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At Abbey Academies Trust, we understand the importance of encouraging children to read for pleasure. It might not seem like a particularly important task, but actually, research shows that reading for pleasure can be directly linked to children's success throughout their time at school and even into adulthood.

Reading for pleasure opens up new worlds for children. It gives them the opportunity to use their imagination to explore new ideas, visit new places and meet new characters. Interestingly, reading for pleasure also improves children's well-being and empathy. It helps them to understand their own identity, and gives them an insight into the world and the views of others.



TIPS

# READING

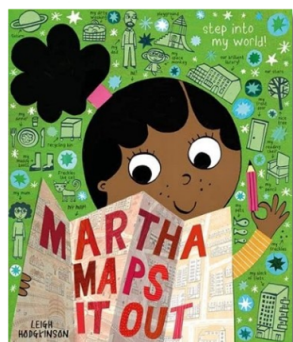
SUMMER  
READING  
CHALLENGE  
2023

Ready,  
Set,  
Read!

## It's nearly time for the Summer Reading Challenge!

Join in online or at your local library. Set your reading goal and log every time you finish a book. Explore the book selection- Ready, Set, Read! Visit <https://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk/> for more information.

### Check out some top reads for July.



By Leigh Hodgkinson

Maps fascinate our youngest children, creating treasure maps with the elusive 'x' marks the spot, drawing playgrounds or looking at theme park maps. Martha Maps it Out takes this love to a layered level, which also encapsulates young children's understanding of the world and its mesmerising scale. Starting with the Universe and going through maps of Martha's life until we see, not only her flat, her bedroom, but also her thoughts, questions and feelings. What makes this book unique is the identity of Martha which comes through, her love of space, her monkey, her special trinkets which all children treasure.

by Lily Murray and Jenny Lovlie

The Girl Who Loves Bugs is a story about a young girl who loves bugs so much, she takes them into her bedroom which results in some minibeast mischief for her whole family who do not share her love of six legged creatures. However, it goes beyond this fictional story and shares the real life 'girl who loves bugs', Evelyn Chessman, an English entomologist who collected around 70,000 specimens of insects, plants and other animals for the Natural History Museum.

This leads to research about her life on the Natural History Museum website which has an extensive biography of her research and unbeatable spirit. Working at a time when women were not admitted to the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons, Evelyn went on many solo expeditions to find and document our planet's insects. We all now benefit from the knowledge she brought back, her story of being trapped in the low-hanging webs of the Nephila spider and spending several hours freeing herself with a nail file seriously impressed me! This book inspires us to get outside in the spaces we have, to notice the minibeasts around us and to provide them homes.



by Patience Agbabi

A time-bending piece of intriguing speculative fiction, has much for both young people and adults to admire. It deals with complex themes about the planet, the impact of present actions on future lives, bullying, family, friendship, responsibility, neurodiversity and much more, all seen through the eyes of twelve-year old Elle Bibi-Imbelé Ifiè, who is a 'Leapling', a child born in a leap year with the special gift of being able to jump through time. Elle is centre stage in an action-packed science fiction adventure, a character whose exploits many young readers will thoroughly enjoy.

