

Dear Parent(s)/Carer(s),

This year we are introducing a new system of spelling. Following the success of 'Big Maths Beat That' and the 'Spelling Bee', we have decided to introduce a competitive element to the weekly spelling test.

Each term, the children will be given a list of approximately 28 words to learn. These spellings are taken directly from the National Curriculum Spelling Appendix for the child's age. The children will be expected to learn as many of these as possible, with the intention that they will know all 28 fluently by the end of the term. Each week, the aim is to beat their own personal score; it is not a competition against other children. The class total will then be averaged giving a collective score.

In our experience, using the traditional weekly spelling test, children tend to learn the words for the test and then forget them in their work after this. We hope that by learning these words repetitively they will be embedded in their learning.

Alongside this weekly test, the teachers will be teaching a different spelling rule each week which will apply to one or more of the words on the list. This means that the children will be equipped to improve their score week in week out.

Today, we will be sending home the list of spellings. Please support your child to learn these. You may wish to start with just a few at a time. This system will be explained further at the upcoming welcome meeting. If you have any further questions, please see your child's class teacher.

Many thanks,

Michelle Devine and Lucy Croft (Literacy Subject Leaders)