



'Believe & Achieve'

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Dear Parent/Carer,

20th September 2021**RE: Spellings**

We would like to introduce our new spellings scheme of work: Transforming the Teaching of Spelling. The spellings are all in line with the National Curriculum.

Spellings are certainly tricky and the English language contains well over a million words and has been affected by some 1,300 years of history. As the National Curriculum reminds us, "Most people read words more accurately than they spell them." With this in mind, we shall be introducing a clear and systematic view for teaching spellings that will provide our children with life-long strategies. Spellings need to be taught logically to see the magic of words, the patterns and how words can help transform their quality of writing.

The underlying structure of the approach is based on the three zones of spelling, Spelling Rainbow, explored through patterns, remembering and recall of spellings.

Organisation of spellings

During **week one**, a block of 50 minutes will be created to facilitate an investigation and ways of writing the phonic sounds using a letter/letters known as graphemes. The nature of this is a 'slow' look at patterns and working to improve or disprove a hypothesis. This will take place on our federated Friday Y2 working with Mrs Cawthra, Y3/4 working with Mrs Grundmann and Y5/6 working with Miss Jeffries.

During **week two**, the same amount of time is split into 5 x 10 minute slots to experience pace and take a quicker look at spellings involving analysis of common errors, why these errors occur and what to do to ensure that the correct spelling embeds in their long-term memory – this approach will ensure all pupils from Year 2 - Year 4 will have a systematic approach to spellings (Reception – Year 1 children will have daily phonics as before).

Underpinning the new spellings, there will be no homework and the children will not be tested on their spellings. However, there will be a focus on 5 spellings and is a focus until corrected in their real independent writing. Words can be changed as the children require them, and show they can use them accurately:

Record it on your Focus Five grid
 Identify the part you find tricky
 Use it correctly in your work 3 times
 Teacher identifies a new word/s to focus on.

If you have any questions relating to our spelling scheme, please let us know and we will do our best to answer any of your queries.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Grundmann
 English Lead