

# The Gilbert School

Part of the Alpha Trust



TBA/lsc  
April 2026

Dear Parents/Carers

## RE: Strengthening Students' Reading Habits

I have been in touch with a you a few times recently as part of our work to help encourage as many of our students as possible to continue to read, and for those who may have lapsed, to start again.

It is never too late!

I would like to thank all of you who have reached out for book suggestions or other information and already committed to helping your children read more regularly. We have been pleased to see this difference in borrowing figures in the library. Please do contact me or your child's English teacher should you have any other questions or queries.

We will be checking reading ages again prior to the end of this term. If are not sure of your child's reading age now, they can ask their English teacher, or you can get in touch via [tba@gilberd.com](mailto:tba@gilberd.com).

A few things to update you on:

- Our popular reading trolley service is back up and running and will be starting to visit form times to make it even easier for students to borrow books.
- Some parents worry that their child likes re-reading a particular book or author. Although reading a variety of texts and authors is important, reading similar styles can help to increase students' confidence with reading. Perhaps they could talk to the librarian or use [Accessit Library](#) to find similar books by different authors?
- If you're looking for book suggestions, you could visit a site like [www.barringtonstoke.co.uk](http://www.barringtonstoke.co.uk) which produces books for reluctant, under-confident and dyslexic readers.
- Have you seen the 'Turn the Subtitles On' campaign? Research shows that turning the subtitles on the TV can have a significant impact on young people's reading skills.
- Research has found that audiobooks can improve children's reading skills and enjoyment of reading as well as their mental wellbeing. If your child is reluctant to read a book, you could offer them an audiobook. These are available online or through the library.

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Alpha Trust

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Finally, if you would like to set a regular reading target for your child, that you can sign off each day please do get in touch via [tba@gilberd.com](mailto:tba@gilberd.com).

I am happy to check in with this too and reward the consistent effort that comes with starting a new habit.

Thank you for your ongoing support

Yours faithfully

Miss T Bates  
Assistant Headteacher

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