

September 2021

Dear families

Accurate spelling is an important part of the process of learning to write successfully, but also has an impact in regards to the books pupils can read. Confident spellers transfer this confidence into all aspects of English. As a result, the Trust has made changes to the spelling programme this year.

Research has shown that weekly spelling tests have little effect on pupils' progress. **Pupils will still receive weekly spelling lists and are still encouraged to practise these at home to consolidate their learning. Spelling teaching will replace weekly spelling tests, and will focus on phonics, spelling patterns and word structure, as well as the history of words. Spellings will also be taught across the curriculum.** Assessment will now take place at the end of every half-term. This will allow teachers to identify and recap key spellings.

The teaching of spelling will be closely linked to the Read Write Inc. spelling programme. For year groups where pupils are still on the phonics programme, this time will be used for additional phonics teaching.

Together, we can continue to raise the standards of English, in order to ultimately transform the life chances available to our pupils. We look forward to your co-operation. If you require any additional guidance or support regarding spelling, please do not hesitate to contact your class teacher.

Yours faithfully

Mr McGarry
Associate Director of English