



Coxheath Primary School

Mr Giacomo Mazza
Headteacher

Tel: 01622 745553
Fax: 01622 746986
Email: office@coxheath.kent.sch.uk
Web: www.coxheath.kent.sch.uk

Stockett Lane
Coxheath
Maidstone
Kent
ME17 4PS

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Dear Parents/Carers,

Reading will again - this academic year - be a major focus at Coxheath Primary School. We strongly believe that reading is one of the most important skills your child can learn and that it will support them in making progress across all the other subjects in the curriculum but more importantly will support them for the rest of their lives in whatever they choose to do in the future.

We are dedicating the first part of the school day to reading fluency. All classes in years 2-6 will read their reading book independently for the first part of the day until 9.15am. This gives the teacher and teaching assistant the opportunity to read with every child in the class at least once a week. Children in years R and 1 will share a story as a whole class during this time. This session is in addition to the daily reading lesson where the children are taught specific comprehension strategies.

Colour banded reading books have been in place in KS1 for some time but this will now continue into years 3 and 4. A significant amount of money has been spent on buying banded (levelled) reading books for these year groups to enable teachers to monitor the progress each child is making with their reading skills more closely. It will also enable parents to know what level their child is at with their reading. Teachers will move children through the bands as they make the required amount of progress. As you will see when these books are brought home, they are really lovely books and many of them are non-fiction so they will hopefully help your child to engage with what they're reading, particularly if they are a reluctant reader.

Due to the current hygiene measures in place at the school, reading books will only be changed on designated days. I hope you can understand that this is to minimise any possible spread of Covid-19. Books can be changed on a Monday and then collected back in on a Friday. Because their books are shorter, some younger year groups will have the opportunity to change their books midweek on a Wednesday. We will be encouraging children to read their book more than once as this is good practice regardless of the hygiene measures now in place.

Research shows that the first time a book is read the child is focussed on reading the words and as they read it over and over again they then start to understand the story. This will help children with their comprehension skills and their word recognition, which will lead to them enjoying reading much more.

New home/school reading records have been ordered for every child and we are waiting on delivery of them. As soon as they arrive, we will be sending them home. Parents will be expected to keep them at home all week and record home reading. We would ask that they be sent into school on a Friday so that the class teacher can monitor home reading. Teachers will then have them ready to send back to you on a Monday so that you can record the home reading each and every week.



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Homework for reading will be slightly different for the first part of this year. We will no longer be sending home a weekly comprehension based task but be placing much more emphasis on children reading their reading books at home regularly and with an adult. We will be expecting all children to read their reading book at home for a minimum of 20 minutes at least 3 times a week. The reading records will be used to monitor this. For some older children, who are fluent readers, only part of the 20 minutes needs to be the child reading to an adult and then it can be independent reading for enjoyment. We really believe that this will have much more of an impact on all children making good progress with their reading fluency. This may change at a later date.

Our reading reward system will continue again this year to encourage the children to read as much as possible. The badges will be replaced this year with certificates. Each certificate will be awarded by their class teacher when they have read the required amount of entire books. See below for numbers of books needed to be read for each certificate. As with last year, children can read extra books at home but this will need to be recorded in their reading record so that the teacher is made aware and can record this. This system will start as soon as the reading records are sent home.

Certificate	Number of books read	
	KS1 – Years R, 1 and 2	KS2 – Years 3, 4, 5 and 6
Certificate 1	20	15
Certificate 2	50	25
Certificate 3	75	50
Certificate 4	100	75
Certificate 5	150	100
Certificate 6	175	150
Certificate 7	200	175
Certificate 8	250	200

Thank you for your continued support.
Mrs Lonergan