



Pride, Perseverance, Kindness, Respect

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Dear Parents / Carers,

This year in English, one of our main priorities is to improve spelling across school for all pupils. We plan to tackle this in many different ways in order for pupils to be more confident in spelling both high frequency words and statutory words appropriate to their year group. We also aim for the children to have a better understanding of what their spelling words mean and how they can be used.

We are adapting the way in which we teach spelling and will be having more focused, explicit spelling lessons throughout the week. These lessons will all be based around a spelling rule. The main aim is for children to understand each spelling rule, rather than learn a set of words. If children learn a spelling rule they are more likely to be able to spell a range of words using that specific rule rather than just a selection they have learnt for a test. This week, your child will be sent home with a list of spellings that all use the same spelling rule. At the end of the next week, children will be tested on **most** of these words. However, they will also be given one or two challenge words that haven't been sent home but follow the same rule they have been learning. This approach will continue throughout the year but may vary in Year 6.

Please encourage your child to practise their spellings at home in whichever way is suited to your child, for example these can be written in different ways, use magnetic letters, post-its, play games, use online materials etc. There will also be a homework activity on the back of your child's spelling sheet to consolidate what they have been learning and children can return this to school at the end of each week. Each week's spellings will also be on Spelling Shed, together with games linked to the words/spelling rule. Your child's Spelling Shed login will be going in their planners shortly, and there is a spelling Shed parent guide attached for your information.

Thanks for your support of this key part your child's English learning.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Simpson