



# John Ray Infant School

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

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*Headteacher;*

Mrs K Mills

Friday April 23<sup>rd</sup> 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

Many thanks to those of you who have responded to the Reading questionnaire I sent out last week. To date, we have had 125 responses but we would love to hear from as many of you as possible so it's not too late to complete the questionnaire.

From the responses we have had so far, about 50% of you check your child's reading diary every day. We would love to know what we can do to increase this number and whether there is a reason why the number is so low.

Most of you felt that you had strategies to support your child's reading and the most popular was reading to them and with them, followed by encouraging a love of reading by buying books as gifts.

Approximately 1/3 of you felt that your child wasn't motivated to read at home. We understand that home learning has been very different, and often difficult over the last year and we are keen to find ways of supporting our families to engage in regular home learning again.

We also asked what training and support you might like to receive from us. Almost half of you said you would appreciate opportunities for book swaps and access to library time in school. This is something we would like to investigate further once Covid restrictions are relaxed.

Almost 1/3 of you also said that you would like to read with your child after school in the classroom. This could be a great way of school staff supporting you with strategies for shared reading at home. Again, we would like to investigate this further in the near future.

We understand that many parents/carers have had enough of online learning so we have decided to re-introduce a homework book in Key Stage One. We will still use Dojo for celebrations and sharing learning photographs etc, but homework will now be set in workbooks. EYFS will continue to use Tapestry to share the children's learning.

Class teachers will now also take in reading diaries each week and sign them to say that they have seen them. Please try your best to sign your child's reading diary each time you hear them read. You don't need to write a comment

## Book amnesty

Please can you check at home to see if you have any reading books that need returning. We are getting very short of books in school.

## A date for your diary.

We have signed up to take part in the Race for Life in July. We will have our own Just Giving page which will go live in a few weeks time. All children across the school and nursery will take part in the run/walk around our school site. The date we have planned is July 9<sup>th</sup> so you have plenty of time to get your children fit for their race.

### Highlights of the week

Our chicks are now growing their grown-up feathers and are getting very feisty. The girls are definitely in charge! It has been great for the children to see how quickly they have changed in the two weeks that we have had them.

### Nursery

The nursery children have been working hard practising their routines this week. I was very impressed when I visited them on Thursday. They were using their 'please' and 'thank you' when they were having their snack. We are also very excited that we have secured some funding to be able to turn Miss Devereux's dream garden into a reality!

### EYFS

I think I spotted a pirate in Foundation Stage this week! We have also started to have assemblies in the hall with the children. They have learned the new routines really quickly and it was lovely to be able to hand out the first Golden Book and Maths Whizz certificates this week. We counted to 20 together and I couldn't catch them out when I asked them 'one more' or 'one less' questions.

### Year One

PC Holmes made a visit to the Year One classes this week. The children were taught lots of important facts about how to keep safe online. They also got to dress up in the police uniforms. The children also looked at the different parts which make a plant. They carefully separated each piece and named it correctly.

### Year Two

Our Year Two children have been continuing to work hard with their maths skills. They have also continued to work on their class story 'The Wolf, The Duck and The Mouse'. Don't forget to ask them all about this brilliant story.

Have a restful weekend everyone



Mrs Mills  
Headteacher

