



9 January 2023

New 'No Nonsense' Spelling Curriculum

Dear parents and carers,

We are continually reviewing the resources we use and how to best meet the needs of the children. We found that our spelling programme covered the necessary words children needed to learn, but it did not give enough opportunity for breadth of learning and practise.

A lack of spelling confidence can lead to a paralysing effect on writing; reluctance to take risks with ambitious vocabulary results in safe but dull writing. Confident spellers with a fluent handwriting style are free to concentrate on composition.

Therefore, we have moved to a new spelling programme called *No Nonsense Spelling* to improve the spelling confidence across the school and allow more opportunity for the children to become self-directed learners.

The focus of the programme is on the teaching of spelling, which embraces knowledge of spelling conventions – patterns and rules; but integral to the teaching is the opportunity to promote the learning of spellings, including statutory words, common exceptions and personal spellings.

This is approached through multiple and meaningful exposure to spellings.

Just one time through – like memorising words for a spelling test – does not give them multiple, nor meaningful exposure to the words. Most children need to interact with the words through hands-on spelling activities to really know the word.

Lessons will be shorter, focused and use the following approaches.

Revise	Activate prior knowledge Revisit previous linked learning
Teach	Introduce the new concept Explain Investigate Model
Practise (games etc)	Individual/group work extend./explore the concept independently Investigate Generalise
Apply/Assess	Assess through independent application Explain and demonstrate understanding

As a consequence of this shift your child might have less or more spellings to practise at home in different weeks. In addition, to using Spelling Shed, they will be encouraged to use different activities and investigations to consolidate their learning. They will have a personalised spelling list made up of Year 3/4 words or Year 5/6 words.

We ask that you continue to support your child with their homework and make sure that importance is placed in correctly spelling words. If you would like help with this, please do not hesitate to call the school and speak to me.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Quintana

Assistant Head Teacher, English and Curriculum Leader