

Thames Spellings – September 2020

Dear Parents,

As educators, we always find spellings a very challenging area of the curriculum to manage. Every individual has their own unique way in which to learn spellings effectively, thus making it difficult to find a 'one size fits all' approach. As a result, we will be using a variety of different strategies this year and hope that at least one of them is effective for your child. We do know that the following strategies usually prove to be the most effective:

- Short frequent practice (joined writing helps with muscle memory)
- Regular quizzing
- Visualisation (of the word shape, images to associate with word meaning)
- Rules and rhymes (i before e except after c)
- READING – the more children read, the more they recognize when a spelling LOOKS right or wrong

WEEKLY SPELLING

- A weekly spelling list of 10 words will be set each Friday to be tested the following Friday (spelling folder to be in school EVERY FRIDAY)
- Weekly look, say, cover, write, check activity on one side and a blank side to choose their own method for practice
- Daily practice of 5-10 minutes at home

STAR SPELLINGS

The National Curriculum has produced a list of just over 100 words that children are expected to know how to spell by the end of Year 6 (along with the previous words on the Year 3 / 4 list).

- Every short term they will have a list of about 25 words to learn alongside their weekly lists

QUIZLET

Quizlet is a powerful revision tool used by many educational establishments to provide online quizzing. Thames have their own lists on Quizlet to help practise both weekly spelling lists along with the STAR SPELLING lists. **Parent will need to sign their child up to a free subscription at home** (parent email details are required for this). Once children have a subscription, they can access the Thames Spelling lists by:

- Using the search tool and entering: THAMES 2020
- Using the search tool and entering: heathersparks7
- Choose Autumn 1 (to practise STAR SPELLING LIST)
- Choose weekly lists by entering in the rule for rule for the week (Prefix over & under)

SPELLING TUTOR

- Children have a login to practise at home and school. They will move up a level when they are consistently confident with the words in their level.

For many children, learning spellings is a long and steady process that can at times, be enormously frustrating. Encouragement and support from you along with daily effort will enable your child to make progress.

As ever I thank you for all your support with your child's learning journey and always feel free to contact me should you have any questions.

Best wishes,

Heather Sparks
Thames Class Teacher