



**TEWIN COWPER
CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL
VOLUNTARY AIDED**



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Dear Parents/Carers,

Many children will not learn to spell accurately unless they are taught how and have the opportunity for lots of practice. Learning lists of words in isolation, for some children, doesn't make them better spellers in writing. Effective spelling builds on phonics (learning the sounds that letters or groups of letters make), which is taught from Reception.

Therefore, this year, our approach to Spellings will be changing slightly. Our main focus with spellings will be covered in class and because of this, your child will not be bringing home a weekly spelling list as has been done in the past.

What will we be doing?

All teaching, testing, applying and reinforcing will be done in class with your child's teacher. Lessons will be focusing on spelling patterns and reinforcing each child's phonics knowledge. Each class' teaching will cover the National Curriculum's expectations of spellings and will offer support and challenge where needed. Children will also be provided with their own 'in class dictionary' that they can add their spellings to. This will also help children to learn words they may have spelt incorrectly in their writing.

What will you get at home?

Although your child will no longer be bringing home a spelling list every week, your child may bring home a word list that shows the spellings that will be covered in your child's year group during that half term. This word list contains the words for that year group and are quite challenging in some areas. You may dip into these and practice with your child at your own leisure. If your child does not bring a word list home this is because they will be focusing on different spelling patterns and are not yet ready to be learning the words aimed at their year group. For example, your child's teacher may prefer to focus on a certain spelling area for development - high frequency words, common misconception words (words that don't fit into normal spelling patterns) or spelling patterns your child may be struggling with in their English lessons - rather than moving them on to trickier Year group spellings. If you want to know more about what spellings your child is focussing on, make an appointment to see your class teacher. You may find that at certain points over the year, your class teacher has sent a different list of words home with your child. This is to support any in class intervention and is purely just to give your child extra practice.

How can children practice at home?

Practising spellings at home is an invaluable and highly effective tool which can still be done without the weekly spelling list. For words to practise refer to your child's year group word list or ask your child what spellings they have been learning in class (if your child has not been given a year group word list because they are focussing on different spelling patterns, please ask your child's teacher.) You will notice that the word list is grouped by sound or spelling pattern - encourage children to think of different words with the same sound or spelling pattern and write them in a sentence. When reading with your child, focus on any words that they find tricky to sound out, look up the meaning and practice with look, cover, write check. Dictate a sentence to your child which contains one of their year group's spellings.

As teachers, we have noticed that over the years, children are not having enough input with learning specific spelling patterns because they are learning words purely for test purposes. We are hoping that with this new approach we will be able to support each individual child within their spelling needs and see an improvement, not just in tests, but also in their longer pieces of writing.

If you have any other questions regarding spellings or how you can support your child at home, don't hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards,

Rachael Mileham
English Subject Leader