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Dear Parents

We greatly appreciate the help you give to your children in learning spellings, as do your children particularly when they enjoy the confidence boost of getting 10 out of 10 in one of our tests! In order to make the most of your valuable input we would like to explain how we teach spellings.

Part of our spelling work at school focuses on the key words your child needs to be able to spell in their everyday writing. We are required by the National Literacy Strategy to help children to reach a high level of accuracy in spelling these 'high frequency' words as well as to learn spelling 'patterns' (groups of words with similar spellings). Often the 'high frequency' words are the ones that need to be memorised rather than built up from known patterns, and it is for this reason that in future a significant proportion of the children's spelling words will be chosen from this group.

The children are bringing home spelling books with their targeted spellings for the term/year pasted in them. Between two and four of these spellings will be chosen each week to learn at home. In addition, about 4-6 more words will be given linked to current literacy 'word level' work e.g. words using:-

- Patterns such as 'ai', 'ea', 'oa' etc - pair, cream, boat
- Blends such as pl, pr, sw, tr etc - play, sweet, trip
- CVC words such as cat, bed, pot, big, mug

The children will be tested the following week on any of the words in their spelling book and results will be recorded for you to see. When a word is learned correctly it can be ticked or coloured in on the 'word wall' in their spelling book with the agreement of a teacher or assistant.

Each half term we will check to see if the children can remember the words they have practised. If they know them all we can move them on to a new level of difficulty.

We believe that by working on spellings in this way your child will be learning the words that are most relevant to their writing, whatever their individual level or year group. They will also be practising words that follow regular patterns to give them the skills to build unknown words.

Please find attached a few ideas for how to help your child with their spelling. A couple of short sessions a week can make a lot of difference to your child's learning.

Thank you for your time in reading this letter. I hope the information included is helpful.

Kind regards

Ann Herridge