

Dear Parent / Carer

Starting school is a big milestone for your child as they will be meeting new people, making new friends and learning lots of amazing new skills, including learning to read.

Sharing stories and reading with your child is a great way to spend time together. As well as helping them with their school learning, reading together supports your child's language development, their understanding of the world, their feelings, and the feelings of others. Having fun reading and looking at books together helps build their confidence too.

### My First Library card – for children aged 0-5 years



Hertfordshire Libraries welcome young children. That's why we now have a special library card featuring our new character 'Tala the Storyteller.' Tala is a friendly creature who likes to go on journeys to seek out stories and rhymes to share in the library.

### Hertfordshire Libraries are great for families because they:

- have 1000s of books to choose from for all ages, interests and reading abilities
- give children confidence by being able to make their own book choices. It does not matter if you choose something and then decide you don't like it - just bring it back and try something else
- let you borrow up to 30 books at a time – saving families money (it costs approximately £7 to buy a book new)
- have story and fact books especially for children beginning to read by themselves
- are environmentally friendly – the books are used lots of times
- don't charge if a picture or board books gets damaged by a young child
- give you free access to BorrowBox (eBooks and eAudio books) with your library card
- have fun family activities throughout the year – follow your favourite libraries on Facebook to find out what's happening

It is **free** to join and to borrow books (but remember to return your books on time or renew them to avoid overdue charges). You will need to bring paper or electronic proof of your name and address. To find out where your nearest library is, and their opening times visit

[www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/libraries](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/libraries)



All children starting school nursery or reception class this September are invited to visit their local library to be awarded one of our attractive My First Day at School certificates, featuring Tala the Storyteller. We know your little one may be tired on their first day so come and visit anytime during September - you can even visit before they start school, so you have the certificate ready for those first day photographs.



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