



Onslow Infant School

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Dear Owl and Rabbit Class Parents and Carers,

This week your child will bring home a library book to share with you at home. The library book will stay with you for a whole week until you bring it back to be changed. The library book **will not** be at your child's reading level - it is intended to be read by parents, carers, older siblings, and grandparents (etc) to the child so they can develop a love of sharing books, stories and reading in general. Your child will spend time selecting their book in our EYFS library before sharing it in class with their peers.

Research has shown that reading aloud to children of all ages helps them to develop their writing skills. This is because it helps pupils to develop their knowledge of language and story structure. Reading traditional fairy tales is particularly important as these contain the basic story elements and simple structures which help children to understand how stories work. Learning songs and rhymes, such as nursery rhymes, prepares children for the sounds and patterns in language and provides a vital part of their language development. Reading to children also provides them with a greater range of ideas which they can use in their own writing, and gives them access to texts that may be too complex for them to read alone.

Research has also found how many words children would have heard by the time they were 5 years old:

- Never read to = 4,662 words;
- 1-2 times per week = 63,570 words;
- 3-5 times per week = 169,520 words;
- Daily = 296,660 words;

So reading a library book to them of their choice is such a valuable activity.

Please return the library book every **Friday** so that your child can choose a new one. Unfortunately, we will not be able to change books that are returned late as the library is led by volunteers on a Friday morning.

Many thanks, The Reception team

