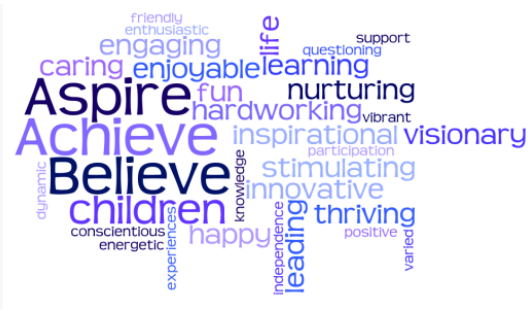


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Friday 5th December 2025

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.

Accelerated Reader (AR) – Gradual Phase-Out

Years 4–6 will continue using Accelerated Reader for now. However, during this academic year, pupils will begin to transition onto the Oxford Reading Tree (ORT) book-banded scheme. This gradual move will allow teachers to:

- match books more accurately to reading ability
- use teacher judgement more effectively
- provide a consistent reading pathway aligned with the rest of the school

Oxford Reading Tree (ORT)

As pupils begin to move onto ORT, they will take home:

1. An ORT book matched to their reading age
(These will replace AR books as the transition progresses)
2. A Reading-for-Pleasure Library Book
Chosen from our newly updated school library and returned on their library day.

School Library Access

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 reader during lunch for additional opportunities' to change their books at their pleasure.

'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



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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.

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

Warm Regards,
Miss Sidhu