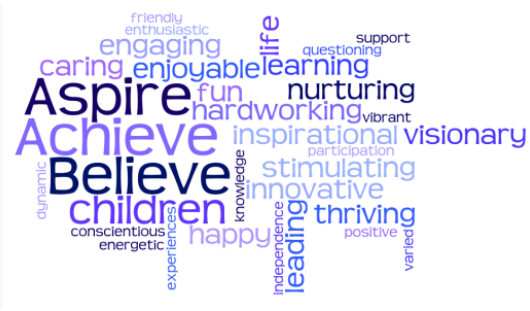



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Friday 5th December 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Following our recent Reading Workshop, we would like to share the important changes we are making to strengthen and improve our reading culture at Coppice Primary School. Our priority is to ensure that every child becomes a confident, fluent reader who enjoys reading for pleasure as well as for learning.

**Moving Away from Accelerated Reader (AR)**

As of now, children in **EYFS–Year 3** will no longer be using Accelerated Reader. Although AR has been helpful in the past, we want a system that places teacher professional judgement at the heart of reading assessment and offers a clearer, more structured path through early reading.

**Transition to Oxford Reading Tree (ORT)**

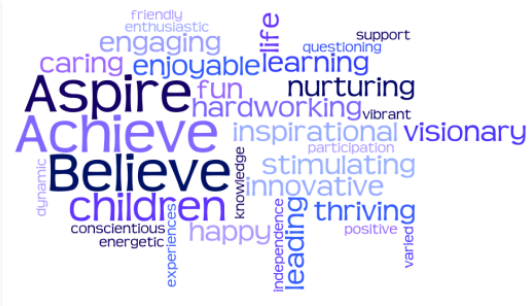
We will now be using the **Oxford Reading Tree book-banded scheme**. This is a high-quality, widely recognised reading pathway used by many schools nationwide. It provides:

- clear, progressive reading stages
- strong alignment with phonics
- books that are accurately matched to each child's reading level
- consistency and fidelity across the whole school

Most of our pupils from EYFS – Year 2 are still accessing the Read Write Inc. phonics programme therefore; they will not be accessing the ORT banded books until they have finished this. Therefore, pupils will be taking home:

**1. A Book Bag Book (matched to phonics level)**
This book supports decoding, fluency and confidence for pupils who attend daily phonics sessions. It matches their current Read Write Inc. phonics group.
**2. A Reading-for-Pleasure Library Book**
This is chosen from our newly refreshed school library and is intended for shared enjoyment at home.
**3. An Online Phonics Decodable Book – Oxford Owls**
Pupils will have access to the online decodable book on oxford owls, pupils will be given their own log in details for this and be able to access their RWI phonics book linked to the sounds they have covered during that week of their phonics session.

**Our School Library**




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Our newly redeveloped school library is now open. Each class across the school will visit on a rota to choose an ORT as well as a reading book for pleasure. The library will also be open twice a week during lunch for additional opportunities' for pupils to change their books.

**'Read to Succeed' – Whole-School Reading Initiative**

To support daily home reading, the Read to Succeed initiative will run across the whole school. Children earn a tick on their class '**Read to Succeed'** chart in school each time they read at home as well as this being recorded in their reading record. Reaching milestones will result in certificates awarded in assembly. To help motivate and celebrate regular home reading, all pupils taking part in our Read to Succeed initiative will also have the chance to be entered into a prize draw to win a Kindle at the end of the school year. Every child who reaches the reading milestone will have their name entered into the raffle. Because we are starting this initiative mid-year, the number of reading entries required to qualify for the raffle has been reduced to 100 reads for this year only. From next year onwards, children will return to the full-year total.

This aims to:

- increase reading engagement
- encourage regular home reading
- celebrate children's efforts and progress
- develop healthy competition

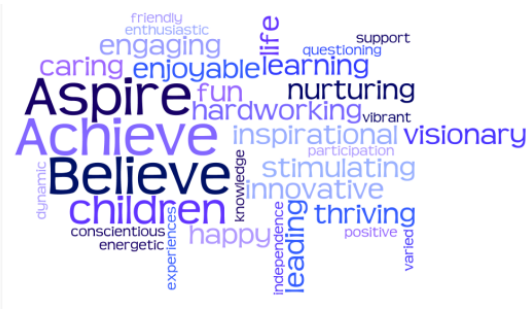
**Updated Approach to Spellings**

We are also updating how spelling is taught across the early years of school. Children in EYFS and Year 1 will continue to focus on securing their phonics knowledge, ensuring they can confidently blend, segment and apply sounds in their early reading and writing. From Year 2 onwards, pupils will take part in dedicated spelling sessions where they will learn the spelling rules and patterns that underpin accurate spelling. Children will no longer receive lists of words to memorise, as rote learning is ineffective without secure understanding of the spelling system itself.

- pupils will have weekly in-class spelling checks
- words will not be sent home to memorise
- tests will focus on applying the sound, rule or pattern taught that week
- all learning will take place in school rather than through home memorisation

Teachers will provide a half-termly list of the spelling patterns/sounds that will be taught, so parents understand what is being covered without needing to practise specific word lists.

We are confident that these changes will improve reading outcomes, strengthen reading fluency and comprehension, and help our pupils develop a lifelong love of reading.




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If you have any questions, please speak to your child's class teacher.

Warm Regards,
Miss Sidhu