



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

Did you know that Bradford Libraries runs **The Secret Book Quest**, a free year-round reading challenge for children aged five and over?

Many schools will already be familiar with the Summer Reading Challenge, which encourages children to keep reading during the school holidays. **The Secret Book Quest** extends that reading journey throughout the year, providing a fun, free and engaging way for children aged five and over to develop a lifelong love of reading.

The Secret Book Quest is completely **FREE** and encourages children to read widely and regularly at their own pace. The challenge aims to inspire children to have fun reading 50 books, while giving them the opportunity to discover new authors, explore different formats and build confidence in their reading. Library staff are on hand to support children throughout their journey, helping them find books they will enjoy.

The library is free to join, so any children who are not already members can sign up and begin their Secret Book Quest adventure at the same time.

Every child who signs up will receive a special Secret Book Quest booklet packed with 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 receive a certificate upon reaching the halfway mark (25 books) and again when they complete the challenge (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 they enjoy, whether that is fiction, non-fiction, poetry, picture books, comics and more.

- It helps schools support the aims of the English national curriculum by encouraging children to **develop the habit of reading widely and often for both pleasure and information**.
- It complements your school's reading culture and supports efforts to encourage reading for pleasure beyond the classroom.
- It allows children to become more independent readers, helping them develop their own tastes and interests.
- It connects children and families with their local library, opening the door to a wide range of free activities, events and opportunities throughout the year.

What Next?

Please find enclosed a letter for parents about joining the library and taking part in **The Secret Book Quest**, along with a poster for display in school.

We would be grateful if you could help us remind pupils and families about this free reading opportunity. Whether children are discovering the challenge for the first time or continuing a quest they have already started, **The Secret Book Quest** offers an excellent way to keep reading momentum going all year round.

If you would like further information, or would like to discuss a library visit or assembly to promote reading and library membership, please get in touch.

To sign up and join **The Secret Book Quest** for free, simply visit your local library. Find your nearest library at www.bradford.gov.uk/libraries.

Yours sincerely,

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