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Dear Parents and Carers

As part of our on-going review of teaching the New Primary Curriculum for English, we have introduced a new spelling programme for Y2 to Y6. The focus of the programme is on the *teaching* of spelling, which embraces knowledge of spelling conventions - patterns and rules. Integral to the teaching is the opportunity to promote the *learning* of spellings, including statutory words, common exceptions and personal spellings.

Learning needs to happen in school and at home. There is little evidence, though, that the traditional practice of learning spellings at home and being tested on them at school is effective. However, there is a high expectation within the new National Curriculum that pupils will learn many increasingly complex words. Within the programme, learning spellings is built into each six-week block. Within the sessions a range of strategies for learning spellings are introduced and practised. This enables pupils to choose the strategies they find most effective for learning different words.

The blocks of lessons follow a revise, teach, practice, apply/assess sequence with plenty of opportunity for revision. Year groups will focus on the statutory spellings that should be learnt by the end of a phase (you can find a list of these in your child's new Reading Journal) plus spellings that meet the requirements of the year group your child is in. We will be regularly testing children on the appropriate spellings throughout the year as part of this teaching sequence, but it will no longer be once a week on a certain day. Some teachers may also send home weekly spelling lists. These are in addition to the spelling work done in school but will be practicing some of the words appropriate to the high demands of the year group. We would appreciate it if you could regularly help your child to learn these spellings and those on the statutory list in their Reading Journals. I have enclosed details of some of the methods we will be covering in school. You might like to see which you and your child find most helpful according to their own preference and the particular word being learnt. You might find it helpful to test your own child at home on these spellings so that you are aware of the progress being made.

Thank you for your support with home school learning.

Mrs W Rayner
English Subject Lead



Suffolk County Council
Children's & Young People's Services

<p>Look, say, cover, write, check</p>	<p>This is probably the most common strategy used to learn spellings. Look: first look at the whole word carefully and if there is one part of the word that is difficult, look at that part in more detail. Say: say the word as you look at it, using different ways of pronouncing it if that will make it more memorable. Cover: cover the word. Write: write the word from memory, saying the word as you do so. Check: Have you got it right? If yes, try writing it again and again! If not, start again – look, say, cover, write, check.</p>
<p>Trace, copy and replicate (and then check)</p>	<p>This is a similar learning process to ‘look, say, cover, write, check’ but is about developing automaticity and muscle memory. Write the word out on a sheet of paper ensuring that it is spelt correctly and it is large enough to trace over. Trace over the word and say it at the same time. Move next to the word you have just written and write it out as you say it. Turn the page over and write the word as you say it, and then check that you have spelt it correctly. If this is easy, do the same process for two different words at the same time. Once you have written all your words this way and feel confident, miss out the tracing and copying or the tracing alone and just write the words.</p>
<p>Segmentation strategy</p>	<p>The splitting of a word into its constituent phonemes in the correct order to support spelling.</p>
<p>Quickwrite</p>	<p>Writing the words linked to the teaching focus with speed and fluency. The aim is to write as many words as possible within a time constraint. Pupils can write words provided by the teacher or generate their own examples. For example, in two minutes write as many words as possible with the /i:/ phoneme. This can be turned into a variety of competitive games including working in teams and developing relay race approaches.</p>
<p>Drawing around the word to show the shape</p>	<p>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.</p>

<p>Drawing an image around the word</p>	<p>This strategy is all about making a word memorable. It links to meaning in order to try to make the spelling noticeable.</p>  <p>You can't use this method as your main method of learning spellings, but it might work on those that are just a little more difficult to remember.</p>
<p>Words without vowels</p>	<p>This strategy is useful where the vowel choices are the challenge in the words. Write the words without the vowels and pupils have to choose the correct grapheme to put in the space. For example, for the word <i>field</i>:</p>
<p>Pyramid words</p>	<p>This method of learning words forces you to think of each letter separately.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"> f ld p py pyr pyra pyram pyrami pyramid </p> <p>You can then reverse the process so that you end up with a diamond.</p>
<p>Other strategies</p>	<p>Other methods can include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rainbow writing. Using coloured pencils in different ways can help to make parts of words memorable. You could highlight the tricky parts of the word or write the tricky part in a different colour. You could also write each letter in a different colour, or write the word in red, then overlay in orange, yellow and so on. • Making up memorable 'silly sentences' containing the word • Saying the word in a funny way – for example, pronouncing the 'silent' letters in a word