

Dear Parent

The 'tricky words' spelling lists for year 1 are now available for you to use to support your child at home. (I will send them home with your child.) Some will be easy and may already be known; whilst others will need more practise. These sets cover the words from the autumn term, for revision, as well as the words for this half term.

Tricky words are irregular and cannot be sounded out. Therefore, the whole word needs to be learned. It is important to look at each tricky word and find out what is tricky about it e.g. in the tricky word 'was' the 'a' sounds like an 'o' and sometimes the 's' can sound more like a 'z'!

When your child has learned a word and can retain it, they can colour in the smiley face that goes with it or the part of the rocket that it is in so that they have a record of achievement. Choose to learn perhaps 3 or 4 words at a time; it is important not to overload them. We will also be learning and revisiting tricky words, alongside other phonics work, in class and there may even be a quick test from time to time!

I hope you find the following ideas helpful. Please come and see me if you require further support.

Miss Norton

Some ways to learn tricky words:

*Look, say, cover, write and check - Look at the word and work out which bit is tricky. Ask your child to write the word in the air and say the letters. Then cover the word and see if they can write it correctly. (A printable sheet is available to use if you wish, or you could use the blue spelling book from last term.)*

*Say it as it sounds – Say the word so that each letter sound is heard. For example, the word 'was' is said as 'w-a-ss' (rhyming with mass) and the word Monday is said as M-o-n/d-a-y.*

*Use a mnemonic where the initial letter of each word in a saying gives the correct spelling of the word e.g. Sally Ann is dancing for said or big elephants cry and upset small elephants for because.*

Other ideas and games:

*Incorporate 3 or 4 tricky words into a wordsearch.*

*Draw words into or with children's fun bath foam or with bath crayons. Use bath tub letters.*

*Use magnetic letters to make the word, muddle up the letters so that your child can unscramble it. Or use Scrabble letters instead and ask them to total the value of the word (extra maths practise!).*

*Cut letters out of the newspaper then sort and stick them down to spell the words.*

*Use various objects to spell out the word e.g. dried beans, pasta or lentils. Or use foods such as raisins which they could then eat if they spell the word correctly!*

*Write the words lots of times using various types of pens, pencils, crayons and colours.*

*Take turns to write the word on each other's backs. Can they guess which tricky word it is?*

*Make pairs of word cards and play a matching game – turn the cards over and muddle them up, flip over 2 cards, if they match keep them, if not turn them over again but try to remember where they are.*

*Write the word with some letters missing and ask your child to complete the word with the correct letters.*