

Supporting Spelling at Home

Dear parents/carers

As parents and carers you will want your child to be able to write and have control over their spelling. It is natural for you to want to be able to help your child to spell correctly. However, one of the main problems with English is that the relationship between speech and spelling is not simply between letters and sounds. Moreover, letters may sound differently in different words. For example when we listen to the letter 'a' in cat- cake- was- father- wall- any- about we can begin to understand the problem. It is indeed very confusing and makes *sounding out* a very dangerous way of learning to spell... the letter 'a' in 'was' could easily be written as an 'o'.

Since the sound of the word offers us little help you must teach your child to look at the whole word, remember it, and then write it from memory. You must encourage your child to see whether or not it looks right. When helping your child to spell always try to encourage them to learn groups of words that look the same irrespective of sound. Always talk about the look of the word and not the sounds of the letters. Encourage your child to look for letter patterns in words for example 'hear- heard- heart- early' all look the same because they have the word or letter pattern 'ear' in them.

Good handwriting is also very important because good spellers are usually able to write with speed in a well-formed flowing style of writing. This means that you should encourage your child to always write in joined handwriting making sure that they form their letters correctly.

All the spellings will be learnt in letter pattern groups so when practising them at home it will support your child if you learn them in the same way. Try to be relaxed and have fun with the words, look for tricks to help them make a good memory of the word e.g.

friend ---Friday is the **end** of the school week

island ---An island **is land** surrounded by water

occasionally --- Only an **ass** would spell occas**ionally** with a double 's'

Have Fun
Nichola Thorpe
Headteacher

Become a Wizard Speller



Use your senses to help you become a better speller...



Use your eyes. Look for patterns and tricky bits. Write down words to check whether they look right.



Use your ears. Say a word out loud and listen to how it sounds.



Use your hands. Sky-write, trace or write the word to see if it feels right.

Always write in your neatest joined up writing.



Use your brain. Think. Does it make sense? Learn spelling rules. Use what you know already.

LOOK SAY COVER WRITE CHECK

