



John Ray Infant School

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

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Headteacher;

Mrs K Mills

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Dear Parents/Carers

I wanted to update you with a few changes we are planning over the next few weeks and to check in with you all to see how you're getting on.

Some of you have contacted us today to say that you are finding Tapestry and Dojo quite slow and that the Tapestry system is not working. These are separate external systems which we have no control over and as I am sure you can imagine, there are many thousands of families all trying to access the same systems at the moment.

In light of this and following on from feedback we have received, we have decided to introduce Microsoft Teams to work alongside Tapestry and Dojo. Staff are currently undertaking training and we aim to have Teams up and running fully from the week beginning 18th January. We are in the process of allocating email addresses for the children to use and you will shortly receive the information you need to set yourself up. You will receive a one time password which you will need to change to your own unique password.

Next week, our teachers are aiming to start using Teams and our plan is to provide daily teaching videos (English, Maths or Topic) to support the children's learning. We will also be doing fortnightly small group Teams meetings so that the children can talk to their class teacher and friends face to face.

The teachers who are leading home learning this week have been really impressed with how engaged lots of you are but they have also been a little sad to see that lots of you haven't yet logged on to upload your work. We fully understand that home learning can be extremely challenging but we know for sure that there will be no return to the classroom until at least February half term.

We really urge you to take a little time each day to sit down with your child and complete the activities they have been set by their teachers. This will help to keep their learning ticking over and this in turn will help them pick their learning up much quicker when they return after lockdown.

We are here to help and there will always be two members of staff supporting online learning during the school day if you have any questions. You can also reach me via my email address head@johnrayinfants.essex.sch.uk if you would like any further information or advice.

I had a little walk out yesterday and saw some of our Foundation Stage children. It was lovely to hear about their scavenger hunting and cosmic yoga activities. Keep it up!

We are not expecting you to work a full day of 'school' with your children but please do all you can to complete the activities which have been set by your child's teacher.

You can also try the following web links to support your child's learning in Year One and Year Two - I've heard really good things about this website.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/this-terms-topics>

Keep safe everyone



Kate Mills
Headteacher

