

Why do we need parents / carers help?

Spelling is a vital part of English lessons in all classes.

In Foundation Stage and KS1 the emphasis is on phonics and high frequency words, especially those that don't seem to follow phonic rules (we often call these tricky words).

In KS2 we continue to build on awareness of phonic rules and word families, building an understanding of prefixes and suffixes, key words (see back of Home School Diary), rules for plurals and the roots of some more complex words in the English Language.

All this takes time and, in addition, learning spellings benefits from practice.

Current learning theory suggests that to cement learning, children need to revisit learning within 24 hours—again within a week—and again within a month. (This is why some of you will see we are learning new spellings for 4 weeks and using the fifth week to revisit our spellings.)

Hopefully you can see that even just 10 minutes three times a week at home would really help!

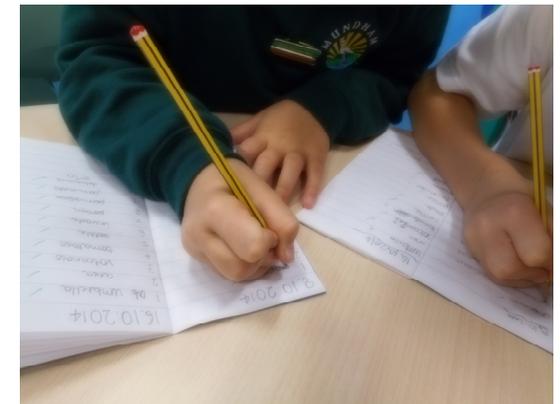
Useful websites:

www.bbc.co.uk/schools/parents/primary_support

www.topmarks.co.uk



Supporting your child to learn spellings



A few suggestions

How to get started

1. Aim to practice the spellings at least three times during the week.
2. If your weekends are busy—practice during the week nights and vice versa.
3. Make sure there are not too many distractions; television, older/younger brothers and sisters
4. Make sure your child really focuses and **looks** at the word.
5. Which bit of the word may be difficult to remember?

Some of these methods may help your child to learn.

Look Cover Write Check

- Look carefully at the word
- Cover the word up
- Write it from memory
- Check to see if you got it right.

Colour or size

Use colours to help you see the difficult part or write the difficult part bigger. Like this:

definitely definite

Chunking

Break the word into chunks and then spell out the chunks:

Diff-i-cult po-ten-tial

Graffiti Wall

Make a colourful wall picture—writing the spellings all over the page.

Visualisation

Write the word on a flashcard or whiteboard.

Hold the word high so that your child has to roll their eyes up to see it (not move their heads).

Take the word away—can your child roll their eyes up to where the word was and ‘see’ the word in their memory?

What to do if things aren’t going well

- See your child’s class teacher as soon as possible
- It may help to have fewer spellings for a while
- Would your child benefit from re-visiting some earlier spellings?
- We want your child to feel successful and know that they can achieve really well with practice. If you have an extra busy week and haven’t had time to practice - please see your child’s teacher.