

May 2022

Dear colleague,

### **Get involved in the Essex Year of Reading**

To mark the Essex Year of Reading 2022, Essex County Council has been working on a range of initiatives to inspire every child in Essex to become a confident reader and develop a lifelong love of reading. It also seeks to address the impact that Covid-19 has had on children and young people's education by providing events, activities and opportunities to help improve their reading levels.

We know that to achieve these goals, it is vital that every child has access to engaging reading materials and resources, giving them the opportunity to discover what topics, style and formats are right for them. Therefore, we are really pleased to provide all primary school children and those in Year 7 of secondary schools across Essex with their very own library card and bookmark. Each library card has its own unique bar code, so all children need to do is bring this card along to any Essex Library to register it in their name and they can get started right away. Children can use their library card to choose books, join in with out of school activities, access homework help, use free computers and lots more.

Once they have signed up for the library, children will be able to take part in this years' Summer Reading Challenge which is a national initiative that encourages children to read books throughout the summer holidays, collecting a medal, stickers and a certificate along the way.

The locations of all Essex libraries and more information can be found at [www.libraries.essex.gov.uk](http://www.libraries.essex.gov.uk)

**Parents and carers (or older children) can also download the free Essex Year of Reading app to discover further online reading materials, fun activities and competitions for children and families to take part in. Visit [www.essexyearofreading.co.uk](http://www.essexyearofreading.co.uk) for more information.**

To ensure your school community can make the most of this opportunity, a digital version of this letter has also been shared with your school for you to pass on to parents and carers. Please also include in your next school newsletter if possible.

Yours Sincerely,



Juliet Pirez  
Head of Libraries  
Essex County Council



Clare Kershaw  
Director, Education  
Essex County Council