



## Spelling Guidance at Home

Each week, spellings will be taught and tested. This year, will be revising spelling rules for Year 4 and 5 as well as going over relevant homophones, word lists and subject vocabulary. Below are some answers to questions we regularly get asked about spelling. If there are any other issues, please get in touch.

### **When should I practise my child's spellings?**

We understand that every household has demands on their time, however we recommend that 'little and often' is the best policy, sometimes focusing on 3-4 words for 5-10 minutes can make a big difference.

### **How should we practise them?**

Look-Cover-Say-Write can be an effective method of learning spellings, although it is not the only one. **Below** are a range of activities that your child (and you, if you wish) can engage in to help reinforce the spellings being learnt that week. Please feel free to try them and find what works best for you.

### **I can't find the spelling sheet anywhere and I wanted to practise tonight, what should I do?**

All the spellings for each half term will be uploaded on to our Year Groups webpage so you will always be able to find them there.

### **I'm satisfied that my child knows the spellings for the week**

If you think your child has retained the spelling you can:

- 1) Put them into context, spellings are not an end but the means to improve a child's vocabulary. Can they give an appropriate definition? Name synonyms and antonyms. How many words in the same word family can the name? Can they write sentences using the words correctly? Can they create a piece of writing using them? At the bottom of this document is a great sheet for dissecting and developing understanding of words. **Context is key when it comes to mastering spelling and vocabulary.**
- 2) On the Year Group Pages the relevant Key Stage spelling lists have been uploaded. Children can also try to learn some of the words from there.

### **My child seems to be struggling with spellings, what can I do?**



If at first your child finds them difficult, that's ok. The English language is complicated and some of the rules can appear confusing to adults as well as children. 'Little and often' practise is useful, along with reinforcing rules, and trying out which activities work best for helping your child learn the spellings. In school we can arrange for children who find spelling difficult to sign up to IDL. If necessary and possible, class teachers can also arrange for extra interventions.



# Supporting your child in Spelling

We hope that all children regularly practise their spellings using the look, cover, say, write method as rote learning can be effective for some children. Listed below are a number of additional methods that can be used to practise spelling to offer variety and further challenges. We hope you can use a range of these methods to find what is most effective (and enjoyable) for your child.

## Anagram

Using one of the spelling words for the week. Jumble up the letters and see if your child can recognise which word has been scrambled and then spell it correctly.

## Hangman

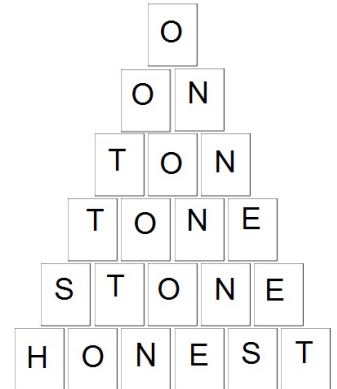
Play hangman with the spelling words. Offer an extra challenge by limiting the number of guesses and asking children to define the word.

## Kim's Game

Cut a piece of paper into pieces, writing a spelling word on each piece. Show your child the spelling words. Ask them to close their eyes, remove one or more words. Then ask your child to name which words are missing and to spell them. Choose a smaller number of words to begin with, then increase the amount to raise the challenge.

## Word Pyramid

See if your child can create a word pyramid (Pictured right). Start at the top and work down.



## Speed Write

Give your child 30 seconds. See how many times they can write one of the spelling words, compete against them to offer a greater incentive. Mark afterwards, only awarding correctly spelt and neatly written words. This works especially well for children with a competitive streak!

## Story Write

See if your child can write a story using every single spelling word for the week. This will help add meaning to the spelling words and you can be amazed by their creativity.

## Rainbow writing

Write out each spelling using a different colour for each letter

## Look for smaller words in larger words

There is a rat in separate – sep a rat e

## Mnemonic

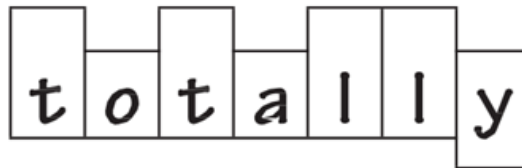
Make a silly sentence which spells out the word.

Because – big elephants can always understand small elephants

## Boxing up word

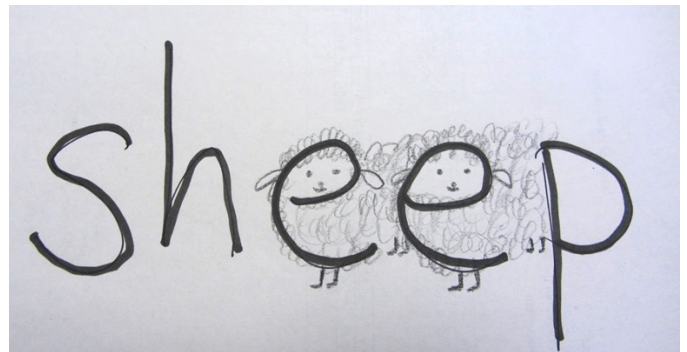
Drawing around  
the word to show  
the shape

Draw around the words making a clear distinction in size where there are ascenders and descenders. Look carefully at the shape of the word and the letters in each box. Now try to write the word making sure that you get the same shape.



## Artwork spelling

Your child can make a poster involving all the spelling words with a range of colour and detail on the words. An enjoyable, relaxing end to a spelling session.



# VOCABULARY LABORATORY

***Explain meaning / Definition:***

***Use in a sentence (add picture):***

***Target Word***

***Modifications:***

Modify to past tense, present, plural singular, add prefix or suffix etc.

***Word Class:***

***Prefixes***

***Suffixes***

***Synonyms***

***Antonyms***

***Morphology (Morphemes and Syllables)***

**Vocabulary Ninja**

*'Words unlock the doors to a world of understanding...'*

