

Eleanor Palmer Cracks Spelling!

Please join us in our campaign to improve our spelling!

This term we are going spelling crazy in a whole school focus to become more confident, accurate, and knowledgeable spellers!

To improve and develop their spelling children must:

- develop an interest in words
- feel safe about trying new words
- Develop an understanding of:
 - the way words are built up using syllables
 - basic spelling patterns of English
 - memorising strategies
 - the meanings of words
 - prefixes and suffixes
- write for their own enjoyment without the fear that they will be criticised
- read for pleasure



Parents can help their children by:

- knowing that spelling practice at home should just be an extension on what has already been done in school.
- encouraging them to look closely at words and talking to them about words. What do they mean? Can you find their root?
- encouraging them to have a go at new words
- playing word games e.g. Boggle, Hangman, Scrabble - the old games really are the best!!
- encouraging effective memorizing strategies (see overleaf)
- respecting 'good mistakes' i.e. those which use letter patterns which do make the right sound, even though they are not right for that particular word. e.g. purpose - *purpus* would be a good guess - like "focus" *prupose* would be a less good guess
- encouraging spare time reading e.g. pointing out interesting newspaper items, encouraging visits to the library, buying comics, magazines and books as treats
- ensuring a dictionary is on hand for homework

At school, we teach and practise spelling using lots of different approaches and strategies. Overleaf are just a few tried and tested strategies and activities to try at home when learning spellings!

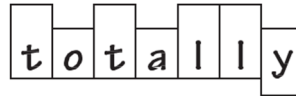
Look, Cover, Write, Check

One of the most common strategies used to learn spellings!

- **Look:** first look at the whole word carefully and if there is one part of the word that is difficult, look at that part in more detail.
- **Say:** say the word as you look at it, using different ways of pronouncing it if that will make it more memorable.
- **Cover:** cover the word.
- **Write:** write the word from memory, saying the word as you do so.
- **Check:** Have you got it right?

Word shapes

Draw around the words making a clear distinction in size where there are ascenders and descenders. Look carefully at the shape of the word and the letters in each box. Now try to write the word making sure that you get the same shape!



Make it memorable!

Making a word memorable and link to its meaning, in order to try to make the spelling noticeable. This won't work for all spellings, but might work on those that are just a little more difficult to remember!



Quick Write

Writing the words linked to the teaching focus with speed and fluency. The aim is to write as many words as possible within a time limit!

Rainbow writing

Using coloured pencils in different ways can help to make parts of words memorable. You could highlight the tricky parts of the word or write the tricky part in a different colour!



Hangman!



This game works particularly well for practising vowel sounds.
e.g. field

f _ _ ld

Pyramid words

This method of learning words forces you to think of each letter separately. You can then reverse the process so that you end up with a diamond!

p
py
pyr
pyra
pyram
pyrami
pyramid

Other ideas...

- Writing a few options and asking 'does it look right?'
- Mnemonics for a few that are tricky
e.g.
because - *'Big elephants can't always use small exits'*
necessary - *'Never eat cake, eat salmon sandwiches and remain young'*
diarrhoea - *'Dash in a real rush: hurry or else accident!'*
- Putting the word in context in a sentence, or writing silly sentences! Using all your spelling words in a short story!
- 'Air spelling' - write the word in the air slowly with your index finger, saying each letter.
- Writing spellings in unusual ways or in unusual places e.g. sand, salt, flour, with paint, using cut out letters from magazines or newspapers!