performances like **The Legend of Heart Library**

These sessions bring the theme to life through movement, sound, and imagination.

Why It Matters

Reading for pleasure is one of the strongest predictors of future success. By combining reading with music's benefits for creativity and wellbeing, ***Read to the Beat!*** helps children stay engaged, confident, and curious throughout the summer.

