Dear Parents and Carers,

Community Finalists!

Congratulations to our Community Librarians who found out this week that they are through to the Regional Finals of the Goldsmith's Community Engagement Award. This is a fantastic recognition of their work with Mycenae House and the local care homes. They are now busily preparing their presentation for the finals and we all wish them the very best as they showcase their work to the judges.

London International Youth Science Festival

Every year for the last 8 years, The John Roan Foundation have paid for one student to attend this prestigious 2-week conference. Valued at over £2000, the successful student will have an amazing opportunity to meet young people from around the world, attend lectures and demonstrations from top scientists and get involved in a wide variety of workshops and events. We have had three applicants from Year 11 this year and we will be announcing the successful candidate next week.

Link to LIYSF https://www.liysf.org.uk/liysf

Science Week and Science Events

Today the entire Year 11 group are attending a Science conference that should provide them with key tips for success in their exams next term, as well as the chance to hear top scientists, such as Professor Robert Winston talking about their work.

Link to Science Live http://gcsesciencelive.net/event_categories/london3/

Coming up soon is Science Week, where students will be involved in a number of events and activities to promote Science and celebrate the work of many scientists from around the world.

A Science Week reading list is available on our website click here and it would be great if our families could all select one or two books from this over the next few weeks.

National Offer Day

On Monday, children and their families across the country will find out where they will be going for their secondary school. We are excited to be welcoming our new group of students to The John Roan School and already have many activities planned for them to ensure that they get to know the school before starting in September. Our successful Friendship Afternoons will be running again, and I welcome any support from parents at these and other events. It is always good for new parents to speak to the old hands and find out more about the school and how they can support their child in the transition to secondary school. Our JRSA Team are always pleased to hear from you, if you do feel that you are able to help out in any way.
Year 12 Recruitment

We have had an enormous number of applications for places in our Sixth Form next year. The round of admissions meetings for those who have applied will be starting shortly. These meetings are a useful point for a discussion about course choices and predicted grades and we look forward to spending time with each applicant over the next month. Given the high volume of interest, we have decided to ‘free up’ our subject blocking in order to provide some more flexibility with subject combinations. I know that this decision will be welcomed.

Year 9 Options

Now that the deadline for the Options Forms has passed, we are beginning to work on the information that they have provided us. Over the next few weeks we will be looking at group sizes and talking to students about their choices.

Sixth Form Parent Evening

It was very good to see so many parents at the Sixth Form Parent Evening earlier this week. In particular to have such rich discussions with families about how they are supporting their child through the courses that they are following. Now that university offers are beginning to come in, the students in Year 13 have very definite grade goals to work towards and this is clearly helping their focus. Year 12 are already giving deep consideration to their futures, finding out about the different courses they can follow and looking up when Open Days are being held.

World Book Day and International Women’s Day Reading

We are running a number of exciting activities next week in order to celebrate the importance of reading and to mark World Book Day. A reading marathon and a visit from an author are just two items on the menu of reading-related activities our students will be able to get involved with. Families may like to join in with the focus on reading, and link this perhaps to a celebration of International Women’s Day. There is a wide ranging list of possible books to read as a family on our website, click here.

Coronavirus

With the global situation changing and developing so quickly, the Department for Education are providing schools with regular updates and advice. I know that the news channels are also doing this for everyone. The most important advice is for us all to maintain good hygiene habits and the attached poster is now up in places all around the school and can be found on the school website.

Please take good care to keep abreast of any advice that is shared with you either by the school or through the news channels, including contacting the NHS helpline 111 if you need to get specific medical advice.
Coronavirus Update and Information

We would like to highlight the updated advice from the Department of Health and Social Care. The guidance applies in particular to returning travellers as follows: https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus

If you have returned from these specific areas since February 19, you should call NHS111 and stay indoors and avoid contact with other people, even if you do not have symptoms:
- Iran
- Specific lockdown areas in Northern Italy as designated by the Government of Italy
- Special care zones in South Korea as designated by the Government of the Republic of South Korea
- Hubei province (returned in the past 14 days)

If you have returned from the below areas since February 19th and develop symptoms, however mild, you should stay indoors at home and avoid contact with other people immediately and call NHS111. You do not need to follow this advice if you have no symptoms.
- Northern Italy (defined by a line above, and not including, Pisa, Florence and Rimini),
- Vietnam
- Cambodia
- Laos
- Myanmar

As this is an evolving situation, please do regularly check and review advice and guidance from the Department of Health and Social Care and Public Health England, which can be found on GOV.UK website: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-information-for-the-public .

If you have a cough, or fever or shortness of breath and have visited any of the following areas in the last 14 days, stay indoors and call NHS 111 informing them of your recent travel:
- China, apart from Hubei province
- Thailand
- Japan
- Republic of Korea, apart from special care zones
- Hong Kong
- Taiwan
- Singapore
- Malaysia
- Macau
Choose the Theme for the Woolwich Carnival

Each year the organisers of the carnival ask the community to choose the theme of Woolwich Carnival.

Have you say and cast your vote for this year’s carnival. Pass this on and invite everyone you know to join the fun.

Voting closes on March 13th at 5pm. Begin the survey here.

Yours faithfully,

Cath Smith
Executive Headteacher
Thank you for ensuring your child has started the term positively, including smart uniform, correct shoes and arriving on time to school. Your help has been appreciated.

**Uniform**
A reminder to ensure students always have a spare pair of shoes at home. We are very understanding that shoes do not always last the test of time with young people, however wearing trainers as a substitute for school shoes will not be accepted.

**2020 Challenge**
The first lunchtime session of girls only Zumba took place this week to great success. Do encourage your daughter to join in as part of their dedication to improving their health and to have a bit of fun on a Friday!

**Student Voice**
I will shortly be starting a series of student voice activities to develop an understanding of Teaching and Learning Improvements across the school. Representatives from their groups and classes will be invited to meet with me and lend their voice to what is supporting students to learn well and what else the school can be doing to help students learn even better.

**Parent Voice**
If you would like to be part of a parent voice group to discuss what is working well for your child's learning and ideas for how we can help your child learn even better, please do email SLTadmin@thejohnroanschool.org.uk, and indicate your preferred times of the day to meet.

Many thanks,

Josephine Okokon
Associate Headteacher
Maze Hill Lead
Quick Links—News to Share Page

*News from the JRSA (PTA)* – Please see news [here](#). Website click [here](#).

*News from the Heads of Year*
For Year 7 click [here](#)
For Year 8 click [here](#)
For Year 9 click [here](#)
For Year 10 click [here](#)
For Year 11 click [here](#)
For Sixth Form click [here](#)

*Library News* can be found [here](#)

*Dates for the Diary* click [here](#)
News from the JRSA

**Grand Raffle** - we are collecting for our grand raffle draw which will take place after half term. If you can donate anything to the raffle that would be really helpful. Is there anything you can donate from your business, can you talk to your local restaurants to see if they could offer a meal for 2? Have a think if you can help and donate to the raffle. We can supply you with an official letter if this helps, please do let us know.

This term we are supporting a couple of Parent and Information Evenings. We always rely on the same volunteers to make the teas and coffees, if you can spare any time, even if its 30 minutes to help with teas and coffees, we would really appreciate it.

All the best,
Eve Daniels—Co Chair of the JRSA
### Dates for the Diary — Spring Term

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Start Time</th>
<th>End Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10 Mar</td>
<td>PRIDE Day 4</td>
<td>Maze Hill &amp; Westcombe Park</td>
<td>All Day</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 Mar</td>
<td>JRSA (PTA) Parent Meeting</td>
<td>Westcombe Park</td>
<td>6.45pm</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 &amp; 12 Mar</td>
<td>Sixth Form Admissions Meetings</td>
<td>Sixth Form Centre Maze Hill</td>
<td>3.00pm</td>
<td>6.00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17 Mar</td>
<td>Instrumental Concert</td>
<td>Maze Hill Hall</td>
<td>3.30pm</td>
<td>4.30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26 Mar</td>
<td>Admissions Meetings (Year 6)</td>
<td>Maze Hill</td>
<td>4.00pm</td>
<td>6.00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Apr</td>
<td>Year 8 Parent Evening</td>
<td>Maze Hill</td>
<td>TBC</td>
<td>TBC</td>
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<tr>
<td>3 Apr</td>
<td>Staff INSET Day—school closed to students</td>
<td>Maze Hill &amp; Westcombe Park</td>
<td>All Day</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6-17 Apr</td>
<td>Easter Holidays—school closed</td>
<td>Maze Hill &amp; Westcombe Park</td>
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</table>
Well done to Year 7, we have had a fantastic start back this half term.

**Assembly**

This week Ms Allen our School Librarian, delivered an assembly focusing on World Book Day. In the assembly she shared the activities planned for the week and the details of how students will be given their £1 book tokens [https://www.worldbookday.com/books/](https://www.worldbookday.com/books/) These tokens can be used to either purchase one of fifteen specially written books or use it to put towards the cost of another book.

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**Jump to the Front**

This week Tia, Tyler H, Jago, Fleuriane, Cindy and Abraham were the winners of our 100% attendance 'Jump to the Front' passes. Well done all.

**Zumba**

This week we will be starting weekly lunchtime Zumba sessions for Year 7 girls. These will be on Friday lunchtimes in Maze Hill Hall. We have an expert instructor delivering these fun fitness sessions. Students should wear trainers and can wear their PE kit if they choose.

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**Are you a fantastic baker?**

Junior Bake Off are looking for young budding bakers between 9 - 15 years old. Filming would take place from July 2020, but the applications close on Sunday, 5th April 2020. Interested bakers can apply online at [WWW.APPLYFORJUNIORBAKEOFF.CO.UK](http://WWW.APPLYFORJUNIORBAKEOFF.CO.UK).

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I hope everyone had a fantastic half term. Students seem to have come back more relaxed and refreshed from their time off.

We have a number of key dates this term. The first being **PRIDE Day 4 on Tuesday 10th March**. We will be going out as a year group to London Zoo for Science week. There will be no charge for the trip, but a letter will be coming home soon with all the information you will require for this day trip. The second date is the **Year 8 Parent Evening on Wednesday 1st April**. Again more information will follow in the next couple of weeks on how your child will be able to book appointments with their teachers, and how the evening will work. It will be an excellent opportunity to catch up with all your child's teachers to see how they are progressing in each of their subjects.

Finally I am pleased to announce the annual Braithwaite outward bound trip dates will be 15th -19th June. Activities have been book for a fun filled week of pushing boundaries in OAA. I will therefore be opening up interest in this trip ASAP, once I can confirm the cost. We will only have 26 spaces, as last year, and I cannot recommend it enough. All students who joined us last year had an amazing time, and I cannot wait to take this year’s group. Watch this space for more information!

I hope everyone has a wonderful weekend.
It has been a productive week with our Year 9s, who seem refreshed and re-energised after the half term break.

We have our PRIDE Day 4 soon approaching (10th March), with the theme based around charity/fundraising.

We will soon be announcing our annual residential trip to Braithwaite, which will be from 22nd-26th June. I am hopeful to announce the trip during Monday’s assembly.

Finally, if you haven’t already done so, please do return the NHS Vaccination consent form. The vaccinations will take place on 20th and 22nd April.

As always, please get in touch should you need any further information.

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Trips:

- **Braithwaite** (1st–5th June) - The deadline for the return of reply slips is the 13th March. Please ensure that these are returned before this date if you would like your child to be considered for this residential.

- **Oxygen Free Jumping** at The O2 Arena (31st March) – Please see the attached letter.

Work Experience:

It is vital that parental consent forms are returned to Ms Proctor as soon as possible. Students also need to contact their employers to arrange an interview and visit to the placement. This must be done out of school time however. I am pleased to announce that all Year 10 students have work experience placements.
26th February 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

Year 10 - Trip to 'Oxygen' Free Jumping Park at the O2

Your son/daughter has expressed an interest in attending the end of term trip to 'Oxygen' Free Jumping Park at the O2 arena on Tuesday 31st March.

Trip information:
• Cost - £11.50 (variable cost for Pupil Premium students). This includes entry to the park and socks.
• Students must bring a change of clothes with them to school. Students will get changed immediately after school and then meet on the foyer steps at 3.30pm. Sensible clothing must be worn i.e. long trousers.
• Students will then be escorted down Vanbrugh Hill (walking) and catch a public bus to the O2 Arena.
• Session time - 5.00-6.00pm.
• Students will be dismissed from the O2. Staff will be returning to school however and will escort any students who wish to return to Westcombe Park.

This trip has been partly funded by The John Roan School Association (PTA) and therefore the cost of the trip has been reduced to allow all students to attend if they wish.

If you would like your son/daughter to attend this trip, please complete the attached slip and return it to Ms Sumner (only) and pay the full amount on Parent Pay no later than Thursday 19th March. Payments after this date will not be accepted and your child will not be able to attend.

Yours faithfully

Tracey Sumner
Head of Year 10

FAO: Ms Sumner – to be returned by Thursday 19th March

I give permission for my child ________________________________to attend the 'Oxygen' Free Jumping trip on Tuesday 31st March. I have read and understood the conditions above.

Parent/Carer Signature: _______________________________________________________________________

Medical Conditions/Medication Required: _______________________________________________________________________

Emergency Contact Details: 1. _________________________________ 2. _______________________________
Reminder: The John Roan School Class of 2020 Yearbook is on ParentPay, ready to purchase at the fantastic price of £16. Please could you get your orders in early. Thank you again for the photos of your children as babies but I’d still like some more for our double spread of “guess the baby”. It is not too late to provide baby pictures for the yearbook (a digital copy is preferred to a hard copy). Please keep these coming!

We start taking photos for the yearbook next week, so please refer to your ParentPay account for the scheduled time your child will be having their Tutor Group photo taken.

Reminder: A number of you, unfortunately, missed the deadline to order a Class of 2020 Leavers Hoodie for your child. I have successfully managed to negotiate the opening of another online shop at the same price (£17) as the original shop providing that at least 10 orders are placed. The details of the online shop with login details are; website is https://www.schoolleaverscompany.co.uk/leavers-hoodies-login
Please use the USERNAME: SL47471B and the PASSWORD: 47471joan.

The deadline for this shop in Friday 28th February and there will not be another opportunity to place an order other than via the company’s website for more than double the price above.

Reminder: Year 11 Prom on Thursday 18th June – Though a while away, please could you ensure that the consent form for the prom is returned to me as soon as possible. Payment can now be made via ParentPay for the prom.
I will be resending this out later in the term, once I am a bit less busy.

Attendance – With so little time left until the exams, please may I ask that you endeavour to, as I’m sure that you already do, ensure that appointments are made outside the school day so that it does not impact on their learning time at school.

The attendance for the exams this week has been rather excellent, so thank you. The only issue is with the number of students arriving late to their exams, particularly as a result of oversleeping. They may very well get the time back they have missed for the exams in May/June but will they be in the best frame of mind to do their best if they have had to rush to school and are therefore somewhat frantic. Please could I continue to ask for your assistance in ensuring that you child gets to their exams on time by getting to school early on the day. It’s been a pleasure to be walking in at 7:45/50 in the mornings and seeing a number of Year 11 students revising/socialising in the canteen area/Breakout Area, as being early is being on time!

Revision – There are still a significant number of Year 11 students who do not have a revision book or other revision resources, such as flash cards. It is not too late to get these invaluable items for your child to assist them with their preparation for their upcoming GCSE exams in May/June and I would implore you to do so.

Interventions – Please support us with helping your child by reminding them to attend their intervention classes. The attendance has been really good but there are still several students who really would benefit from attending and still are not doing so. The intervention classes get back into full swing next week.

Homework – Thank you for your support with this issue, as it has improved but still needs to improve a lot more! Your child is hindering their chances of success in their GCSE exams by not completing homework. Your support would be much appreciated.
Mock exams – These are now complete with the last exam being the Chemistry exam yesterday which by all accounts was very hard. We will issuing students with their results via a mock results assembly over the next few weeks.

ScienceLive Trip on Friday 28th February - ScienceLive is a chance to hear from five of Britain’s top scientists in fields that are taught within the KS4 curriculum. These include Genetics and Reproduction, Chemical Processes, Nuclear Fusion/Radiation and ‘the Physics of Bubbles’. The Scientists include Professor Robert Winston (Lord Winston – known for many documentaries on the Human Body), Professor Jim Al-Khalilli (BBC presenter of Genius of Britain, The Life Scientific, Light and Dark, author of Paradox: The Golden Age of Arabic Science etc), and Professor Andrea Sella with his famous Chemistry demonstrations. There will also be the opportunity for students to hear from the Chief Examiner about their upcoming science exams.

The trip introduces students to Scientific fields they may not otherwise consider and helps to inspire them – to see what they could be! We hope that this series of talks will further assist our students/your child with achieving higher GCSE Science grades and will inspire more of them to go into STEM subjects at A Level and beyond.

NCS again came into school on Tuesday to deliver a follow-up assembly to students about the amazing opportunity being afforded to them after their exams. I can now confirm that the location for the week long residential will be PGLs flagship centre in Dorset, where students will be taking part in kayaking, sailing and lots more fun water based and non-water based activities. They will then return home for 2 days before embarking on another residential at Exeter University, where they will experience what university life is like on Campus where they will have to cook and socialise with other students (some they may know and others they may not).

The available dates for the above is in the table below. As you will agree, it is an amazing opportunity for a fraction of the true cost. If any families are experiencing financial difficulties then there are bursaries available that they can apply for. NCS will be in school again on Thursday next week with application forms, as well as bursary forms.

I could not recommend this opportunity enough and it should be an incentive for your child to put in lots of hard work with this reward waiting for them at the end of their exams. They can also apply for the same group with friends if they wish, or step out of their comfort zone and go it alone.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>29 Jun</td>
<td>NCS June 2020</td>
<td>Group 1</td>
<td>£50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>06 Jul</td>
<td>NCS July 2020</td>
<td>Group 2</td>
<td>£50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 Jul</td>
<td>NCS July 2020</td>
<td>Group 3</td>
<td>£50</td>
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<tr>
<td>20 Jul</td>
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<td>£50</td>
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<tr>
<td>27 Jul</td>
<td>NCS July 2020</td>
<td>Group 5</td>
<td>£50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03 Aug</td>
<td>NCS August 2020</td>
<td>Group 6</td>
<td>£50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Finally, I have (foolishly) decided to (try to) run the London Marathon again this year. I’ll be honest and say that training has not gone as well as last year due to the weather not being great and being extremely tired from very long days at work this year (that’s my excuse for not finding that extra gear). All money raised will go back to the school, so I would really appreciate it if you would be kind enough to sponsor us for the race—as its for students with ASD. Further details can be found on this link; https://justgiving.com/crowdfunding/john-roan-trips

Summer exams – There are currently **11 weeks** to the commencement of the summer exams on Monday 11th May (only 9 school weeks). Let’s make every day count!

Remember that there are "no excuses, no shortcuts and no limits on what they can achieve, if they are prepared to work hard enough"

We are nearly there and this half term will be the one that either gives them that wake-up call and they go out and do what needs to be done or then it just becomes too late to truly realise their potential.

Thank you to all who attended the parent evening on Wednesday. I hope you found it useful. If you weren’t able to attend please contact your students’ teachers to discuss their progress.

We were delighted to welcome Sara from Mansfield College, University of Oxford to our tutorial session on Monday afternoon. She spoke to Year 12 about the importance of showing interest in the subject beyond the classroom. Students went on to discuss the, at first, seemingly simple question ‘Is a robot a person?’ We soon had lovely discussions that got the students thinking critically. What is the definition of person? What is a robot? If a robot is a person, what rights does it gain? Discussions veered between Biology, Philosophy, Semantics and challenged many assumptions. We encourage students to challenge their thinking this way, as not only will it enhance their current studies, but it will aid them at university interviews and in employment.

Year 13 met with representatives of the partnership between Charlton Athletic and Oxleas. Oxleas is an NHS organisation concerned with the health and wellbeing of people in Greenwich. The partnership with Charlton Athletic is particularly focussed on mental health. This is a critical time for Year 13, as we approach exam season and coursework deadlines. Students were told the support available to them through Oxleas, in addition to the support available from the school based Counsellor, Jules Mallindine and student’s own GP.

Tutorials take place every Monday afternoon and are a compulsory part of each student’s timetable and as such must be attended, as with all other lessons. Students risk missing vital information and experiences if they do not attend.

Unfortunately we are experiencing an increase in students attending school out of dress code. Please note, tracksuits, sweatshirts, hoodies, jeans and trainers are not allowed. The exceptions being basketball kit can be worn on match days; black (not faded black/grey) jeans may be worn; trainers that are completely black, no logos or coloured (white or otherwise) soles may be worn.

Year 12 will be attending the UCAS exhibition at Excel London on the 24th March. The event will be an opportunity to meet admissions tutors from every university in the UK, along with employers, apprenticeship providers and gap year firms. The event and travel is free but students must book their ticket. They have been emailed a link to do so.

As ever, please don’t hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.
World Book Day Celebrations:
World Book Day is taking place on Thursday, 5th March with these exciting events taking place:

**Book Sculpture Competition**
Celebrate World Book Day in the Libraries by making your own book sculpture out of old recycled books during lunchtime on 5th March. There will be prizes for the best sculptures!

**Andy Briggs Visit**
On Tuesday 3rd March, Maze Hill will be hosting a talk by author, Andy Briggs who has written popular books such as Drone Racer, Tarzan: The Greystoke Legacy and Hero.com.

After the talk there will be the opportunity for students to purchase signed copies of Andy’s books and in order to purchase a signed book, students will need to bring their money in on the day. The price of a book is £6.99. If you would like reserve a book in advance, please email the Libraries using the contact details below. There will also be workshops running throughout the day with selected students. We hope that this will be an interesting and enjoyable day.

**Reading Marathon**
To celebrate World Book Day on Thursday 5th March, we are holding an all day reading marathon. We need different students reading a book every 15 minutes on a cosy area in the Libraries throughout the day. Students need to see the Librarian to book their 15 minute timeslot. Certificates will be awarded to everyone who takes part.

**Inter-School Primary Book Quiz**
On Friday 6th March, we will be hosting an Inter-School Book Quiz for local primary schools with this year’s theme being Famous Authors. We’re looking forward to seeing the five teams battling it out for our lovely trophy.

**World Book Day Tokens**
All students in Years 7 to 11 will receive a £1 book token in English lessons in the run up to World Book Day.

The tokens can be used to either purchase a specially printed £1 World Book Day book, or to get £1 off a book or audio book worth £2.99 or more in all participating bookshops e.g. Waterstones, WH Smiths etc. Only one token can be used per transaction.

The tokens can be used between Thursday 27 February – Sunday 29 March 2020.
World Book Day Literacy Pairs Competition

On World Book Day, some members of staff will be wearing a badge with the name of a book character. All the names are part of a pair. The students will need to find both character names and match them up.

Entry forms are available from the Libraries. There will be a prize for the most pairs matched up.

The John Roan Word of the Week
Word: Literature

Definition: Literature is defined as books and other written works, especially those considered to have creative or artistic merit or lasting value.

Example sentence: “Classic literature never goes out of print”.

Word group: noun

Synonyms: books, writings, classics

The Weekly Challenge: Use the noun, literature, as many times as possible throughout the week and you could receive PRIDE points every time! This can be verbally OR in your written work.