

September 2025

Dear Nursery Head,

Every year, we and our Councillor colleagues take on a very special challenge to raise funds for the Nottingham Imagination Library: an amazing scheme that delivers a free book every month to local children in our most deprived wards from birth up to 5 years of age.

We will be doing this again later this month and hope that your nursery can be involved.

Would you like a Councillor to visit your nursery to read a story?

The Big Reading Challenge for 2025 will take place from **Monday 22nd September to Friday 27th September**. If your nursery could host a Councillor during this time, we would be delighted to visit you and read a story to your children. This could read in an assembly, to a class or to a group.

The aim of the Big Reading Challenge is to raise the funds needed to allow more children aged 0-5 in Nottingham to benefit from free monthly books sent to their homes and help with the important task of getting children ready for school.

Our challenge this year is to raise as much money as possible to provide free books for children in Nottingham.

Any help your school can give to support with fundraising for the Nottingham Imagination Library will be much appreciated:

- **Can your nursery get involved with this year's fundraising?**
 - Perhaps you could host a 'readathon', in which children and staff could join us in getting sponsored to read as many stories as possible during the Big Reading Challenge week? Or maybe a day on which children and staff donate £1 to dress up as their favourite storybook character?
 - We would be more than happy to promote your fundraising activities on our website

You can find out more information about the charity at
www.nottinghamimaginationlibrary.com

Where you will also find ways to donate to this charity.

We also have a 'gofundme' page to collect donations for our reading challenge. You will find this here. <https://gofund.me/4e1719b95>

The Nottingham Imagination Library helps parents and children to enjoy exploring books together. The scheme is **proven** to raise children's literacy levels and, by receiving these books, our children are more likely to be ready to start school when they turn five.

More than **13,000** Nottingham children have now received books through the Nottingham Imagination Library. Over **600,000** books have been delivered so far, but we want to do more. We need your support to help make this happen.

As a former foster carer and former head teacher, supporting children's reading is a cause really close to our hearts. Together, let's give the children of Nottingham the best start in life.

If you would like to request that a Councillor comes to read to your school during our 'Challenge Week', or if your school can support our challenge or if you would like more details, please email info@nottinghamimaginationlibrary.com,

Yours faithfully,

Councillor Cheryl Barnard
Executive Member for Children, Young People & Education

Cllr David Mellen