

27 January 2021

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## LITERACY

Dear Parent/Carer/Guardian

We are always keen to inspire and motivate our students to read for both pleasure and purpose, and our intent would seem ever more appropriate during these challenging and complex times.

### Top Tips to Support Reading at Home

We continue to be very thankful for the ongoing support of parents and carers in encouraging our students to read. You may remember that, during our last lockdown in the spring of 2020, I shared some top tips to support reading at home. I am attaching another copy of these helpful tips in case it is of use. Shared reading is a great way to develop children's language and communication and to boost their reading skills. Regular reading routines can offer lots of opportunities for learning during school closures and we would recommend that your son/daughter reads for at least 20 minutes each day.

### Oak National Academy teams up with The National Literacy Trust – book of the week

In my letter of 20<sup>th</sup> January, I mentioned that, in partnership with The National Literacy Trust, Oak National Academy has launched a new virtual library which will provide free access to books for all children. This week's free-to-access book is *The Girl Who Stole an Elephant* by Nizrana Farook. Students can read or listen to the story completely free via the Oak National Academy website as well as watch an exclusive video about Nizrana's new book and discover her top three books.



## The Day – what's in the news?

Please remind your son or daughter to access our online newspaper, The Day, from our portal page. There's an abundance of fascinating news articles of which some of last week's highlights include:



### How Google's latest battle affects us all

Monday, 25 January 2021

Should access to Google search be a human right? As the tech giant vows to leave Australia if new regulations come into force, some worry its departure could put vital freedoms at risk.

[TECHNOLOGY](#) [MONEY](#)

[PRINT VIEW](#)



### Manchester's Mother Teresa set for sainthood

Monday, 26 January 2021

Does religious faith give you special moral courage? Few argue with Elizabeth Prout's incredible, selfless commitment. But some say that it would be impossible without a deep faith in God.

[SOCIETY](#) [CONFLICT](#)

[PRINT VIEW](#)



### Seven reasons to feel better this morning

Friday, 22 January 2021

Can we relax and stop worrying now? Joe Biden has instantly erased many Trump policies in an unprecedented display of power. The entire world seems to be breathing a giant sigh of relief.

[POLITICS](#) [CONFLICT](#)

[PRINT VIEW](#)

## Spelling via Spellzone

And finally, I will be in touch over the next couple of weeks with regard to a new and exciting online spelling programme we will be able to share with all our students to support them with their spelling skills whilst at home.

Thank you again for all your support for our literacy programme during these difficult and unprecedented times.

Yours sincerely

Jill Maddren

Assistant Principal

Literacy and Teaching & Learning Development