

Dear Parents & Carers,

## Spelling

Over my first term as English leader, I have been monitoring the teaching of English at Kings Worthy. An element of the English curriculum that we have been able to make changes to so far is the teaching of spelling.

This letter is to outline the changes we have made to ensure that children can progress in their understanding of spelling, as well as what you can do at home to support your child/ren further.

The changes we have made so far include, implementing three dedicated spelling sessions a week from Years 2 – 6 where children are able to embrace knowledge of spelling conventions, in particular, thinking about spelling patterns and rules. Without these spelling sessions and the teaching of spelling, we cannot expect children to know how to spell words. Spelling is a learned skill rather than an innate ability. As children progress through the school they will be able to draw upon a wide range of techniques to help them spell unknown words.

So far, the children have embraced the spelling sessions and have loved using their spelling journals to create ways to help them remember how to spell words they are finding tricky.

Alongside these spelling sessions, there will be no weekly spelling tests. From monitoring spelling last term, the spellings that were learnt by the children were often only learnt for that week, they were usually not applied in their writing and the children were unable to embed the spelling because they had not been taught strategies to help them become independent spellers. There may be times when your child is sent home with some words to learn through strategies that we have been doing in class but there is no expectation for them to learn them for a test.

Year R and Year 1 will continue to have daily phonics sessions following the 'Letters and Sounds' scheme. For those wanting to find out more about phonics, there will be an information session on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> September at 9am and 6pm.

Please see the attached information page of different strategies you can use at home to support your child with learning.

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## Ways to learn spelling

- Break it into sounds (c-a-t)
- Break it into syllables (re-mem-ber)
- Break it into root words and affixes (unnecessary)
- Use mnemonic (necessary – **one** collar and **two** sleeves)
- Use your knowledge of word roots (two, twelve)
- Use word families (would, could, should)
- See words within words (friend until the **end**, a **rat** in separate)
- Use spelling rules (writing, written)

### Top Ten ways to learn a spelling

<p><b>1</b> Break it into sounds eg</p>  <p><b>2</b> Break it into syllables eg</p>  <p><b>3</b> Break it into root words and affixes eg</p>  <p><b>4</b> Use a mnemonic eg</p>  <p><b>5</b> Use your knowledge of word roots eg</p> 	<p><b>6</b> Use word families eg</p>  <p><b>7</b> See words within words eg</p> <p>a friend to the <u>end</u> a rat in <u>separate</u></p>  <p><b>8</b> Use spelling rules eg</p>  <p><b>9</b> By sight - learn the shape of the word eg</p>  <p><b>10</b> By movement - get used to writing the word with your finger, a pen, in the air.. eg</p> 
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