

# SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

JULY 2026

## SUMMER READING CHALLENGE

Saturday 4 July - Saturday 5 September



The Summer Reading Challenge is back!

Starting on Saturday 4 July, this year's theme is Read to the Beat - incorporating the fun of reading with music and rhythm!

It's easy to get involved, if you're aged 4-12 years, here is how to take part:

- Register at your local library
- Read 6 books
- Get a medal and certificate
- Enter the prize draw for a chance to win one of many prizes

**READ MORE**

If you read 6 books and complete the challenge, you will be entered into a prize draw to win one of the following:

- Nintendo Switch
- Scooter
- Family tickets to Merton Fireworks
- Christmas at Kew family ticket
- And many more!



### Join us for Super Sign-Up Saturday!

Sign up and enjoy a fun-filled day with special character appearances, including Peter Pan, the Queen of Hearts, Spider-Man and Princess Belle across our libraries.

Children who register on 4 July and complete the challenge will be entered into an exclusive prize draw to win family tickets to the Paddington Bear Experience.

Don't forget to visit the themed photo areas, complete with inflatable music props and a giant photo frame, to capture a memorable start to your summer reading adventure.

## LIBRARY IN THE PARK 2026

[SEE ALL EVENTS FOR LIBRARY IN THE PARK](#)

Library in the Park is back this year at Sherwood Recreation Ground, CR4 1JP, with a plethora of amazing events for adults, families and children including...



### Fairy Haven craft

Saturday 4 July, 10am - 3pm

This workshop lets children design and build their own miniature homes using clay and natural materials.

[BOOK NOW](#)



### Mug Painting workshop

Thursday 9 July, 4pm

A fun session where children can let their imagination run wild! They'll design and paint their own ceramic mugs.

[BOOK NOW](#)



### Theatre in the Park: Encanto!

Saturday 25 July, 11am

Bring your maracas, shakers and even your umbrellas as we dance, sing, solve mysteries and journey through a story filled with magic and mischief.

[BOOK NOW](#)

## MORDEN LIBRARY REOPENED

Morden Library has now reopened, and we're pleased to welcome back class visits and children's events, including:

### IET LEGO League (7 Week Course)

Saturdays, 2:30pm - 4pm (Starting Sat 4 July)

### Rhymetime with Nick

Fridays, 11am - 11:30am

### Tovertafel Sessions

Saturdays, 10am - 11am



[SEE ALL EVENTS AT MORDEN LIBRARY](#)

## SUMMER OF SPORT



This summer, the National Year of Reading 2026's Summer of Sport campaign is encouraging people to discover the joy of reading through sport. Celebrating major events such as Wimbledon, the World Cup and the Commonwealth Games, the campaign highlights the stories behind sport and the power of reading.

Merton's ambition to be the borough of sport makes it the perfect place to champion both literacy and physical activity, helping residents connect with sport through books.

## WIMBLEDON KIDS ACTIVITY SHEETS



Merton Council is launching a Kids Activity Sheet to celebrate Wimbledon Fortnight. Debuting at the Big HIIT on 7 July, it encourages children to get active outdoors and take part in the Summer Reading Challenge.

Sheets will be handed out at the event, with copies emailed to schools for printing. Children can enjoy creative activities, join in sports, and collect stamps for a chance to win a copy of Trailblazers by Billie Jean King.

Merton hopes children, families, schools and the wider community will join the celebrations as Wimbledon brings everyone to the borough.

## SUMMER READING FOR THE GROWN-UPS WITH THE MERTON BIG READ!

The Merton Big Read is a borough-wide reading initiative is part of Merton's National Portfolio Organisation programme, delivered in partnership with Wimbledon BookFest and funded by Arts Council England.

This year's Merton Big Read book is *The Island of Missing Trees* by Elif Shafak, a powerful novel exploring love, identity and belonging. Borrow a copy from any Merton Library, or access the eBook or audiobook through the Libby app. Once you've finished reading, complete the survey for a chance to win a prize.



**>> READ MORE**

## SUMMER WITH MORDEN'S LIBRARY OF THINGS!

Looking for affordable ways to keep the kids entertained this summer Before you buy, why not borrow? Morden's Library of Things offers a range of items, from projectors and ice cream makers to camping equipment, helping families save money, reduce waste and try something new. Visit the website to explore all the Things you can borrow.



**>> READ MORE**

## TEENAGE SPACE

## VOLUNTEER FOR THE SUMMER READING CHALLENGE

Merton Libraries are looking for enthusiastic volunteers aged 14+ to support this year's Summer Reading Challenge, helping children aged 4-11 discover the joy of reading over the summer holidays.

Volunteers will spend around 2 hours a week encouraging young readers, signing up participants, handing out rewards, and chatting about books – a great opportunity to gain valuable experience, build confidence, and make a positive difference in the community.




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## MANGA &amp; GRAPHIC NOVEL WORKSHOPS

Explore the world of comics, manga and graphic novels with mayamada. Across six free sessions, young people will learn storytelling techniques and create their own comic adventures. No experience needed.

 Mitcham Library

 17 Fridays 24 July – 28 Aug, 2-4:30pm

 Ages 12-16, no experience needed, all materials provided.



» BOOK NOW

# ELIBRARY

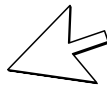
## CHECK OUT OUR EBOOK COLLECTIONS:

- [New books](#)
- [National Year of Reading](#)
- [Summer of Sport](#)
- [Summer Reading Challenge](#)

## READ VIA:



## Online Resources



Merton Libraries offer a range of free online resources, including eBooks and eAudiobooks to assist with school work and reading for pleasure.

Need help? Merton Library staff are always ready to assist.



## READING EGGS



Discover the joy of reading with Reading Eggs – free through Merton Library Service!

This fun and interactive online programme is designed to help children learn to read through one-on-one lessons tailored to their individual pace. With engaging activities, rewards, and step-by-step progress, Reading Eggs builds confidence and makes learning to read an enjoyable journey for every child.

Sign up today by speaking to library staff and start your reading adventure!

