

22nd November 2018

Dear Parent/Guardian

As you may have noticed, after half term we changed the scheme we use for spellings. We are now following the 'Spellzoo' scheme. Spellzoo covers all the statutory national curriculum requirements for each year group, which specify sounds and spelling patterns, as well as the non-statutory guidance, including all curricular word lists covering the English Curriculum spellings.

The Spellzoo scheme is organised around weekly sets of spelling words for each year group. These sets are used to create resources supporting three different objectives:

- Learning the spellings; using the Look, Say, Cover, Write, Check approach
- Expanding vocabulary; using different Word Activities
- Testing spellings; using Dictation Sentences

The word activities are completed daily in class and are linked to each week's spellings. There are four different activities, which vary across classes but may include: anagrams, word puzzles, dictionary definitions etc. for each weekly set of spellings. They are used in different ways and may be completed by individuals, groups or as a class.

The dictation sentences are used as the spelling test. Putting the word into context, by using a mixture of statements, commands and questions, along with the appropriate punctuation which follows guidelines set out in the National Curriculum. By the end of the KS1 dictations, the first 200 high frequency words will also have been covered. Parents are encouraged to support their child at home with their learning of the weekly spellings on a 'look, say, cover, write, check' sheet. Pupils earn house-points in school for practicing their spellings at home on a regular basis. The pupils take home a spelling test slip following their weekly test, this informs parents the amount (out of 10) spellings their child got correct, their total dictation score (which includes the additional points they earn for capital letters, punctuation and spelling of each correct word) and the amount of house-points earned for practicing at home.

Thank you for your support with helping your child learn their spellings.

Yours sincerely

Miss Hobbs
English Lead