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Spelling at Ecclesfield Primary School

Dear Parents and Carers,

Over the past few months, we have been reviewing and reflecting on how we teach and assess **spelling** as a school. In order for pupils to be able to encode with success, children need to know, recognise and understand which sounds are represented by which spellings. We aim to create a way for **all** children to spell quickly and to be able to **apply** it to their independent writing.

As a result, we have purchased a new spelling scheme which is being rolled out throughout school.

ELS Essential Spelling: Year 2

ELS Essential Spelling will be used in Year 2 and aids the important transition from phonics to spelling. ELS Essential Spelling provides children with the opportunity to revise the code they already know by looking at grapheme-phoneme correspondences (GPCs) they have already been taught. Within each lesson, the specific code being taught is shown within words and then studied. This builds on children's phonic learning from Foundation Stage and Year 1. Exposure and repetition are key to enabling children to become successful spellers



e.g. Children will identify the focus spelling, spell the words using the focus spelling and check the spelling has been used correctly in the words.

Essential Spelling and Word Knowledge: KS2 (Y3 Y4 Y5 Y6)

Essential Spelling and Word Knowledge is a way of thinking about words that enables pupils to understand the patterns in the English language using a combination of **morphology** (the study of word structure), **etymology** (the study



of the history and development of words) and awareness of **phonological rules** (expressing how sounds are systematically changed).

e.g. Children will practise making words using prefixes and suffixes and adding them to the root word for the week.



In line with our new schemes, we will no longer be conducting weekly spelling tests in their current form. Assessment of spelling will be ongoing through children's application of spelling when writing in all areas of the curriculum. There will be half termly assessments based on the areas the children have learnt; this will be in a variety of forms which support children's understanding of the patterns rather than learning individual words.

Parental Support

We recognise the importance of parental support, so we will continue to send home spellings on the weekly homework. These words are not an exhaustive list that the children are required to learn but are rather words which support their understanding of rules or patterns that have been taught in school.

Please note the children will receive words related to content they have learnt the previous week.

As we have asked previously, encourage your child to practise these spellings and apply them into their own writing. *E.g. If 'knight' is a spelling, encourage the children to use the word 'knight' in a dictated sentence.* Ask your child to explain the rules or patterns they have learnt in school and other words which have a similar rule or pattern.

Should you have any questions, please speak to your child's class teacher, Mrs Oldham or Mrs Travers. Additionally, at the coffee afternoon on **Friday 15th November**, Mrs Oldham will give a short presentation on how we teach spelling at Ecclesfield Primary. It would be wonderful to see you there.

Kind Regards,

Mrs Oldham and Mrs Travers (English Team)

