

Roll up as circus comes to library

ALL the fun of the circus is coming to Dawlish Library this summer.

Library staff are hosting a variety of circus-themed activities and events to keep youngsters entertained through the holidays.

And they are joining forces with the carnival to provide fun activities for children to do during the annual week-long event.

Throughout the holidays, the library is running a Circus Stars summer reading challenge.

Now in its 13th year, the UK's biggest national reading initiative encourages children to read six or more books of their choice over the holidays with collectable incentives and rewards such as a circus stage, bookmarks, moving image membership cards and stickers plus a certificate, medal and wristband for every child who completes the challenge.

Children aged between four and 12 can follow the adventures of a group of six children who have signed up for a contemporary circus skills academy.

As they read books, they gain new circus skills through three stages: practice, rehearsal and show time.

County Cllr Roger Croad, cabinet member with responsibility for local libraries, said: 'The summer reading challenge has proved immensely popular in Devon's libraries so I am delighted that we are once again taking part in this successful initiative

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and helping to inspire more children to enjoy books.

'It's a great way for children to get into reading as well as keep them entertained over the summer break and encourage them to use their local library.'

Events planned in Dawlish include the ongoing activity table at the library which is available for children with colouring sheets.

On Monday, August 1, between 2.30pm and 3.30pm, children will have the chance to make their own clown puppets at a free workshop.

During carnival week, on Monday, August 15, there is a Bounce and Rhyme from 4.15pm in the marquee on The Lawn, with library staff holding a storytime session and singing nursery rhymes for pre-school age children.

The next day, also in the marquee, there is craft fun at 10.15am with children aged eight and over able to use colours, sequins and pom poms to create a fun figure.

Other activities are available online at The Zone on Devon County Council's website at www.devon.gov.uk/thezone.

There is also an interactive Circus Stars website www.circus-stars.org.uk where top authors and illustrators will discuss their favourite books and share reading ideas.

TJMACLEOD



TELLING THEM A TALE: Theatre representative Amber Onat Gregory with pupils Georgia and Declan.

Dancing with snowflakes...

YOUNGSTERS at a Dawlish school for special educational needs enjoyed a taste of the seasons thanks to performers from a theatre company.

The Tell Me A Tale theatre company gave four performances of their specially developed production Seasons to students at Oaklands Park

School.

Artistic director Amber Onat Gregory said their visit to the school was 'delightful'.

She said: 'The children were energetic and enthusiastic to join in.'

'They particularly enjoyed the crunching of leaves in the autumn, dancing with

snowflakes in the winter, smelling flowers in the spring and playing music in the summer.'

Tell Me A Tale's shows are created to encourage the audience to become part of the story using their senses, using rhyme, repetition and song as well as Makaton, a language

programme using signs to help people communicate.

Assistant principal at Oaklands Julie Gibbons said: 'The performance was a breath of fresh air especially for children who are non verbal.'

'Child participation was high and children and staff gave a very positive feedback.'

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