

KILKENNY COUNTY COUNCIL LIBRARY SERVICE



Kilkenny County Council
Library Service

Kilkenny County Council Library Service Introduce Handy Helps Collection to Support Independent Living

Kilkenny County Council Library Service has launched a new initiative aimed at making everyday life a little easier for older people living independently. The Handy Helps collection, officially launched on Wednesday May 27th in Loughboy Library, offers a range of practical aids that can be borrowed free of charge from local libraries across the county.

The collection is divided into 3 themed Handy Helps packs, Culinary Aids, Mobility Aids and Social Aids. Each contain carefully selected items designed to support day-to-day activities that many people can find more challenging as they get older.

The Culinary Aids pack includes lightweight foam-handled cutlery for those with a weak grip, an incurve plate surround to help keep food in



The Mobility Aids pack focuses on independent dressing and ease of movement, with items such as a button hook and zip puller, a plastic shoehorn, and a sock aid. These are particularly useful for people with limited flexibility or dexterity.



Additionally, the Social Aids pack contains everyday supports including a doorknob turner, a plug pull, a two-key turner and a portable car assist handle to help users get in and out of

vehicles safely.

Each pack is loaned as a single item for up to eight weeks, giving borrowers plenty of time to try the aids in their own homes and see what works best for them. Information sheets are included with each pack, explaining the benefits of each item and how to use them correctly.

As part of the initiative, Mayfair Library and Loughboy Library will also stock reachers, which are ideal for picking up objects around the home



The Handy Helps collection was developed by the Age Friendly Library Coordinator Alan Dunne in collaboration with Kilkenny's Healthy Age Friendly Homes Programme and local HSE Occupational Therapy services, ensuring the items selected respond to real, everyday needs.

Handy Helps packs are now available to borrow from Mayfair Library, Loughboy Library, Thomastown Library and Castlecomer Library, reinforcing the library service's growing role as a community hub that supports wellbeing, inclusion and independent living.

More information can be found on the library website (kilkennylibrary.ie) or by contacting your local library.

SUMMER STARS IS BACK TO SPARK A LOVE OF READING IN CHILDREN ACROSS KILKENNY



Kilkenny County Council Library Service is delighted to launch the Summer Stars Reading Adventure 2026, inviting children across the county to enjoy a summer full of fun, imagination and reading.

The Summer Stars Reading Adventure, an initiative of public libraries nationwide, encourages children of all ages to keep reading during the summer months while school is out. It is free to join, and all children are welcome to sign up from June 8th at their local library. Every child can take part from pre-readers enjoying picture books with their families to confident young readers exploring novels and non-fiction.

Summer Stars Reading Adventure celebrates **curiosity, creativity and discovery**, with an exciting range of books, activities and events available in all library branches throughout June, July and August. Children can track their reading, collect rewards and take part in special workshops, storytimes and creative sessions.

Executive Librarian with Kilkenny County Council Library Service Sophie Walsh said:

"Summer Stars is a wonderful way for children to stay connected to reading in a relaxed and enjoyable way. We want every child to feel that reading is for them whether they love stories, facts, comics or audiobooks."

Families are encouraged to sign up at their local library, where children will receive a reading booklet and can begin their adventure. Children can track their reading and take part in fun library events and activities hosted by their local library or libraries across the county. Participating children

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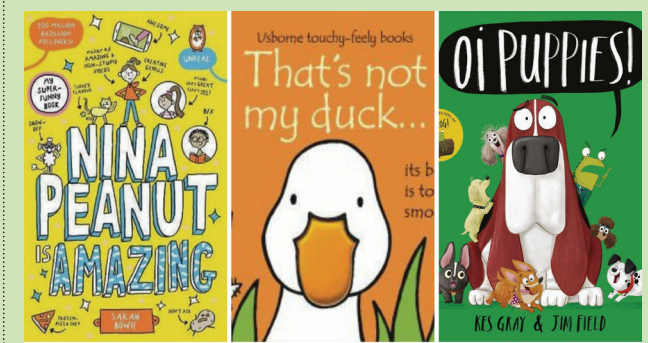
can set reading goals for themselves and will receive a special Summer Stars medal and certificate of participation at the end of the summer.

Book Suggestions for Summer Stars 2026

Here are some strong, up-to-date book suggestions for Summer Stars 2026 across a range of ages. For ages 0-3, engaging choices include *That's Not My Duck...* by Fiona Watt, a sensory board book, and the humorous rhyming story *Oi Puppies!* by Kes Gray and Jim Field. For

ages 5-8, *Anisha, Accidental Detective* by Serena Patel offers an accessible and funny mystery, while *The Boy Who Grew Dragons* by Andy Shepherd blends adventure with imagination. For ages 9-12, *The Last Chance Hotel* by Nicki Thornton is an engaging magical mystery that will appeal to confident readers.

For more information, visit your local branch or follow Kilkenny County Council Library Service online for updates on events and activities throughout the summer.



Book Suggestions for Summer Stars 2026