



Chief Executive

Jim O'Hagan BA (Hons), MSc, PGCert, DBA, FCMA, CGMA

Please respond to:

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Tuesday 2 June 2026

Dear Principal,

Libraries NI is delighted to invite primary schools across Northern Ireland to support this year's Big Summer Read, taking place in libraries throughout July and August.

This year's theme is *The Story Tree*, a reading journey designed to encourage children to keep reading throughout the summer months while helping families stay connected with their local library.

The idea is simple:

It starts with a single book. Then another. And another... Before you know it, children have grown their very own Story Tree.

Children taking part will receive a fold-out reading poster where each book they read adds a new leaf to their tree. Along the way they can complete extra challenges, track library visits, and explore different genres and types of stories. Certificates will also be awarded to children who reach their reading goal over the summer.

The programme is free to join and open to all primary school-aged children through their local library.

Summer reading plays an important role in helping children maintain confidence and interest in reading outside the classroom, while also supporting imagination, wellbeing and enjoyment during the school holidays. Through the Big Summer Read, Libraries NI aims to make reading feel flexible, accessible and enjoyable for families across Northern Ireland.

We would greatly appreciate your support in helping us share information about the programme with pupils and parents before the end of term.

To make this as easy as possible, Libraries NI has created a downloadable digital toolkit for schools which includes:

- A parent flyer
- Social media graphics and suggested wording
- Digital promotional assets

[The toolkit can be accessed here.](#)

Libraries NI Headquarters: Lisburn City Library, 23 Linenhall Street, Lisburn, Co. Antrim, BT28 1FJ

The Northern Ireland Library Authority



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Families will be able to sign up in any Libraries NI branch from 29 June 2026, and full details, events and activities will also be available through the Libraries NI website and social media channels.

We would also encourage schools to celebrate pupils who complete the Big Summer Read by inviting children to bring their certificates into school at the start of term. Schools are welcome to share photographs on social media and tag Libraries NI in their posts.

Thank you for your continued support of reading and literacy initiatives across Northern Ireland.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ciara Gault".

Ciara Gault
Deputy Head of Service