



The Coppice Primary School Homework Policy

Written by	Bill Heptinstall ;Lindsey Ashwell;Caroline Keight; Callum McGarry
Approved by Trustees	March 2018
Date for Review	March 2021



Homework Policy 2018

Sharing homework expectations with parents and children

It is important that children and parents appreciate our rationale behind homework, that is, homework is set to practise key skills, primarily in Reading, Spelling and Mathematics. Accordingly, children's lack of engagement with homework will hamper academic progress. Certainly, with Reading in particular, school has not enough capacity to give every child the support they need when it comes to the necessary practise required to become a competent reader. Because of this, there is an expectation that homework will be completed. Teachers will contact parents where there is a shortfall in children's engagement with homework. If this persists, then a standard letter will be sent home and SLT informed.

At the beginning of every academic year, each teacher participates in a *Meet the Teacher* session with parents. This is a time when homework expectations for the year will be shared with parents; Parents' Evenings, at other times during the year, will be a good time to discuss homework too. At these times, it is worth sharing with parents and children that we have pared homework down to the bare essentials, and have attempted to make it as engaging as possible with budget investments in Athletics and Spellodrome.

Every child from Year 2 to Year 6 will be issued with a Homework Log. This keeps a record of children's homework, and is something that teachers, parents and children need to engage with.

There will always be an expectation for children to do homework. Accordingly, there will never be a school week where children have no homework except, maybe, on the week prior to a holiday. Sometimes, particularly with homework projects, additional information will be made available to parents via a letter or Year Group Newsletter.

Additional optional homework

Every half term, Class Teachers will set an additional, optional homework. This will usually link to the broader curriculum (or 'Topic') that the children are studying, and be set as a 'project'. It is an ongoing homework (i.e. set over a number of weeks within a school half term). Children should never receive this homework over holiday periods as The Coppice recognises that 'family time' is important during these periods.

Normally, such homework will be set at the beginning of the half term, and might include:

- research;
- collation of an associated information text;
- construction of a model;
- collecting things (e.g. autumn leaves for a collage)
- art work;
- conducting an activity (e.g. Science experiment) and being expected to report on the outcome;
- watching a particular TV programme and being prepared to comment on it.

The above list is not comprehensive but gives examples of the sort of activity that might be set. It may be that other optional homework is offered throughout the year from time to time (e.g. the Headteacher's Black History Month biography). These are often set up as competitions with rewards for the best entries.

Homework in Reception.

We work on the basis that a strong link between home and school with good quality, regular communication is very important and supports children succeeding well at school. In Reception we therefore ask children to read at home as often as possible. Accordingly, they are given a new book every week and are given sets of *tricky words* to learn by sight. Once children can read all these 45 words, we give work on spelling them from memory. Each child has a reading Log to enable communication between home and school on reading progress and development.

In Communication Books, each child has a reading / writing and maths target to work towards. Parents / carers can see when the child has achieved these as they are stamped with a trophy and dates. All children are encouraged to work on these next steps at home. The teacher will also use the communication books to give individual targets to the children such as practising a certain letter formation they are finding tricky to write in school, if this is needed.

The Teaching Assistants check Communication Books on a daily basis and, where needed, will inform the Class Teacher of any notes and messages or significant learning experiences from home. The books stay in school each Thursday evening, where the class teacher will make an individual comment on significant learning and behaviour, *next step* targets or celebrations (because a child has worked particularly hard and achieved a *next step*). There is information in the front of each of the Communication Books for parents/carers that explains how to use them effectively and examples of home/school comments that are useful and informative.

Each week the Reception Team send a newsletter home that explains areas of learning for the upcoming week so that they can be discussed at home with their children. On this newsletter, it also has an optional homework that is usually creative or experience led such as: go on an autumn walk; find a picture by the artist 'Kandinsky' and say what you like/don't like about it. This is all recorded in the Communication Book.

Homework in Year 1.

Homework in Year 1 follows a similar pattern to Reception classes (above), with the children being set a list of *tricky words*. The children have to be able to both *read and write* all of the words on the list before a new set is given.

Communication Books are still used, but only Writing and Maths targets are set (Reading targets are written into the children's Reading Diaries); any targets that have been achieved are dated and then a stamp or sticker is awarded. Communication Books stay in school on a Monday and Teaching Assistants check them then.

Each week a Mathletics task is set which the children must complete. They are more than welcome to complete further activities if they so wish. Class teachers monitor the use of Mathletics weekly, celebrating achievements of the children by checking their points and giving certificates.

An optional topic homework is included within the Year 1 weekly newsletter.



MATHS HOMEWORK (YEARS 1 - 6)

Homework tasks: Teachers will set weekly Maths homework tasks on Mathletics. One or two tasks will be set each week, which will either support recent learning or consolidate a previously taught concept. It is expected that **all** children complete the tasks set.

Homework expectations differ slightly as the children progress through school. The Maths homework expectations are as follows:

Year One and Year Two: Mathletics tasks set by the teacher must be completed

Year Three and Year Four: Mathletics tasks set by the teacher must be completed and a minimum of 500 points should be achieved

Year Five and Year Six: Mathletics tasks set by the teacher must be completed and a minimum of 800 points should be achieved

Additional points / Rewards: Once the set homework task/s on Mathletics are completed, additional points can be earned by completing other activities or by playing Mathletics Live. Points earned are monitored and tracked weekly by the class teacher. Achieving 1000 points in a week will earn your child a certificate. Scores of 1000 (or more) are recorded on classroom charts and Silver and Gold certificates will be given out during Celebration Assemblies. The school celebrates our weekly 'Mathletics Superstars' (those children with the highest scores from each class). In addition to this, children who are identified for their excellent efforts or achievements in Mathletics throughout the year, may also receive rewards such as badges, wristbands or medals.

Mathletics homework will be set for two terms of the year with one term (usually the Spring term) being set aside for a Times Tables Challenge and Problem Solving activities. During this time no additional Mathletics tasks will be set but of course the children can still log on, practise their skills and earn points.

Homework Log: The children should attempt the Mathletics tasks independently, however if they are struggling, then please encourage and support your child as required. We ask that each week you sign your child's Homework Log confirming they have completed the tasks and also record the total points they have achieved. Teachers will check and sign the Homework Logs weekly.

If your child struggles to access the homework due to Internet problems, they are able to use the school computer room every morning 8.25am - 8.45am where computers will be available.

Additional information regarding Mathletics can be found on the 'Guide to Using Mathletics at Home' document, which is available on the school website.

READING HOMEWORK YEARS 2 - 6

At The Coppice, we try to make all homework purposeful and meaningful. Therefore we ask that:

From Years 2 to 6: Children should read an age appropriate text for the minimum of one hour per week.

Within this time, both parents and children have the flexibility to split their reading over the week as needed. The time given to reading is the same across all age groups as we believe that the greatest and most valuable homework that children can do is to read consistently and regularly.

At the beginning of the year, during Meet The Teacher, teachers should share the expectations for Homework Logs. Once a child has read at home, the log must be dated, pages read must be recorded and parents must sign to acknowledge and agree to the time spent reading. Teachers will collect in logs and check that reading, as well as other homework, has been completed.

In addition to this, children are expected to complete quizzes (linked to the Accelerated Reader scheme) during school time **ONLY**, once they have finished their book. These quiz scores should be recorded in their Homework Log in the front pages, either by the Teacher, Teaching Assistant or the children themselves.

The amount of quizzes taken every week or half term are related to the difficulty of the text and the amount of time spent reading at home. There is not a maximum for the amount of quizzes that can be taken in a week or half term but we suggest that a minimum be:

Years 2-4: At least one quiz completed per week (depending on the length and difficulty of the text).

Years 5-6: At least one quiz every half term (depending on the length and difficulty of the text).

Teachers and Teaching Assistants will monitor the amount of quizzes completed in relation to the difficulty of the text, and will prompt both parents and children if necessary to discuss reading at home (e.g. this will happen if your child has not read and understood the book). Parents should be aware of reading tasks that are set and should support their child accordingly.

SPELLING HOMEWORK YEARS 2 – 6

At The Coppice, we expect all children from Years 2 to 6 to use Spellodrome for 20 minutes per week. The homework expectations for Spellodrome do differ slightly across the different Key Stages. The spelling expectations are as follows:

Year 2, 3 and 4: Children should earn a minimum of 500 points by completing any of the spelling activities. Teachers will set a maximum of 6 wordlists to be used at any one time.

Year 5 and 6: Children should earn a minimum of 500 points by completing any of the spelling activities. Teachers will set a maximum of 10 wordlists to be used at any one time.

Class teachers will set new wordlists based on what the children have been taught in their RWI Spelling or phonics lessons.

Spellodrome Points: Points earned are monitored and tracked weekly by your child's class teacher. Achieving 1000 points in a week, will earn your child a Millennium Helmet/Star Certificate and 100 credits. Achieving 5 Millennium Helmets will earn your child a Golden Bike/Galaxy Certificate and 250 credits. Golden Bike/ Galaxy certificates will be printed out and awarded during Celebration Assemblies.

Points are gained through:

- Word Detective win = 50 points
- Word List Workout (1 correct answer) = 10 points
- Words in Pieces completion = 50 points
- Crossword completion = 100 points
- Find a Word completion = 100 points
- Live Spellodrome:
 - Rookie correct answers = 10 points
 - Master correct answers = 15 points
 - Champion correct answers = 20 points
- High score = 10 credits
- Win race (100% accuracy) = 5 credits

Weekly 'Spellodrome Superstars' are also celebrated. The names of the children with the highest scores from each class will appear on the 'Spellodrome Superstar' board and they will also earn additional team points.

Homework Log: We ask that each week you sign your child's homework log book confirming and recording the total points they have achieved. Teachers will check and sign your child's Homework Logs weekly.

Additional information regarding Spellodrome can be found on the 'Spellodrome Parent Information Sheet', which is available on the school website.



Spellodrome Parent Information



What is Spellodrome?

Spellodrome is a web-based learning program that integrates home and school learning via the internet. As an online learning resource, Spellodrome is the next generation in learning, helping students enjoy English while learning. Spellodrome uses play and practice as the vehicle to encourage students to enjoy and improve their spelling skills. Spellodrome provides instant feedback on student's performance, maintain a high level of motivation, and offer teachers the opportunity to address children's learning strength and needs.

Why is The Coppice Primary School using Spellodrome?

How will Spellodrome benefit my child?

- Improves achievements by supporting teachers in designing personalised and engaging learning experiences which respond to individualised English needs.
- Provides immediate feedback as students know instantly how they are progressing.
- Empowers students to become more independent in their learning.
- Studies show increased engagement and motivation for learning when using tools like Spellodrome.

How will Spellodrome benefit me?

- Gives you a window into your child's learning.
- It is a convenient, quick way to monitor your child's progress by way of the internet.
- Provides the perfect link between home and school as you can sign up to receive weekly emails updating you on your child's progress.
- Educational and fun activity to engage your child in learning when at home.

Accessing Spellodrome:

You can now access Spellodrome from almost any mobile device, more details regarding devices can be found at

<http://www.3plearning.com/tech/spellodrome/>

You may need to update your Adobe Flash Player.

Logging on

Your child's username and password for Spellodrome are the same as Mathematics. Your child's login can be found out the back of their Homework Log. If your child loses this for any reason please speak to your child's class teacher.

Is my child's learning protected?

Yes... As long as the user name and password has been kept confidential.

Each student's Spellodrome account holds information relating to individual results and progress.

Please ensure that your child is the only one to access and use their account.

If you or your child thinks that someone knows the password please see your child's class teacher ASAP.

Homework: As Spellodrome is now part of our weekly homework at The Coppice, we ask that your child achieves 500 points



Your guide to using Mathletics at home



Your child is using Mathletics as part of their mathematics program at school and also forms the basis of their homework. Mathletics is a targeted, rewarding and captivating online resource which is aligned to curriculum standards. Your child can access Mathletics by signing in with their school username and password, using any compatible computer or mobile device.

Weekly tasks will be set by the class teacher which must be completed. Completing extra Mathletics activities at home can make all the difference to your child's progress. Please encourage them to achieve a weekly target of 1000 points to earn a certificate, working through bronze, silver and gold throughout the school year. (3 x 20 minute sessions per week should enable 1000 points to be achieved.) If 20 certificates are achieved during the school year, your child will receive a special 'Coppice Mathematics Award'.

▶ Sign up for FREE progress updates in 3 easy steps:

- 1 Visit www.mathletics.com/parent
- 2 Complete the form and click "Submit"
- 3 Look out for a weekly progress email in your inbox at the beginning of each week



PC & Mac
Simply visit www.mathletics.com and click **SIGN IN HERE**



Tablet & Mobile
Sign in through your device's browser at www.mathletics.com or download the Student App for offline use.

POINTS SYSTEM

1 point – for each Live Mathletics question correctly answered.

10 points – for each activity question correctly answered.

CREDIT SYSTEM

5 credits – when you win whilst playing Live Mathletics.

10 credits – when you beat your 'High Score'.

1000 points a week gains you a certificate.

We run a Mathletics club before school every morning 8.25am – 8.45am. If your child has not been able to complete their homework or would like to earn some extra points then they can come along to the computer room (accessed directly from the playground).

The scores are reset on Sunday evening so they will start each Monday morning from zero

Why is The Coppice Primary School using Mathletics?

How will Mathletics benefit my child?

- Improves achievements by supporting teachers in designing personalised and engaging learning experiences which respond to individualised Mathematical needs.
- Provides immediate feedback as students know instantly how they are progressing.
- Empowers students to become more independent in their learning.
- Studies show increased engagement and motivation for learning when using tools like Mathletics.

How will Mathletics benefit me?

- Gives you a window into your child's learning.
- It is a convenient, quick way to monitor your child's progress by way of the internet.
- Provides the perfect link between home and school as you can sign up to receive weekly emails updating you on your child's progress.
- Educational and fun activity to engage your child in learning when at home.

Student Console

What is Mathletics?

It is a web-based learning program that integrates home and school learning via the Internet. Mathletics uses play and practise as a vehicle to encourage students to enjoy and improve their number skills, with instant feedback on their performance.

Is my child's learning protected?

Yes...As long as the username and password has been kept confidential.

Each student's Mathletics account holds information relating to individual results and progress.

Please ensure your child is the only one to access and use their account.

If you or your child thinks that someone knows their password, please see the teacher and get it changed ASAP.

Home page

Play - Takes you to Live Mathletics. Here you can challenge each other from all over the world in real-time games that will test their speed and accuracy. **Rainforest Maths** and **Times Tables Toons** can also be accessed here.

Review - Check to see if you have any activities or tests set by your teacher

Bars - keeps you informed of your achievements

Weekly points Keeps a running total - aim for 1000!

Avatar - Personalise and modify their avatar and spend credits to purchase accessories.

Learn - Test your skills by completing the activities to practise different skills and earn points.

Progress -View your achievements and see all the certificates you have achieved

Gold bars -Indicates when a score of 85% has been achieved.

Quick link to Spellodrome.

Mathletics **Learn** **Play** **Review**

1080 points this week

Logout

The Coppice Primary School

Take the tour

My progress

My daily points

My gold bars!

Hall of Fame

Go to Spellodrome

Spellodrome

Topics	4	10
N - Number and Place Value	4	10
N - Add and Subtract	3	2
N - Multiply and Divide Mental		2
N - Multiply and Divide Written	5	4
N - Fractions	1	6 2
N - Fractions Calculating	1	6 4
N - Decimals and Percentages		
N - Patterns and Algebra		2
N - Problem Solving	1	
M - Perimeter, Area and Volume	1	
M - Units of Measurement		
G - Properties of Shapes and Position		1
G - Properties of Shapes and Angles		
S - Statistics	1	2

ABC DEF
MNO PQR STU VWXYZ



HOMEWORK OVERVIEW

Reception	Targets are set by the class teacher and will be written in the children's communication books. Communication books will remain in school on Thursdays for teachers to check.		Optional homework linked to topic work in class.
Year One	Tricky words are set which the children need to be able to read and spell before they are given a new list. Reading targets are set in the Reading Diaries and Writing targets in the Communication books		Additional topic related homework is set weekly (via the year group newsletter)
Year Two	At least one hour of reading each week (chunked accordingly).	Complete activities on Spellodrome using the weekly wordlist/s created by the teacher (up to a maximum of 6 wordlists at a time). A minimum of 500 points should be achieved.	
Year Three	At least one quiz per week should be completed in school (depending on the length and difficulty of the book)		Complete weekly Mathletics tasks online and achieve a minimum of 500 points <i>A 'Times Table Challenge' will be set at some point during the year.</i>
Year Four	At least one hour of reading each week (chunked accordingly).	Complete activities on Spellodrome using the weekly wordlist/s created by the teacher (up to a maximum of 10 wordlists at a time). A minimum of 500 points should be achieved.	Optional homework tasks will be set each half term linked to the broader curriculum (usually topic related). These should be completed during the half term and should not be set over half term / holiday periods.
Year Five	At least one quiz per half term should be completed in school (depending on the length and difficulty of the book)		
Year Six	At least one hour of reading each week (chunked accordingly).		

Please refer to the full Homework Policy (available on the School website) for more information regarding Homework expectations.

Data Protection Statement

The procedures and practice created by this policy have been reviewed in the light of our GDPR Data Protection Policy.

All data will be handled in accordance with the school's GDPR Data Protection Policy.

Name of policy	Content	Reason for policy	Who does it relate to?	Where is it stored?
Homework Policy	Guidelines for homework	To provide clarity	Parents	Secure Network drive

As such, our assessment is that this policy:

Has Few / No Data Compliance Requirements	Has A Moderate Level of Data Compliance Requirements	Has a High Level Of Data Compliance Requirements
√		

