

3rd February 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

Much as we had hoped that this term would have looked more familiar, of course, we remain unable to have all of our girls in school – as is the case for our 24 sister GDST schools. And while we are proud to be able to provide our guided home learning programme, and offer the best teaching and learning experience we can, **we want to do more.**

Reading is something that is very close to our hearts here at BHSA, and where we have made enormous headway since 2016. One example is the success of our *Reading Discovery Programme* which sees our current Sixth Form students paired with girls from nursery and right through junior school to encourage reading and talking about the stories together.

Sadly, right now this hugely impactful initiative is not feasible and with so much of learning (and life) now online, the delight and escape of opening a storybook is, we think, more important than ever. Stories allow children to be transported to different worlds, cultures and times in history. They spark imagination and creativity, teach valuable life lessons and can provide comfort and reassurance.

To date, we've relied heavily on the outstanding efforts of our Parents' Association to help us buy extra (non-curriculum) books for our girls; but with the pandemic putting a stop to their fundraising activities, along with the closure of public libraries during lockdown, we worry that our girls simply aren't able to access new books and the joy that comes with reading.

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And so we are turning to you. We have created a wish list of book titles, and are asking you – members of our BHSA and wider GDST communities – if you can help by donating to our book appeal **Start A New Story**. To give you an idea of the books we are hoping to buy with your kind donations please visit the **Start A New Story** section on our school website.

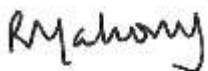
Here's how. We are asking supporters to give £10 to fund the purchase of one book, and of course, if you'd like to fund more than one book, that would be wonderful. We'd also like to invite you to leave a message inside the book sharing your thoughts on the pleasures of reading to inspire our young readers – you can do this as part of the giving process online [here](#). The book(s) will then be distributed, with your personal note, to the girls at home or in person if they are at school.

We appreciate that during these challenging times, you may be facing many pressures of your own. Therefore, if you feel unable to give at the £10 level, please know that we value every donation, no matter its size. **Each and every gift will make a difference.**

This initiative is being run in partnership with our local independent bookshop, [Linghams Booksellers](#) in Heswall. Linghams are a longstanding supporter of BHSA and we are delighted to be working with them on this project.

You can give online now by visiting this [webpage](#) and if you have any questions about the appeal, please email us on giving@wes.gdst.net.

Best wishes



Rebecca Mahony
Principal