



## Stoke Reads update

### Synectics champions reading

Synectics Solutions in Burslem have been championing Stoke Reads and doing fantastic work to encourage reading among their employees and within the local community. Staff recently took part in Stoke Reads training to support them to read with young people. We are looking to pilot a new reading programme in the autumn, which will see Synectics work with a local secondary school to promote a love of reading.

The Synectics team works tirelessly with the Stoke community and have recently refurbished the Burslem Book Room, with books provided by Stoke-on-Trent Libraries. This volunteer-led library is currently based in the prayer chapel in Swan Bank Methodist church, but will be taking over the entire church keepers' house in 2018.

The Stoke Reads team also presented a module to Synectics staff about the current changes in education that will affect parents and employers. This was a pilot session ahead of some joint events planned with Staffordshire and Stoke Chamber of Commerce.



SYNECTICS  
SOLUTIONS

### Get involved in Words for Work

We're looking for volunteers for the National Literacy Trust's [Words for Work](#) programme, which will run in six schools in Stoke. The project brings volunteers from business into the classroom, focusing on improving literacy and communication skills and linking them to the workplace. Be the first to find out once new project dates are set and [register your interest](#).

### Rewards for reading



We are delighted to offer prizes for children who read books on the [Stoke 100 Reads](#) list.

- Primary school pupils who complete every title on list will receive a certificate and can claim a special limited edition copy of *The BFG* by Roald Dahl. The beautiful gift book retails at £20.
- Rewards are also up for grabs for children aged five and under, who will receive a special pop-up copy of *Barry the Fish with Fingers* when they have read the first 25 books on the list.

Both books can be claimed at any of the [six libraries in Stoke](#) when children or their parents show their completed Stoke 100 Reads list or [this list of the first 25 books](#).

## Little Library Van heads to the city's parks

The Little Library Van will visit parks across Stoke over the summer, helping families to fall in love with reading and encouraging them to access their local library.



Families can catch the Little Library Van at:

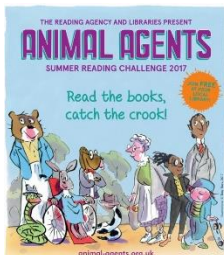
- Bucknall Park: Tuesday 1 August (10am-3pm)
- Westport Lake: Thursday 3 August (11am-3pm)
- Hanley Park: Tuesday 8 August (10am-3pm)
- Longton Park: Tuesday 22 August (10am-3pm)
- Fenton Park: Tuesday 29 August (10am-3pm)

Local author and Stoke Reads ambassador Kate Leake will join the Little Library Van roadshow on 3, 8 and 22 August to entertain families with her brilliant stories. Stoke City FC's official mascot, Pottermus, will also join the events at Hanley Park and Longton Park, handing out free books to children after they've explored the Little Library Van.

## Hanley Park supports Stoke Reads

We are thrilled that Hanley Park is supporting Stoke Reads with a series of events over the summer, based on books from the Stoke 100 Reads list. Children will be able to enjoy activities including blindfolded games inspired by *The Owl Who Was Afraid of the Dark*, and create a mini garden based on *The Secret Garden*. Find out more at [www.facebook.com/hanleypark](http://www.facebook.com/hanleypark).

## Get involved in the Summer Reading Challenge



The Summer Reading Challenge has kicked off and we want as many pupils in Stoke as possible to get involved! Children are challenged to read six books over the summer holidays and visit their local library three times, where they will be able to pick up prizes for taking part. Parents are encouraged to take their children to the library to register for the Summer Reading Challenge as soon as possible. Learn more at [www.summerreadingchallenge.org.uk](http://www.summerreadingchallenge.org.uk) and find your local library at [www.stoke.gov.uk/libraries](http://www.stoke.gov.uk/libraries).

---