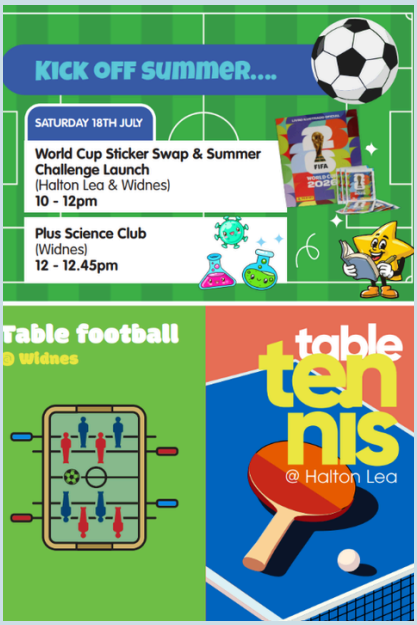
Summer Report 2026
Halton Libraries



"All the crafting and play events over the summer holidays have been a life line for keeping the kids busy and getting us out the house. The girls borrow books every time we visit and their reading has improved so much because of this. Thank you for all you offer and for all the teams hard work, it means so much"







"We all love all the groups especially ones put on during school holidays. What makes these groups so great is how fantastic and friendly the staff are!"

Promotions

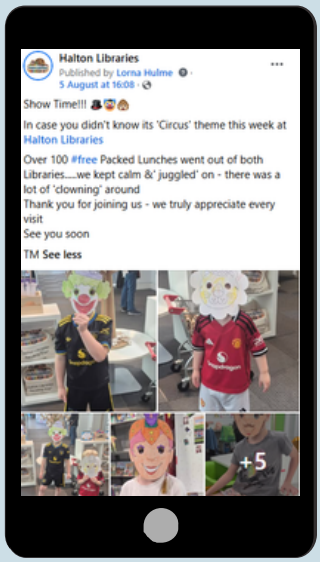
Promotional activity across Facebook, Instagram, the Halton Libraries website and newsletters increased awareness of summer holiday activities and helped reach a wider range of families across the borough.

Facebook
225,960 views
1240 engagements



Website

- **Summer Events webpage: 435 views/80% engagement rate**
- **Gizmobots webpage: 83 views/75% engagament rate**
- **Read 5 for a prize: 64 views/85% enagagment rate**
- **Free packed lunches: 71 views: 95% engagament rate**





Instagram
9,582 views
244 engagements
(Only a handul of posts over the summer)

As a result, attendance at activities increased and footfall grew throughout the summer holidays. Greater visibility of the library offer reinforced libraries as welcoming community spaces for families to learn, connect and enjoy activities together.

Regular updates and engaging content made it easier for families to find information, share events with others and plan visits to their local library. This helped attract both existing members and new users.

Newsletter
July: 3,602 views-
41 clicks on summer content
August: 3,321-
47 clicks on summer content

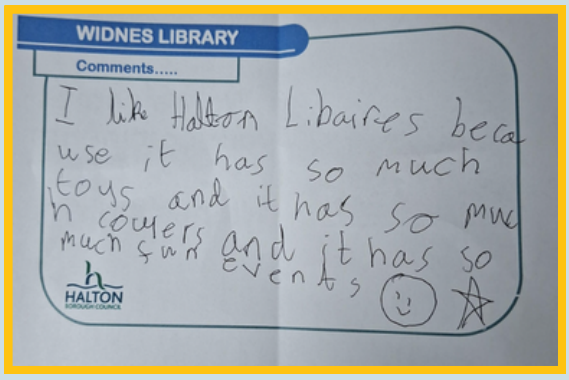
GO ALL IN.







Halton Libraries' summer programme embraced the spirit of the Go All In theme by offering a diverse range of activities that appealed to different interests and encouraged participation from the whole family. Alongside the Read 5 for a Prize challenge, children took part in Booknics, creative craft activities, EcoFest-funded robot-making workshops, Hula Hula Fun sessions and Camp Curiosity. These activities combined reading, creativity, STEM learning, physical activity and social interaction, helping libraries reach a broad audience and creating opportunities for families to learn and have fun together.





"Lovely atmosphere in library very friendly staff as well as people inside the library. Great activities set out for children, book selection and resources as well as facilities for nappy changing and toilets etc. Love coming with my two children and continue to do so."





Read 5 for a Prize

Hunreds of Young Readers Took Part in Activities at Halton Libraries this Summer

More than 600 children completed Halton Libraries' Read 5 for a Prize challenge over the summer holidays, encouraging young people across the borough to discover new books and enjoy reading for pleasure. Children taking part borrowed five books from their local library, read them over the summer and then returned to collect a selection of Halton Libraries goodies as a reward for completing the challenge.

6992

Book issues and renewals











Completers 636

Halton Lea 256	**Widnes** 253
Ditton 64	**Runcorn** 63

Junior joiners 271









"Enjoyed many of the events at Halton Lea Library this summer. Especially the reading challenge!"

Booknics

Balvac Balfour Beatty made a very generous donation towards our FREE packed lunches over the Summer



"Lunch offering was also excellent with a good variety and a calm relaxing place to sit and enjoy food"



"A lovely, relaxed space to enjoy reading books with my daughter. Even better that she had a free lunch! Thank you very much!"



Over the 6 weeks 800 children benefitted from the free packed lunches and attended 'Booknics'



"The children's lunch picnic was enjoyed by my 3 year old. Thank you."

"Great activities for the kids and the free lunches are fab too"





"We had a lovely time at packed lunch picnic today. So nice to sit and eat together and socialise. lovely books to read too. Thank you"

GIZMOBOTS



ECOFest funding was instrumental in making this project possible, supporting a partnership between the library service and Gizmobots to create a 6-foot robot from recycled electrical materials. The project promoted sustainability, highlighted the importance of reusing electronic waste, and provided an engaging STEM learning opportunity for children and families. By combining creativity, environmental awareness, and community participation, the project successfully inspired conversations about recycling and demonstrated how innovative learning experiences can support a greener future



35 children and 19 Adults got involved in creating the Robots with Gizmobots

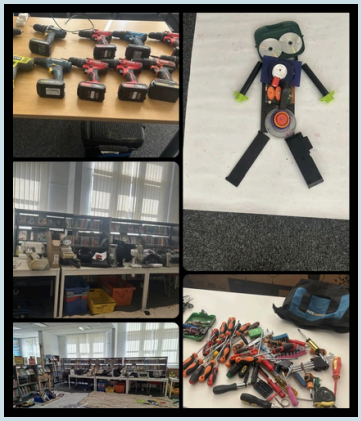


"Great entertainment today for the children and the staff are lovely"



Robot crafts 135 Children 89 Adults





Robot and Mask making







"The school summer holidays activities have been great so far! There's been so much to do, a wide variety of different things"

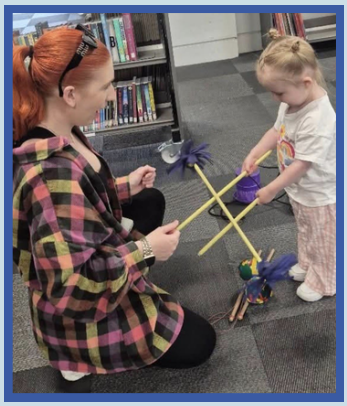


"Bella loved circus skills today
Such good fun, and lots of skills to learn xx we're going to go again xx"

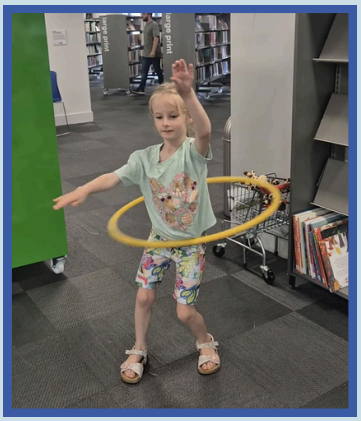




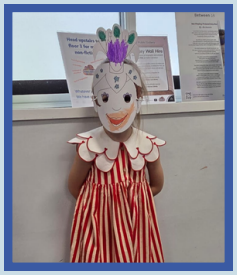
"Hula hula day. What a fantastic event this was. Really fun and engaging for the children and adults alike"



This session was a great success, with Hula Hula Fun delivering an engaging circus workshop for children and families. Participants enjoyed learning a variety of circus skills in a fun, interactive environment that encouraged confidence, coordination, and creativity. As part of the wider circus theme children took part in a circus mask making activity, using a range of craft materials to design and create their own colourful masks. The combination of active participation and creative crafting provided an enjoyable experience for families, promoting engagement, imagination, and community connection.









"My daughters and their cousin loved the circus mask event."







"Such a brilliant experience for all the children. Lovely to see all the children smiling and enjoying learning new skills."

Hula Hula Fun

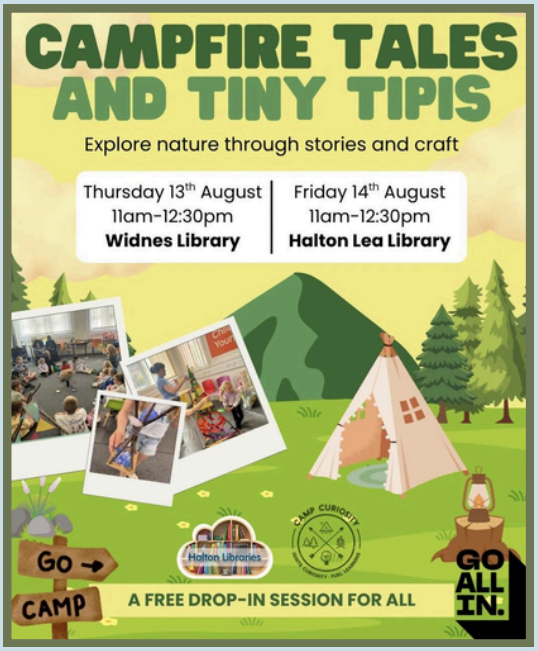
187 children and 133 adults tried their hands at being a circus member and loved it so much!

Circus Mask and Make

102 children and 70 adults joined us to make craft their own masks!

Camp Curiosity activities in the libraries were very well received, providing families with engaging, hands-on opportunities to learn and create together. Children enjoyed making tiny tipis, which encouraged creativity, fine motor skills, and exploration of different cultures through craft. On a separate session, families were invited to decorate wooden log slices, creating unique keepsakes while spending quality time together. Both activities attracted positive participation, generated enthusiastic feedback from families, and contributed to a welcoming library environment that promotes creativity, curiosity, and family learning.

66 children and 45 adults got creative decorating a log slice











"We had a lovely time at Ditton library today. The staff were so lovely, explaining everything on the craft table for the kids and talking to them. There was loads of toys to keep them occupied on a rainy day and we chose from some great books to take home too"









Camp Curosity

83 Children

45 adults

"Fab craft session today, my daughter didn't want to leave. We love coming to Ditton Library. The craft sessions over the summer have been great, really broke up our week, we look forward to coming each time."

Sticker swap
Table football
Table tennis





"Amazing Football Sticker swap event last Saturday. As always library staff were so friendly and the lady who was there supervising the event was so helpful. Most shops are not stocking the stickers anymore with the World Cup being over, so this was the perfect summer holiday activity for my 9 year old. It was great to see him interacting with the others and doing something that wasn't electronic! Please can you run anther event like this soon. I'm sure many children have lots of spare stickers and would want to swap to finish off their books! Saves us parents a small fortune too! Thanks again Widnes library!"







The Sticker Swap event was a huge success at the library, attracting over 100 children and their families. The session created a fun and welcoming atmosphere where children were able to exchange stickers, complete their collections, and make new friends. The high turnout demonstrated the popularity of the event and provided a fantastic opportunity to engage local families with the library, encouraging community connections and promoting library services in an enjoyable and accessible way.





Throughout the summer, families visiting Widnes and Halton Lea libraries had the opportunity to enjoy a range of fun, active games as part of their library experience. The table football game at Widnes attracted plenty of interest, with both children and adults joining in for some friendly competition, while the table tennis table at Halton Lea proved equally popular, giving families and visitors an enjoyable way to stay active and spend time together during their visits.

Reflection

The Library Information Assistants who facilitated this year's events made a significant contribution to the delivery and success of the programme. Their enthusiasm, dedication and ability to engage with children and families helped create welcoming and enjoyable experiences that encouraged participation and promoted a love of reading. The positive impact of their involvement has been evident in the feedback received from families, with many commenting on the friendly support and encouragement they received throughout the events. Without the commitment and hard work of the Library Information Assistants, the successful delivery of these events would not have been possible. They are instrumental to the success of Read 5 for a Prize, playing a key role in inspiring children to read, supporting families to take part, and helping the programme achieve its aims across our communities.







The Teams Voice

"Having external providers has made it that little bit more special for families"

"Read 5 for a prize has been amazing this year, much better than past years and the prizes have helped spur families on."

"Events have been lively, and there has been a sense of excitement and energy in the Libraries. It has been great to hear the children laugh"

"Having three themes across the summer, supported by related craft activities, has been really successful. It gives parents more chances to participate if they happen to miss one of the earlier events"

"Families are coming who would not normally come to the libraries to sign up for the read 5 for a prize, and coming back to complete."

Over 600 Halton Reading Stars Shine Bright

The success of Read 5 a Prize was made possible by our dedicated library staff, who worked tirelessly to promote the challenge to families, create engaging displays, and encourage participants to keep going every time they visited the library.
In addition, there was a huge effort from library staff on social media, which helped increase awareness and boost engagement throughout the challenge.
We would not have been able to reach so many children and families without their dedication, enthusiasm, and commitment.

Well done to everyone involved in promoting the challenge and signing up new children.
Your hard work has made a real difference!



