

Hawthorn Community Primary School

Hawthorn Road
Kettering
Northants
NN15 7HT

Tel: 01536 512204
Fax: 01536 512468



Head Teacher: Mrs Emma Jacox
Email: head@hawthorn.northants-ecl.gov.uk
Website: www.hawthornprimarykettering.co.uk

7th September 2021

Dear Parents/ Carers,

Spelling in Redwoods

This term, I would like to introduce our new spellings scheme of work: Transforming the Teaching of Spelling. The spellings are in line with the National Curriculum. I will be trialling the impact of this scheme over the term with Redwoods, hoping to then implement this scheme across the school.

Spellings are certainly tricky and the English language contains well over a million words and has been affected by some 1300 years of history. As the National Curriculum reminds us, "Most people read words more accurately than they spell them." With this in mind, we shall be introducing a clear and systematic view for teaching spellings that will provide our children with life-long strategies. Spellings need to be taught logically to see the magic of words, the patterns and how words can help transform their quality of writing. The underlying structure of the approach is based on the three zones of spelling, explored through patterns, remembering and recall of spellings.

Organisation of Spellings

This scheme will be based on a 2 week cycle. During **week 1**, a block of 50 minutes will be created to facilitate an investigation and ways of writing the phonic sounds using a letter/letters known as graphemes. The nature of this is a 'slow' look at patterns and working to improve or disprove a hypothesis.

During **week 2**, the same amount of time is split into 5 x 10 minute slots to experience pace and take a quicker look at spellings involving analysis of common errors, why these errors occur and what to do to ensure that the correct spelling embeds in their long-term memory.

Underpinning the new spellings, there will be no homework, and the children will not be tested on their spellings. However, there will be a focus on 5 spellings and this is a focus until corrected in their independent writing. Words can be changed as the children require them and show that they can use them accurately:

- Record it on the Focus Five grid
- Identify the part they find tricky
- Use it correctly in their work 3 times
- Teacher identifies a new word/s to focus on

If you have any questions relating to this trial in Redwoods, please let me know and I will do my best to answer any queries.

Kind regards,

Jayne Tinto (Writing lead)

