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Headteacher: Mrs J. Conway



Dear Parent/Carers,

### **RE: Spellings at Whitegate End**

This year we are introducing a new spellings scheme of work: Transforming the Teaching of Spelling. The spellings are all in line with the National Curriculum and also help to stretch the children's vocabulary.

Spellings are certainly tricky and the English language contains well over a million words and has been affected by some 1,300 years of history. As the National Curriculum reminds us, "Most people read words more accurately than they spell them." With this in mind, we shall be introducing a clear and systematic view for teaching spellings that will provide our children with life-long strategies. Spellings need to be taught logically to see the magic of words, the patterns and how words can help transform their quality of writing.

The underlying structure of the approach is based on the three zones of spelling, explored through patterns, remembering and recall of spellings.

#### **Organisation of spellings**

During **week one**, a block of 50 minutes will be created to facilitate an investigation and ways of writing the phonic sounds using a letter/letters known as graphemes. The nature of this is a 'slow' look at patterns and working to improve or disprove a hypothesis. Each class will have 15 focus words which are used over the course of 2 weeks and we will have a progress check to see if the children can spell these words correctly.

During **week two**, the same amount of time is split into 5 x 10 minute slots to experience pace and take a quicker look at spellings involving analysis of common errors, why these errors occur and what to do to ensure that the correct spelling embeds in their long-term memory – this approach will ensure all pupils from Year 2-Year 4 will have a systematic approach to spellings (Reception – Year 1 children will have daily phonics as before).

Underpinning the new spellings, there will be no specific list of words sent home as we are focusing on teaching these spellings in school. Should you wish to help with these the class teachers will post them onto Seesaw every two weeks. It may be you notice these words when you are reading together or when you see words when you are out and about. We know the practising of spellings can cause some pressure/anxieties at home and want to help alleviate this.

If you have any questions relating to our spelling scheme, please let us know and we will do our best to answer any of your queries. Thank you as always for your on-going support.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Bingham  
Deputy Headteacher

*'To be the best that we can be'*