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Headteacher: Mrs Sarah Crowther

Thursday 19th September 2019

Dear Parents/Carers

Spelling Changes

I am writing to inform our new Year 3 parents (and remind Year 4,5 and 6 parents) about a slight change that we made to our spelling programme last year in response to our whole school spelling progress.

Although good progress is apparent for the majority of our children, some of our children were yet to progress as quickly as we would have liked. As such, we introduced short daily spelling sessions in addition to our current weekly session to further expedite progress. Your child will also be bringing home 2 lists with 10 spellings on each. One of these will be their current year group list (the same as they have been doing all year) and a second one that aims to revise skills previously taught that have been identified as a class "gap". Most of the children will find that they already know the second list and it will merely prove as a reminder of a particular spelling pattern. For some children, this list will instead be their main focus. They will be expected to learn all 10 of the revision words and 2 of their Year group words (they will have highlighted these on their lists). Your child will know what their focus is to be upon. They will continue to be tested weekly on these plus 3 weekly focus words that are taken from their Year group's statutory word list. These 3 focus words will be practiced in class throughout the week (through regular "spelling bee" style recital within all lessons) and, therefore, will not be sent home. Your child will be aware of what these are.

It may be that some weeks your child focuses on their Year group words and others find they need to focus more on the revision list which is fine. If your child has been asked to focus on the revision list but finds this very easy, they have been told they can then learn the Year group words as well. With this more flexible system, the hope is that we can help all learners really embed these spellings so that they are consistently applying them in their own writing.

In Year 1 and Year 2, this may look slightly different as these Year groups are still establishing basic spelling rules and patterns with the children. Therefore, it may not always be appropriate to send out revision lists. Both Mrs. Llewellyn and Miss Anderton will send additional lists when they feel this is necessary as any gaps are identified.

As a school, we have really moved forward with our spelling and English in general (as was recognized in our OFSTED report) and this should continue to enhance our existing provision. I would also like to take the opportunity to thank you for your support with using Spellodrome (log-ins to come home with the children shortly). Our use of this system has gone from strength to strength with 160,960 points earned as a school in Autumn 1 2018, to 1,332,815 points in Spring 2 2019 - a huge increase! Let's see if we can beat that this year! This has definitely impacted our progress significantly. Classes and pupils in school have also regularly been in the top ten performers in the World!

As always, if you have any concerns about your child, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards.

Jonathan Tate

Jonathan Tate - on behalf of Sally Knowles
Year 5 Teacher/Reading Leader

