



John Ray Infant School

"learning together, aiming high, proud to be ourselves"

Notley Road, Braintree, Essex, CM7 1HL

Telephone: 01376 323071

Email: enquiries@johnrayinfants.essex.sch.uk

Headteacher;
Mrs Kate Mills

Friday, 02 October 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Spending time reading with your child is one of the most valuable shared learning experiences. Daily sharing of books has been shown to improve your child's language skills, imagination and ability to develop lifelong reading and writing skills. We really value your help and would like to share some ideas that we use at school.

Encourage your child to look at the cover and back of the book to try to guess what the book is about.

Use the pictures as clues or to make up their own story about what they can see.

Ask your child questions about the book, such as what was your favourite part and why? Can your child name any characters or link the book to any others they have read before?



We start your child's reading journey by sharing picture books with no words so that they can use their imagination to tell you what they see.

Following this we will then introduce books with simple sentences that can be decoded using the Phonic skills we start teaching in school.

At all stages children should be encouraged to enjoy the pictures, then start to link the words to them.

From Monday 5th October your class teacher will be sending home a school reading book for you to share with your child. At this time we would usually also give you a Home/ School reading diary but due to the current situation we are unable to do so. In order to ensure everyone's safety we will need to collect books in a tray outside every Monday, and can then issue new ones.

Please use Tapestry to share any reading experiences you have at home, as we would love to know what books your child enjoys (either from school or your own). We will continue to share books at school with everyone, either individually, or with groups or the whole class. Our new Story time Phonics uses amazing books and we will share these titles as we learn our new sounds.

Please feel free to ask us any questions, we want all our children and families to love reading as much as we do.

Yours sincerely

EYFS Team