

The Gilbert School

Part of the Alpha Trust



TBA/lsc
October 2026

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Reading Update for Year 7

It was lovely to see so many of you at our recent Year 7 Information Evening. We have now almost completed our reading screening for all of our students across Years 7 to 9.

What does this mean?

We will soon have a reading age for each student and will identify a small cohort of students who may benefit from additional support on a one-to-one or small-group basis. Additional support will start at the level of phonics and move to fluency.

Will my child be affected?

Students with a reading age below their actual age may not receive any additional intervention outside of the classroom. Intervention will typically target students whose reading age is between 7 and 11 years. We will contact you if this applies to your child.

What can I do to encourage reading in the home?

- Leave the book bag memories in Key Stage 2 but keep the good habit of making reading something that happens daily.
- Start where your child is. If they like films, start there, if they prefer audiobooks*, use them. If a little bribery helps, consider the long-term benefits it can bring.
- Ask your child which book they have selected from the school library. All students have had the opportunity to do so both in and out of lesson time. We have a very well stocked library and regular student recommendations!

**Please find attached to this letter, details on how to access the Borrowbox library app for audiobooks.*

How has The Gilbert School been encouraging reading?

- Last week, some of our classes took part in a Guinness World Record attempt for the highest number of people reading around the world in a ten-minute period. This was great fun and we will find out later this month whether we were successful.
- A 'Golden Ticket' has been hidden in a number of library books to entice our readers!
- Last week we started sending our mobile library around to form groups during Personal Development. Although this will start with Year 9, we hope to broaden this over the course of the term.
- Students using our Accessit library app to reserve a book or leave a book review are entered into a fortnightly prize draw that runs throughout the year.

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Alpha Trust

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Registered office: Norman Way, Colchester, Essex CO3 3US



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Did you know?

- Year 7 Gilbertians have borrowed more than 516 books so far this year, but Year 8 are in hot pursuit!
- Reading for pleasure is a difficult concept for many children, but reading to 'gain something', whether that be information, a reward, a moment of calm, a fascinating fact or a terrible joke, is much easier to understand and, for some, all the encouragement they need.

Once again, thank you for your support.

Yours faithfully

Miss T Bates

Assistant Headteacher, Teaching and Learning

Headteacher: Mr J Mitchell

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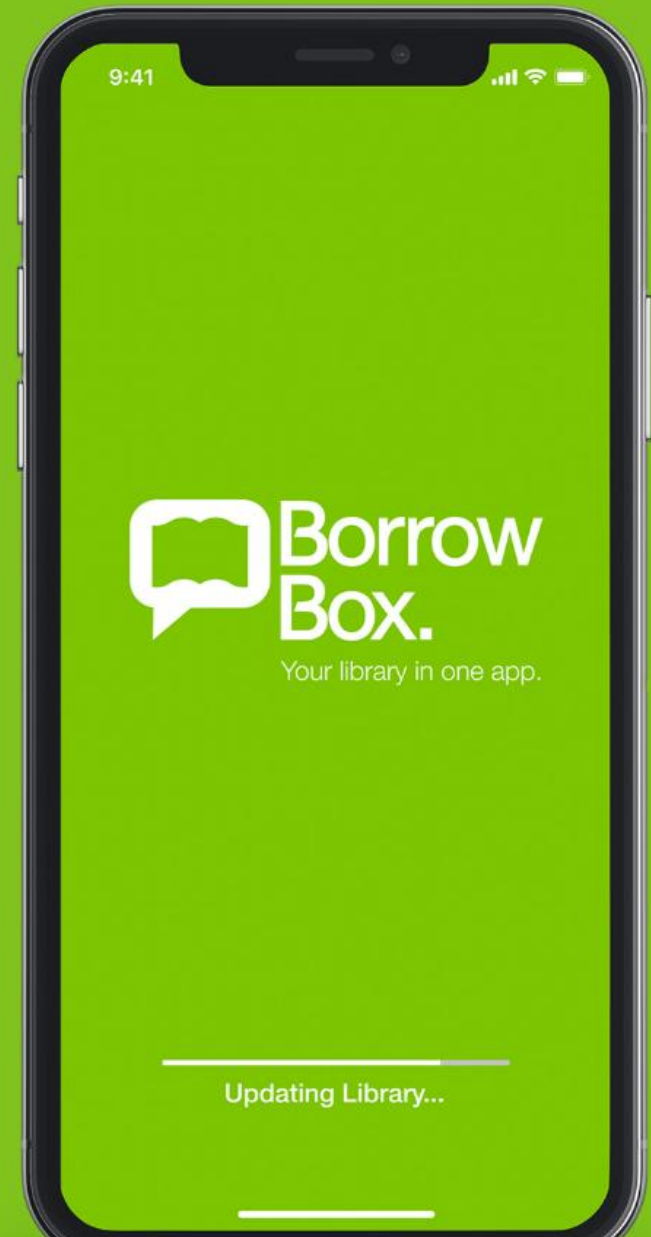
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- No overdue charges
- Items will be automatically returned at the end of the three-week loan period
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Any questions?
See Mrs Jenkins
in the library for
further guidance

