



Coppice Primary School
Homework Policy

Introduction

At Coppice Primary School, we believe that homework should allow children to consolidate learning that has taken place in the classroom, whilst also providing opportunities to practise the essential skills which enable children to learn effectively. We feel that, whenever possible, homework should be supported by parents or other adults at home. Homework should also provide opportunities for children to develop a good work ethic and improve their organisational skills through completing tasks to a high standard and handing work in on time. Our aim is that children will enjoy extending their learning, and sharing their successes by showing their families what they are able to do. However, we feel that other activities outside school are equally valuable and, therefore, our homework policy provides guidance which should ensure that homework enhances children's experiences rather than limiting them.

Aims

This policy aims to ensure consistency and progression. It will allow teachers, parents and pupils to have a shared understanding of the homework expectations at Coppice Primary School.

Overview

All children will receive homework. The type of homework, and length of time it is expected to take, changes as children progress through each year group.

Weekly Time Expectations

Reception -15 minutes (*plus 5 minutes each day spent on reading and learning tricky words*)

Year 1 - 30 minutes (*plus 10 minutes each day spent reading and learning spellings*)

Year 2 - 40 minutes (*plus 10 minutes each day spent reading and learning spellings*)

Years 3 and 4 - 50 minutes (*plus 15 minutes each day spent reading and learning spellings*)

Years 5 and 6 -1 hour (*plus 15 minutes each day spent reading and learning spellings*)

Children will be given a minimum of five nights to complete any homework given. This will include a weekend. This allows children with busy weekends to complete homework over three school nights while children with commitments in the evening can plan time over the weekend to complete work.

	Numeracy	Reading	Other	Spelling
Reception	Practical Activity starting in January 15 minutes (over the week)	Tricky Word Book 1 or 2 books chosen by teacher Library Book	N/A	N/A
Year 1	Practical Activity for Autumn and Spring Term 15 minutes (over the week) Worksheet for Summer Term 15 minutes	Tricky Word Book (for some children) 1 or 2 books chosen by teacher Library Book	15 minutes	Words sent home to learn for spelling test
Year 2	Worksheet 20 minutes	1 book chosen by teacher Library Book	20 minutes	Words sent home to learn for spelling test
Year 3	Worksheet 30 minutes	1 book chosen by teacher Library Book	20 minutes	Words sent home to learn for spelling test
Year 4	Worksheet 30 minutes	1 book <i>may</i> be chosen by the teacher – some pupils will just choose their own book from the library Library Book	20 minutes	Words sent home to learn for spelling test
Year 5	Worksheet 30 minutes	Library Book	30 minutes (This will usually be comprehension questions based on a text.)	Words sent home to learn for spelling test
Year 6	Worksheet 30 minutes	Library Book	30 minutes (This will usually be comprehension questions based on a text.)	Words sent home to learn for spelling test

NUMERACY

In Reception, starting in January, children are given a practical activity each week to complete at home with their parents. This is linked to work completed during the week at school. This continues until the end of the Spring Term in Year 1. At this point, children are given a worksheet to complete instead. This is returned to school, marked by the teacher, teaching assistant or by the child and sent back home.

Children continue to receive a worksheet in Year 2 – Year 6. Worksheets allow children to consolidate work completed in class or practise basic essential maths skills such as times tables or number bonds. Some weeks' homework may direct children to a website and ask them to complete specific tasks. For this type of homework, children would be expected to provide feedback on the tasks, writing evaluative comments on the worksheet. If children do not have access to a computer at home or at the local library, time will be given at school during non-teaching time for children to complete the activity.

READING

In Reception, children are given two books to read, chosen by their teacher. One of these is a phonics-based book (Phonics Bug) and one is based on the key words which they need to learn. Children in Reception are also given a Tricky Word Book to help them remember some of the words that they will come across frequently in their reading, which cannot be sounded out. When children are confident with a wide range of tricky words, they will be assessed and moved onto the Rigby Star Reading Scheme. Once children are competently decoding Phase 4 Phonics Bug books, they will no longer take a phonics book home but will be expected to use their phonics skills (alongside other strategies) to read the Rigby Star book.

In Year 1, children will continue with the reading system started in Reception. Some children will be reading a phonics-based book and a key word book but others will have finished the phonics-based scheme and may have transferred onto the Rigby Star books.

From Year 2 onwards, children will continue to be given a reading book. This will be chosen by the class teacher until it is felt that children are confident and competent enough readers to choose their own books. This will normally be at some point during Year 4 but may be earlier or later than this, depending on children's ability and confidence. Once children are reading longer books, it may take more than one week to finish the text. They will still be expected to complete the allocated reading time each week. Reading Records will be provided in Reception – Year 4 for children or teachers to write the titles of the book/s sent home each week. Children and/or parents will be able to write a comment for the teacher to read. If they feel it is necessary, teachers will also write comments in the books.

In KS1, parents will also have a 'help booklet' each year with some guidance on the best ways to help their children read at home. These will give strategies to help children read, ways to encourage independence and enjoyment and some example

questions to ask, to develop children's comprehension skills. In KS2, parents will receive a 'help booklet' each year with example questions to ask, linked to the different assessment focuses.

All children from Reception to Year 6 are encouraged to take a book home from one of the school libraries. For older children, this may be their only school reading book but, for other children, this will be an extra book. This is to encourage reading for pleasure and allow children autonomy over choosing books that appeal to them. Children are given the opportunity to change these at least once a week but can keep the book for longer if they have not finished it.

SPELLING

Children will often be given a spelling list to learn which will be linked to the spelling patterns and objectives they have been learning in weekly spelling sessions. They may also be given spellings linked to the high-frequency words or spellings from their spelling journal. The number of spellings that they are given will be dependent on their year group and may be personalised to the individual child. Although we want pupils to be challenged, we don't want them to feel overwhelmed.

Y1 will have between 4 and 8 spellings.

Y2 will have between 5 and 10 spellings.

Y3 will have between 6 and 12 spellings.

Y4, Y5 and Y6 will have between 8 and 15 spellings.

The spellings will be sent home on a sheet of paper, written either by the teacher or by the pupil. There will also be a box on this sheet where the score for that week's spelling test will be recorded.

Children will be expected to spend some time each day learning their spellings. This is part of the daily reading and spelling time allocation.

Some weeks, instead of being given a list of spellings to be learnt, children will be expected to complete a different task. Please see the Spelling Policy for more details.

Support materials for spelling, with ideas and tips to help children, will be sent home each year and will also be available on the school website.

OTHER

From Year 1 – Year 6, each child will also be set a homework task which can develop any skill or extend learning in any area of the curriculum.

Tasks may include:

Developing a skill (e.g. cutting out, throwing a ball, threading a needle)

Research on a topic and recording findings through words and pictures

Completing a web-based activity and writing an evaluative comment

Discussing or thinking about a question or issue raised in Circle Time or Philosophy lessons

A worksheet based on a topic being covered

A reading comprehension task

If tasks are practical rather than recorded, children or parents will be asked to make a brief comment about the task to indicate how they got on. This is to ensure that children understand that there is still an expectation for tasks to be completed.

Children's work will be acknowledged with a tick, sticker, stamp or brief comment.

For one half-term, each year group will not be set a weekly task. Instead, they will be asked to complete a short research project. Success criteria will be provided and children may also have some time in school to work on their project. At the end of the half-term, children will hand their projects in and teachers will select children to receive certificates and prizes in assembly for content, presentation and effort. The projects will then be displayed in school for other year groups to look at.

Project work will be marked by teachers before it is returned at the end of the following half-term. Teachers will not write on projects: instead, they will assess against the success criteria on a separate sheet. A general comment will also be written about content, effort and presentation.

Consequences for non-completion of homework

Following parental consultation, the decision has been made that homework at Coppice Primary School should be compulsory. We hope to instil a good work ethic and develop children's organisational skills by encouraging the completion of homework through praise and rewards. However, we feel that there should be consequences if children are not completing homework. Children will always have five nights to complete homework – if homework is not handed in on the required day, children will be expected to give a verbal explanation to their teacher. In order to encourage responsibility, children will be expected to approach their teacher rather than waiting for the teacher to check that all homework has been handed in. A one night extension will then be given and there will be no sanction. (If children persistently hand in homework after the deadline, teachers will discuss the issue at parents' evening.) Should homework not be completed by the following day, children may miss a playtime or lunchtime. Of course, we understand that there will be occasions when, due to extenuating circumstances, homework does not get completed. If this is the case, we ask parents to contact class teachers to arrange for a longer extension.

Holiday Homework

We feel that holiday homework can impact on children's other experiences, making holidays a time when family activities can be overshadowed by the expectation to

complete homework. Therefore, no holiday homework will be set for Reception to Year 5, including teacher-chosen reading books. Instead, a list of fun activities and ideas for days out can be found on the school website. These will be entirely optional, intended to provide ideas for extending learning as a family.

Year 6

Year 6 is a very different year for the children. In general, homework guidelines remain as they do for the rest of the school. However, there may be occasions when members of staff feel that extra homework is needed. Year 6 teachers may decide to set extra work, including holiday homework and revision. Please discuss any issues that arise from this with your child's class teacher.

Extra Optional Homework

In general, extra homework will not be set. Children who enjoy completing homework always have the option to spend longer than the allocated time on a task.

Teachers may choose to set optional extra tasks for children who have a particular target to work on. There will be no expectation for this work to be completed and children should decide for themselves whether they want to do the extra task.

If parents feel they would like to complete extra work at home with their child, they are welcome to arrange a meeting with their child's teacher to discuss the type of work which may be beneficial. However, teachers will not provide this work for the children.

Parental Involvement

At Coppice Primary School, we feel that the support given by parents is invaluable. We encourage parents to be involved with children's homework as much as possible. Homework is not used to assess children's capabilities in any subject; therefore, it does not matter if parents help with, check or correct children's work. The emphasis is on moving children's learning forward by improving their understanding. It is helpful for staff to know how children have got on with tasks at home and how much support they required. Therefore, we encourage parents to let us know how their child found the homework. Please see 'Home School Communication' for more information.

Tasks in Reception and Year 1 will often require adult support. Please speak to your child's class teacher if this causes concern. However, from Year 2 onwards, tasks will be set which children should be able to complete, or at least attempt, independently.

We are aware that many methods, particularly in Numeracy, have changed over the years. Teachers will endeavour to make instructions as clear as possible and provide examples when appropriate. Please do not hesitate to check with teachers if you are unsure of the method that your child is expected to use.

Home-School Communication

In KS1, parents often have the opportunity to see teachers at the beginning or the end of each day. Any other concerns about homework can be written into Reading Records or sent to school in a separate letter, if preferred.

In Years 3 and 4, parents can continue to write comments into their child's Reading Record Book and, in Years 5 and 6, all children will be provided with a Home-School Communication Book. This will enable parents to let teachers know how children have got on with tasks and alert teachers if they have any concerns. There will not be an expectation for parents to write in these every week but they will provide an easy way to contact teachers, if required. These will get checked once a week when homework is handed in. Responses to comments made by parents will be added, if required. Parents are also asked to check the book each week.

Date agreed by the Governing Body:

Tony Goddard _____ **(Chair of Governors)**

Richard Green _____ **(Head Teacher)**

Review Date – May 2014