

**Bath and Wells MAT, School Lane, Northend, Batheaston, Bath, BA1 7EP**

***"That they may have life, life in all its fullness" John 10:10***

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**5th January 2022**

**Year 4 Spelling Home Learning**

Dear Parents and Carers,

Being able to spell is still incredibly important in primary school, even in these days of autocorrect and predictive text. Children who can spell well are often more confident writers. They are more likely to write their ideas quickly and fluently as they don't need to worry about whether or not their spelling is correct. They are also likely to be more adventurous with the words they use to express themselves. All children at school in England will also sit a spelling test at the end of Year 6.

In all year groups, children still need to use their phonic knowledge to tackle new or unknown words, but they also learn about spelling patterns and rules too, so that they have a wider range of tools to use to help them spell unfamiliar words. In Year 4 you will also explore other word types such as homophones and learn to edit their spelling using word lists and dictionaries.

The other key part of their spelling is learning to spell the ‘Spelling Fish’ words which are based on the government’s statutory word lists. We appreciate memorising lists of words comes more easily to some children than to others, but we do know that repeated and consistent practise can make a huge difference.

Now that your child has had a term to get used to their homework, we would like to reintroduce the ‘Spelling Fish’ to replace the weekly spelling tests. Your Child’s spelling fish will be given to them at the end of the first week. At the end of the term, we will test your child on their spelling fish words and celebrate all the children who have made good progress. This will replace the weekly tests we have been doing previously. As homework, children will be given a short spelling task as part of their homework to embed the spelling rule taught in lesson or practise 6 spellings from their list.

**How to help your child at home:**

* Draw their attention to any patterns or groups of letters in the words, making links to the phonics they’ve been taught: ‘which letters are making the ‘ay’ sound here? Yes, it’s the ‘ai’, just like in ‘gain’ and ‘Spain’. That’s different to the ‘ay’ sound in ‘play’, isn’t it?’
* Use over-pronunciation. For example, if trying to learn how to spell the word ‘Wednesday’ encourage your child to say Wed-nes-day as they write. There are lots of words which feature sounds that are not always pronounced clearly so asking children to over-pronounce these when spelling can also be useful.
* It might sound simple by simply asking your child to write down the words that they need to learn but the process of writing helps to anchor the spelling in a child’s memory and encourages them to think about the letters that represent the sounds in the word. You just don’t get the same benefits if your child types the words into a PC or tablet.
* We have also included some fun ways for your child to practice the statutory words.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to pop in after school ,

Kind regards,

Chloe Jenkins