

## **Become a Reading Mentor this summer!**

### **Volunteer to help deliver the Summer Reading Challenge with Westminster Libraries**

The Summer Reading Challenge is a national reading initiative which encourages children to read for fun over the summer holidays.

The combination of fun, freedom, and creativity impacts significantly on children's reading levels and confidence. Taking part in the Summer Reading Challenge helps prevent the 'summer reading dip' - when children without reading opportunities at home over the long summer break from school can lose confidence in their reading. This year's theme is Animal Agents.

Children join the Challenge at their local library and are given a membership card and a record card. When they read a book, they come back to the library to talk about what they have read. They receive rewards such as stickers, with medals and certificates for those completing the Challenge.

Last year over three quarters of a million children took part, with over 2,300 taking part in Westminster libraries.

We are looking for volunteers to help us to deliver the Summer Reading Challenge in Westminster libraries. You will be working in libraries enrolling children to the scheme, explaining about the Challenge, talking to children about the books that they have read and handing out rewards and incentives. You may also be involved in helping to deliver activities and events for children and families.

You will be supported by library staff and receive training before you start. You'll also receive a certificate for volunteering with us.

#### **Volunteering to deliver the Summer Reading Challenge will involve:**

- Helping children and their parents/carers fill in forms as necessary, assisting with administration, e.g. filing of membership cards.
- Talking with children about the books they have been reading. Listening to what they thought of the books and encouraging them to share their views and ideas.
- Handing out reading rewards as necessary.
- Helping to prepare for and assist with events and library promotions
- Encouraging children to progress and finish the challenge.

#### **We are looking for people who are:**

- Patient, friendly and welcoming
- Good at talking to young children

- Calm when things are busy, but also able to cope when things are quiet
- Enthusiastic about reading
- Reliable
- We welcome applications from across the community, but we particularly welcome applications from those aged between 14 – 25 years

## **Additional Information**

1. We are looking for volunteers who are available sometime during the summer holiday, between July and Sept. Some libraries may need help at weekends or in the evenings, so please let us know what time of day you are free to help us.
2. You will be asked to list the libraries you would like to help at, but only if you are able to get to these libraries easily.
3. Successful applicants will have training arranged for them just before the Challenge starts. You will be notified of when this will take place. We may ask you to undertake a DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) check.

### **What you will get from us:**

- work experience that can be used on your CV
- an opportunity to help with a national children's literacy project
- a chance to meet new people
- become involved in your local community

### **What we expect from you:**

- To be punctual and reliable
- To be friendly and proactive in dealing with the children and their parents
- To make the challenge fun and enjoyable for the children participating
- To comply with the City's Dress Code

**If you are interested in volunteering with us, please contact Sue Cornish for an application form;**

**Sue.Cornish@rbkc.gov.uk  
020 7361 3597**