

**Year 4 English Tasks – Monday 30th March 2020**

We have been working hard this term to ensure our copying is accurate. We have also been learning how to punctuate direct speech correctly. Today, we shall continue working on these skills!

**Parents:** Whilst copying may seem like a basic task, it is a skill that the children really do need to secure. Encourage your child to take their time and to check and then double check that what they have done is correct. Reading the work backwards from right to left often helps but I hadn’t had time to introduce this to the children. Many of the sentences to copy contain spellings and homophones as well as compositional and grammatical features we have been working on. Direct speech is showing the reader what a character is saying by using inverted commas (speech marks). Currently, the class are securing the punctuation rules that go with using direct speech. I will further develop these skills once the basics are in place.

**Children:** Remember to get your ‘f’ up to the same height as an ‘h’ or ‘l’ and that ‘t’ goes halfway! Don’t fall into my traps (homophones, end punctuation, names etc) when you copy – take your time and aim for perfection.

1. Copy each sentence using your best handwriting
   1. The boy preferred to use his bicycle when it was dry.
   2. Because it was raining, Eric was stuck inside!
   3. “Can I do the gardening?” Sophie asked Mr Gray.
   4. That is where their car crashed.
   5. Don’t sit there – it is where they’re painting!
   6. The gardener, who was called Fiona, hadn’t seen that the limiter was on!

To write direct speech correctly at our current level, you need to have the following ingredients:

Start with an inverted comma (“), then have a capital letter to start what you want the character to say. When they have finished, you need to end with suitable punctuation (, ? !) and not a full stop yet, then another set of inverted commas (“) and then explain who is speaking. Don’t forget the full stop at the very end. For example:

“Let’s run over there,” shouted Tina loudly.

1. Correct these sentences. The spellings are correct but they all have punctuation errors.
   1. “How are you?” asked David.
   2. “My favourite food is cheese,” exclaimed Ruth.
   3. “What’s going on?” asked the teacher angrily.
   4. “Look over there,” screamed Amy. (An exclamation mark would also work instead of the comma).
2. Write your own sentences which contain direct speech. Keep them simple to start and then try to be more adventurous if you are feeling confident.