



'Spurring each other on with love'

School Drive, Woolwell, Plymouth PL6 7JW

☎: 01752 301837 Email: admin@bickleighdowndevonschuk

Headteacher: Mrs Tameka Hue Hamilton

22 September 2023

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 Five National Curriculum Requirements:

- use further prefixes and suffixes and understand the guidance for adding them
- spell some words with 'silent' letters (for example, knight, psalm, solemn)
- continue to distinguish between homophones and other words which are often confused
- use knowledge of morphology and etymology in spelling and understand that the spelling of some words needs to be learnt specifically, as listed in English Appendix 1
- use dictionaries to check the spelling and meaning of words
- use the first three or four letters of a word to check spelling, meaning or both of these in a dictionary
- use a thesaurus
- proofread for spelling errors.

