



'Spurring each other on with love'

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Headteacher: Mrs Tameka Hue Hamilton

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Dear Parents and Carers,

Re: Spelling Curriculum Review

After a review of our spelling curriculum, we have chosen to use the *No Nonsense Spelling* Programme to teach spelling. We made this decision because it has clear progression through blocks of teaching units each year and matches the ambition of the National Curriculum. The focus of the programme is on the teaching of spelling. The expectation is that spelling knowledge of spelling conventions - patterns and rules and the opportunity to promote the learning of spellings, including statutory words, common exceptions and personal spellings- will be taught explicitly.

Testing Content Taught

We know that there is little evidence that the traditional practice of learning spellings at home and being tested on them is effective. However, there is a high expectation within the National Curriculum that pupils will learn many increasingly complex words. We have therefore modified the way in which children's knowledge of the spelling is tested in school. Children will now be sent home each week with a spelling pattern and rule that they must practise using. They will be tested on five words which follow the spelling pattern. We will also send home five words from the statutory word list for each year group for the children to learn. *Adaptions may be made and some words might be from a different year group, depending on any gaps in spelling knowledge that might be identified through teacher assessment or for our children with specific needs.* We hope that this way of testing a spelling pattern will enable children to learn and apply a spelling pattern to many words rather than knowing how to spell just a few, having a positive and long term impact on their writing attainment.

Within the programme, a range of strategies for learning spellings are introduced and practised. This enables pupils to choose the strategies they find most effective for learning different words. I have attached these for your information along with the spelling expectations of your child's year group.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs L Rundell, English Subject Leader



Year Four National Curriculum Requirements:

- use further prefixes and suffixes and understand how to add them (English Appendix 1)
- spell further homophones
- spell words that are often misspelt (English Appendix 1)
- place the possessive apostrophe accurately, in words with regular plurals (for example, girls', boys') and in words with irregular plurals (for example, children's)
- use the first two or three letters of a word to check its spelling in a dictionary
- write from memory simple sentences, dictated by the teacher, that include words and punctuation taught so far
- proofread for spelling errors.

