

The Reading Agency and Libraries Present



SILLY SQUAD

Summer Reading Challenge 2020

sillysquad.org.uk



Meet the Silly Squad characters !

This year's characters were designed by the award-winning author and illustrator Laura Ellen Anderson (Amelia Fang, Evil Emperor Penguin). Meet the Silly Squad in a silly snapshot! The Silly Squad is a motley crew of animals who run a fabulous fun house. But watch out: a mysterious character is trying to spoil the fun!

We have: Bamboozle the panda, Lily the frog, Izzie the octopus, Snook the penguin, Brian the pony and Merry the giraffe.

Illustrations © Laura Ellen Anderson 2020

Introducing Summer Reading Challenge 2020

Laugh Out Loud with Slough Libraries and Culture

The Summer Reading Challenge theme this year is Silly Squad! The challenge is a celebration of fun, happiness and laughter with a focus on funny books (but you can read any book you like!)

This year the challenge is taking place online only. Children aged 4+ can chuckle their way through the summer by joining in a few simple steps. This year instead of six books, you can set yourself the challenge of how many books you would like to read! Whether that's six or sixteen, it's up to you!

We have partnered with Public Health Slough and Slough Healthy Smiles for a Summer of Healthy Smiles! There will be advice and activities about looking after your teeth, so you can show off your happy, healthy smile.

Children can sign up on sillysquad.org.uk, where they are able to rate and review books they have read as well as chart their reading progress.

On the website, children will find lots of silly book suggestions and tips on how to keep reading. There will also be activities, quizzes, videos, games and rewards to discover along the way.

For a step by step guide on how to sign up, watch this [video](#).

Remember, children need the permission of a parent or guardian to sign up to the challenge!

Take part in this hilarious online adventure to celebrate the joys of reading!



Meet the Summer Reading Challenge Ambassadors !

We are delighted to announce our Summer Reading Challenge Ambassadors are at the ready to encourage you to be silly and get reading! Coral Rumble, Kate Poels, Violet Lake and Fiona Barker.



Coral Rumble is an award winning poet and performer specialising in writing and performing for children.

In 2018 Coral won the Caterpillar Poetry Prize. She was featured in 'Favourite Poets' published by Hodder Children's Books. Michael Rosen has commented, "*Rumble has a dash and delight about her work*".

Find her at www.coralrumble.co.uk



Kate Poels is an author, vice coordinator of the Children's Book Award, children's book reviewer and creative writing workshop organiser.

Kate appears on BBC Berkshire regularly as part of the Tuesday afternoon book club with Bill Buckley to recommend books for children.

Find her at www.katepoels.co.uk



Violet Lake is an author and poet who has previously done workshops in Slough Libraries with a range of ages and has taken her poetry as far as Cape Town, South Africa!

Violet is an experienced poetry workshop facilitator.

Find her at www.misslake-poetryworkshops.com



Fiona Barker is an author and picture book enthusiast, and Fiona is the author of "Amelie and the Great Outdoors" and "Danny and the Dream Dog" and hosts the Picture Book Club.

Fiona believes that a good picture book is for life, not just for childhood. Although slightly addicted to twitter, she also enjoys reality and set up Picture Book Club to bring picture book enthusiasts together.

Find her and the picture book club at <https://fionabarker.co.uk/>

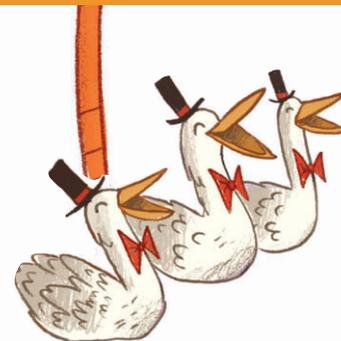


Special events this summer



Reading activities with authors and libraries

If you want some inspiration or to share tips about reading with your children why not try our Facebook Group "Slough's Star Reads". A friendly platform for parents/carers and any adults with an interest in children's literature to exchange book recommendations, tips and ideas to get children reading. Looking for reading activities for kids, we've got some great things happening this summer. Check them out below. Book online at www.thecurveslough.com



Date	Time	Event	Cost	Age	Book?
Thu 16 July	All day	Reading Together Day: all day long we'll be celebrating fabulous books to share - with plenty of recommendations, plus messages from our wonderful Ambassadors. Follow along on our social media	FREE	CF	DI
Fri 17 July	15.00-16.00	Picture book chat with Fiona Barker (event for adults): If you love the wonder and magic of children's picture books, join us for a discussion with our Summer Reading Challenge Ambassador Fiona Barker, organiser of the Picture Book Club www.fionabarker.co.uk/picture-book-club/ as she shares her passion and expertise for this genre. Please note, this is an event for adults. It is open to anyone with an interest in picture books, whether reading, writing or illustrating	FREE	A	B
Wed 5 & 18 August	14.00	Doodle drawings: Get drawing tips and create your own silly characters	FREE	CF	DI
Mon 3 August	14.00-15.00	Wonderful words workshop with Kate Poels: Join us for this online creative writing workshop with author and fabulous Slough Summer Reading Challenge Ambassador, Kate Poels. Kate will show you how to make the most of your writing talents	FREE	CF	B
Sat 8 August	All day	Fancy Dress Takeover Day: Join us on social media for a fancy dress takeover, with crazy costumes, a themed Curve Club and a new competition announcement! Drop in to our Facebook page all day	FREE	CF	B
Sat 22 August	11.30-12.30	Playful poetry with Coral Rumble - part 1: Join award-winning poet Coral Rumble in this Zoom workshop with plenty of tips to inspire your own poetry creations. Parent/carer must be present during the session. Book to get details of how to access the Zoom session	FREE	6+	B
Sat 29 August	11.30-12.30	Playful poetry with Coral Rumble - part 2: This follows on from the part 1 workshop. We'll meet Coral Rumble again to share and celebrate the poems you have written after the first workshop. Parent/carer must be present during the session. Book to get details of how to access the Zoom session	FREE	6+	B



Special events this summer

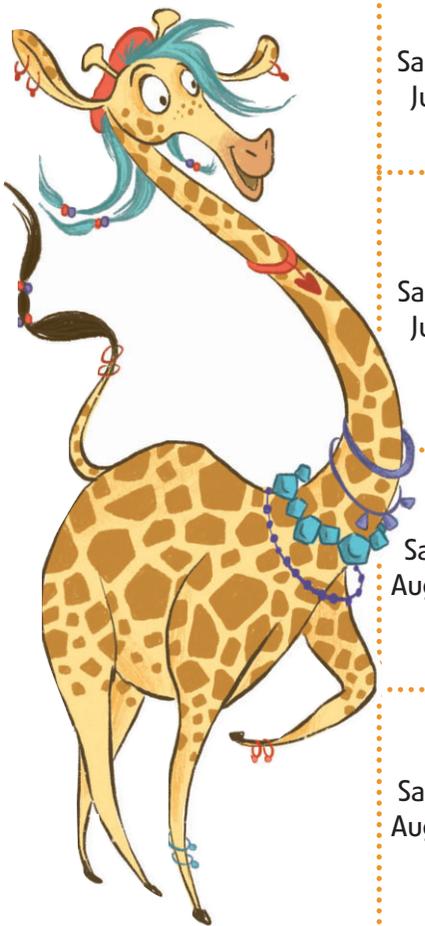
Silly Squad Family Learning with *East Berkshire Community Learning and Skills Service*

Learn in the comfort of your own home, online via a Zoom workshop with a tutor.

For children age 4+ accompanied by parent/carer. Book in advance at www.webenrol.com/ebclass - search for the appropriate course code. You will be sent details of how to access the workshop.



Date	Time	Event	Cost	Age	Book?	Course Code
Sat 18 July	11.30-12.15	Silly Squad dice: make a game based on the jokes, fun and favourite activities of the Silly Squad. Free Zoom workshop. Children must be accompanied by parent/carer.	FREE. <i>You will need:</i> paper, pencil, colouring pencils, scissors, ruler, glue	4+	B	W193SOLE7
Sat 25 July	11.30-12.15	Snook the Penguin's cupcakes: Snook likes making cupcakes for his Silly Squad friends. Family Learning will show you how to make some yummy cup cakes too. We promise they won't be fish flavoured like Snook's! Free Zoom workshop. Children must be accompanied by parent/carer.	FREE. <i>You will need:</i> 60g flour/gluten free flour, 60g sugar, 60g softened butter, 60g egg OR 2 tablespoons of oil, 1 teaspoon of vanilla essence	4+	B	W193SOLE8
Sat 8 August	11.30-12.15	Learn to make a star mobile: Merry the Giraffe loves learning from non-fiction books. In this session you will make a mobile that helps you learn about stars and planets. Free Zoom workshop. Children must be accompanied by parent/carer.	FREE. <i>You will need:</i> coat hanger, string, paper, pencil, scissors, tin foil, glue, colouring pencils	4+	B	W201SOLE1
Sat 15 August	11.30-12.15	Make a decoupage pencil pot: Bamboozle the Panda can be seen carrying around her joke flower. Learn how to make a beautiful pot for your flowers. Free Zoom workshop. Children must be accompanied by parent/carer.	FREE. <i>You will need:</i> empty, washed tin, sheet of wrapping paper or pictures from magazines/newspapers, PVA glue, paintbrushes, scissors, paint of any colour	4+	B	W201SOLE2

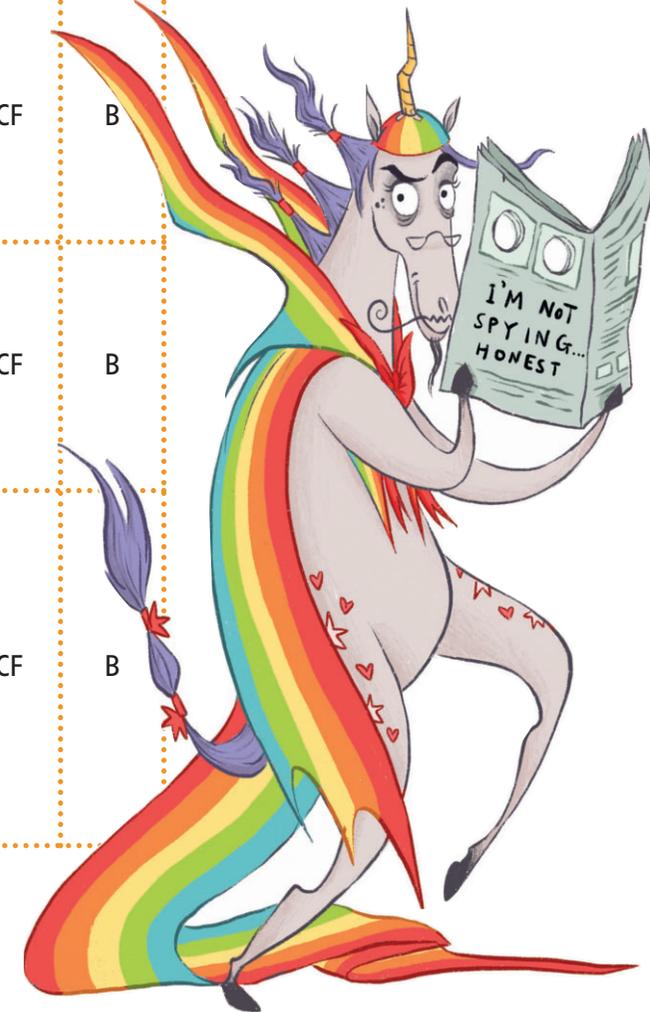


Special events this summer

Silly Squad with Slough Music Service

Book online at www.thecurveslough.com

Date	Time	Event	Cost	Age	Book?
Fri 17 July	11.00- 11.45	Silly singing with Slough Music Service: Find your voice and get happy singing some silly songs, via this Zoom session. Children must be accompanied by parent/carer	£2 per family	CF	B
Thu 6 August	14.00- 14.45	Silly singing with Slough Music Service: Find your voice and get happy singing some silly songs, via this Zoom session. Children must be accompanied by parent/carer	£2 per family	CF	B
Thu 27 August	11.00- 11.45	Silly sounds with Slough Music Service: Find out what funny sounds instruments can make, then have a go at making your own instrument and discover what sounds you can create yourself via Zoom. Children must be accompanied by parent/carer	£2 per family	CF	B



Slough Summer of Smiles



Our mouth is amazing: it helps us to eat, speak, smile, be confident and be healthy. Keeping our mouth healthy is essential for general health and wellbeing.

An unhealthy mouth can cause discomfort and pain making it difficult to eat and drink, affecting our confidence in social situations, stop us from going to school or work, and triggering other serious health problems, thereby reducing our enjoyment of life.

Globally, between 60-90% of school children have tooth decay, even though it is largely preventable. Tooth decay can cause pain and anxiety, and affect a child's ability to perform at school.

Top tips for your child's terrific teeth

- ✓ Brush teeth twice a day for two minutes, using the right fluoride toothpaste. Use an app, sing or play music to make the two minutes fly by.
- ✓ Brush last thing at night just before bed and at one other time of the day.
- ✓ Brush all surfaces of your teeth.
- ✓ Spit out the toothpaste and avoid rinsing with water so that some fluoride from the paste is left on your child's teeth, to make them stronger.
- ✓ Cut down on how often your child has sugary foods and fizzy drinks.
- ✓ Choose snacks and drinks which are kinder to teeth such as: cheese, crackers or breadsticks, fresh fruit and vegetables, water, milk.
- ✓ Visit a dentist regularly (every six months, or as often as recommended by your dentist). To find a local dentist call 0300 311 22 33 or visit www.nhs.uk/service-search/find-a-dentist
- ✓ Use a new toothbrush every three months, ideally with medium bristles and a small head.
- ✓ Children aged 0-3 years should use a smear of toothpaste.
- ✓ Children aged 3-6 years should use a pea-sized amount of toothpaste.
- ✓ Support your child to brush until they are at least seven years old. Be a good role model - show your child that you brush your teeth.
- ✓ Use mouthwash at a different time of day to brushing, unless advised otherwise by your dentist.
- ✗ Do not put a child to bed with milk or juice, as this can lead to serious tooth decay - offer water instead.



HEALTH & WELLBEING SLOUGH

Slough **Healthy Smiles**

Day	Time	Event	Cost	Age	Booking information
Wed & Thu all summer	Contact Slough Healthy Smiles via the booking email for available time slots	Family healthy teeth sessions: Show off your bright smile laughing at our funny books. We've teamed up with Slough Healthy Smiles to offer family information sessions teaching you how to keep your children's teeth healthy for life. These will be online via Microsoft teams. Children must be accompanied by an adult	FREE	CF	For further information and to book your place email Oral.Health@oxfordhealth.nhs.uk
Sat 11 July & Sat 18 July	12-1pm	Smile for Curve Club: Look out for a healthy smile takeover of our Curve Club with puzzles, videos and tips for sparkling clean teeth all on Facebook	FREE	CF	DI





Enter our fun competitions for the chance to win a prize!

All competitions will run for the entire Summer - see full details, including each competition's launch date, below!

Title	Launch date	Description
Joke Competition	Sat 13 June	Make us laugh by sending in your funniest jokes!
Name the Character	Sat 13 June	Name the new members of the Silly Squad: Slough Libraries have created two new Silly Squad characters of our own. What do you think we should call them?
Comic Strip	Sat 11 July	Design a comic strip with you as the central character along with any members of the Silly Squad 2020 as supporting characters!
Rock n Roll Fairytale Fancy Dress	Sat 8 Aug	Enter our fancy dress competition and draw your favourite fairytale character a new rock 'n' roll outfit fit for the Silly Squad!

To enter, ask your parent/carer to send us a direct message via our Facebook page www.facebook.com/sloughlibraries or send your entry by email to library@slough.gov.uk

Closing date for all competitions is Saturday 19 September 2020

Poetry and Creative Writing with Arts Award

We're bringing Arts Award online! Join in with our Poetry themed Arts Award Discover programme for ages 8+. You'll get the opportunity to learn about the world of arts and creativity, artists and have a go at being creative as well!

Arts Award qualifications are aimed at helping create new arts leaders of the future and there are a range of different levels.

Register your interest in doing Arts Award Discover and we'll get in touch
www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/VirtualArtsAward



Regular Activities for Children

No booking required!

Day	Time	What	Where	Age
Monday	09.00	Letter of the Week Craft Activity		CF
	10.00	Golden Words Creative Writing Challenge	 	CF
Tuesday	09.00	Animal Craft Challenge		CF
	10.00	Silly Squad Meet the characters: Animal facts and activities	 	CF
	14.00	Tuesday Craft Club		CF
Wednesday	10.30	Virtual Story and Music Time		CF
Thursday	09.00	Craft Challenge		CF
Friday	09.00	Lego Challenge		CF
	14.00	Virtual Story and Music Time		CF
Saturday	12.00	Curve Club Online		8+

JOKE TIME @ SLOUGH LIBRARIES



Knock-knock!
Who's there?
Dozen.
Dozen who?
Dozen anyone care that I'm stuck outside!

Knock-knock!
Who's there?
Pig.
Pig who?
Pig me up after school, please!



Knock-knock!
Who's there?
Oscar.
Oscar who?
Oscar a silly question and get a silly answer!

Knock-knock!
Who's there?
My panther.
My panther who?
My panther falling down.



Knock, knock!
Who's there?
Cabbage.
Cabbage who?
You expect a cabbage to have a last name?

This Summer,
 don't forget
 to join the

Joke Competition by sending your
 jokes.