

Goddard Park

Community Primary School

An Integrated Academy and Children's Centre



Headteacher: Mike Welsh

Everybody learns, everybody cares

Spelling Bee

Reviewed: Spring 2017

Spelling Bee is whole school initiative which teaches both set words from the national curriculum and patterns.

Where the words came from....

The new Spelling Bee words have been selected using the national curriculum and the spelling appendices contained therein. The selection of words ensures coverage of all of the spelling rules and word lists for each year group.

As the curriculum is organised as year 3/4 and year 5/6 words, the spelling Bee structure is similar within these two phases. However, the actual words are all different. This means that in years to come, spelling rules can be introduced in year 3, then revised in year 4, and likewise introduced in year 5 and revised in year 6. Individual tricky words are divided between the two year groups in each phase to avoid repetition.

How the words should be used:

The set of 6 words should be introduced each week to every class in each year group either early morning activity time or in literacy time, to be decided by year group leaders. The words should be displayed in every classroom on a spelling Bee display and referred to during teaching. Some element of homework should include the spelling Bee words and they should be sent home each week. Year groups may also consider sending home the full list of words at the beginning of the year in order to allow children to "get ahead" on the challenge of spelling Bee.

In addition to this, Spelling Bee words should also form part of the word level work within literacy weeks, particularly where they relate to a spelling rule. (Eg. words where le changes to ly, or words using the prefix inter.) Further notes about the rules can be found in the national curriculum appendix on spelling enclosed in the spelling Bee pack. Activities may include working out the common rule, researching other words that meet the rule (children could sneak a look at the Spelling Bee words in the other year group in their phase for this), exploring the meaning of the word and practicing its correct use.

Review weeks:

The learning of Spelling Bee words will take place across the entire year but three full and one part review week have been scheduled to allow previously learned words to be revisited. Regular revisiting and reviewing has been shown to be an important part of learning spellings.

Spelling Bee competitions

Termly Spelling Bee competitions will also be scheduled and testing of the children to establish the entrants for the competition will need to be scheduled prior to the competition. Testing should comprise of a random selection of words from across the whole year, even those that have not yet been introduced in class. In this way, children should see a term on term improvement in their performance as the year progresses. The final competitions may need to include words which haven't featured in the spelling Bee word list to allow for an appropriate level of challenge.

The impact of the Spelling Bee will be monitored by the literacy team during the annual collection of data, termly assessments and Spelling Bee challenges.