

How you can help your child learn to spell

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

This year we are working on improving the spelling of our students. We are starting with a focus on 'Essential Words'. Essential words are the most commonly used words in writing. They are aligned with National Standards and are organised into lists from 1-7. Every child in the school has been tested and will be learning words from their correct list. Children will be learning spelling words, rules and patterns in their class. However we are also hoping to work together with you to ensure children learn the words they need to each year.

You will be provided with the lists of words we would like your child to be able to spell. Please check your child can read the words they will be attempting to spell and that they understand the meaning of the word. For example; the different meanings of there and their. Your child may already know how to spell some words on the list but may not yet be spelling them correctly in their daily writing. This often takes longer than learning to spell them correctly during a test. Revision of these words will be of great benefit. Your child will be tested regularly at school. This will often be buddy testing. Copies of the lists are available on our website, along with other useful information regarding expectations for spelling and writing at each Year level. You are welcome to download your child's next list when they are ready.

Children who have achieved all seven lists will be using topic words and misspelt words from their daily writing as part of their spelling programme. This will be managed in the classroom and these children will not have lists to learn at home.

We would like your child to focus on only five of these words each week. (See the reverse side of this sheet for a flow chart on how to learn to spell a word). It is important the child hears, sees, says and writes words they are learning to spell. Some more suggestions are included below. (Junior children should focus on the first few bullet points only).

- think about a little word that lies in a bigger word, for example 'at' is inside 'mat' and 'cat' or 'lane' inside 'miscellaneous'.
- write the word in different ways, for example, using colours or font types.
- write each word on a card. Make two sets and play games, such as 'snap' or 'memory'.
- put the word into a sentence (spoken, or for older children, write the sentence)
- break the word into syllables, for example, 'a-maz-ing'
- children can look for spelling words within texts they are reading

Try to keep the learning of these words fun and stress-free for both you and your child.

Kind regards,

Greenhithe School Staff.