



Dear Head Teacher, Deputy Head Teacher, Literacy Coordinator, Librarian, SENCO,

We are pleased to announce an exciting new reading adventure at Bradford Libraries. **The Secret Book Quest** is a brand-new, fun and free reading challenge designed to encourage a lifelong love of reading in children. The challenge is aimed at children five years and over, with the target of getting them to have fun reading 50 books.

The **Secret Book Quest** is completely **FREE** and a great way to inspire children to develop their reading skills. Library staff are on hand to support the children, helping them to discover new authors and explore a wide range of different types of books and ways of reading. The library is completely free to join - so any children who are not already members can be signed up at the same time as joining The Secret Book Quest.

Every child who signs up will receive a special Secret Book Quest booklet packed full of puzzles, fun facts and activities. There are 10 themed 'zones' for children to travel through including animals, underwater, space and technology. To complete the Quest and win a prize, they must read five books for each zone and collect all the code-stickers along the way – a total of 50 books. The final sticker is the missing piece that enables them to decipher a secret code and complete the challenge!

How the Challenge works

- Children sign up at their local library and receive a Secret Book Quest booklet and their first sticker
- Children borrow and read 50 books of their own choice, collecting special stickers along the way to add to their booklet.
- Library staff are on hand to advise and help find books they'll love
- Children are presented with a certificate upon reaching the halfway mark (reading 25 books) and again when they complete the challenge (reading 50 books), along with a special finisher's prize.

How do schools benefit?

- **The Secret Book Quest** is inclusive and can support pupils of **ALL** abilities to achieve. There is no rush to complete the challenge, allowing children to read at their own pace and select books that they enjoy – be that fiction, poetry, picture books, comics and more.
- It helps your school to meet the requirements of the English national curriculum, working towards the aim to: ***develop the habit of reading widely and often, for both pleasure and information.***
- It supports your school's reading policy and your mission for all children to read more widely and for pleasure
- It allows children to become more independent in their reading when choosing books and develop their individual tastes and interests

- It takes place at your local library and is a fantastic opportunity to get involved in other free, extra-curricular activities and events

What next?

Bradford Libraries will be launching The Secret Book Quest on **Saturday 12th October** across the district. There will be special events happening at the following libraries – Bingley, Eccleshill, Ilkley, Keighley, Laisterdyke, Manningham, Shipley, Wibsey and Wyke. Please invite your pupils to join us for special story sessions and scavenger hunts. Contact your [local library](#) for timings.

At 11am on Saturday 12th October, City Library will be joined by a **special guest!** Writer, storyteller and poet **Conrad Burdekin** will be providing fun storytelling, a scavenger hunt and creative writing session. This is a FREE event for 5-12 year olds. Contact City Library to book your place.

How about bringing a class from KS1 to our Author visit with Susannah Lloyd (author of Here Be Giants) in November at Shipley or Keighley Libraries. For further details about this FREE author visit please contact susan.brewster-craig@bradford.gov.uk.

Please find enclosed a letter for parents about joining the library and **The Secret Book Quest** along with some posters for you to display in school.

Please get in touch if you would like any more information or to enquire about booking a visit or assembly to tell pupils more about taking part in **The Secret Book Quest**.

To sign up and join The Secret Book Quest for free, pop into your local library. We can't wait to see you! You can find your local library at www.bradford.gov.uk/libraries.

Yours sincerely,

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