

# FIVE IDEAS TO GET YOUR SCHOOL LIBRARY STARTED

## TODAY!



1

**All aboard!** Creating a new library or simply refurbishing an existing space is a big but exciting task. Speak to colleagues, parents and carers to get them excited about what you're doing – and don't forget the pupils! They have the *most* imaginative ideas about what they'd like to see in your library – and this helps give them agency over the space and what happens in it. Consider starting a library committee to support the project.

2

**Build a budget:** Library spaces don't have to cost the earth! But they do need some investment, be it financial or in-kind support. PTAs are amazing at fundraising, and pupils love getting involved in fundraising activities. Look for opportunities to engage with local businesses who could help with practical support such as shelving, paint and even books. Grant funders can help community projects – ask at your local library or search online. Whatever your income sources, large or small, build a budget so you can track costs.

3

**Time to plan:** Whether you have a designated space or classroom corners, it's a good idea to put some time into planning how you're going to use the spaces. Is it for reading time? Will you hold lessons in the space? What kinds of resources will you include? The activities you hope to use the space for will impact on your plan. Share ideas as you go to keep momentum going. Get all the school community involved to encourage the sense that the library will be for *everyone!*

4

**Share the journey:** Once you've finalised your plans and are ready to start, take some photos of before, during and after to share your journey, so you can celebrate with your whole school community when the space is completed. Give them updates in assembly of how things are going to build excitement and create a sense of community around the library. assembly to build excitement and create a sense of community around the library.

5

**Ready to go:** No library is complete without books! When you're ready to put books on the shelves, invite pupils to help. If you've been able to purchase new books, you can unbox them together and build anticipation around reading. Invite an author or VIP to open your library. Local press will also be interested to hear about your work and are often happy to receive a story and pictures to share.

The SLA has useful resources, advice and training for all those who work in school libraries. Find out more about what we can help you with at [sla.org.uk](http://sla.org.uk)