

Teaching Spelling in School

The school follows '**Letters and Sounds**' to introduce phonics 'fast and first' in the early years. Letters and Sounds is enhanced with the use of Jolly Phonics actions and sounds. There is to be a renewed drive to make sure that children get through Phase 5 before moving out of Year 2 and into KS2. Phonics will be taught for a minimum of 20 minutes per day. Lessons should begin with a revisit and review of prior learning and should have good pace.

Once the children are ready for Phase 6, we will teach spelling patterns using the **Twinkl spelling scheme of work**. This scheme is well-resourced with a powerpoint and a poster for each lesson as well as games and a look, say, cover, write, check sheet. The poster to accompany the spelling pattern for the week will be displayed in each classroom so that children can refer to it but also so that teaching assistants / supply teachers will be aware of the spelling focus for that week and can insist upon correct spelling of these words in writing lessons. These spelling patterns will be taught throughout the week in short 15-20 minute sessions.

Weekly Spellings to Send Home

Alongside this approach to teaching spellings, the children will take home a list of words from the Letters and Sounds spelling scheme each week. This will be organised with children in groups, based on the results of a diagnostic test. The children will be tested on all of these words each week in KS1 and a random selection of approximately 5 words from this list in KS2. **The test should not be time consuming so** as to free up more time in the week for teaching spelling rather than administering the tests.

Statutory Word Lists – Spelling Bee

In KS2, the children are also expected to learn to spell the words from the **Statutory Y3/4 and Y5/6 word lists**. These lists will be sent home early in the year and the children will be asked to learn them for an **annual Spelling Bee competition**, which will be held at the end of May / beginning of June (this year's date – Friday 25th May 2018). The children will be given some opportunities to practise these spellings during class time but will also be expected to learn them at home. KS1 children will also take part in the Spelling Bee using a list of words taken from the 100 high frequency words. The children will then be tested on the words from their list and awarded a bronze, silver or gold spelling certificate.

Spelling Interventions

TAs may run spelling interventions for any children that find spelling difficult. They will also use the Twinkl spelling scheme but will begin at a stage appropriate to the needs of the children in the intervention group. They may work at a slower pace, ensuring children are secure with one spelling pattern before moving onto the next. The poster of the spelling pattern that they have focused on will be displayed in the classroom alongside the spellings being taught in class for the children and staff to refer to in writing lessons.

Michelle Holgate - English Coordinator

8th January 2018