



BOURNMOOR PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Dear Parents and Carers,

Year 4/5 spellings

As part of our ongoing school improvement, we are going to trial a new spelling scheme. Miss Hartley is going to trial this with the Y4/5 class initially. The spellings are all in line with the National Curriculum. Other classes will continue to take spellings home to learn for their weekly test but for a while Y4/5 will try a new approach.

We are doing this because children have had disruption to their learning due to Covid and, although many children achieve high scores in their weekly spelling tests, they need additional support to consistently use them correctly in their independent writing. This new approach makes the learning and application of spellings more personalised to each child. As the National Curriculum reminds us most people read words more accurately than they spell them. 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

Children will complete investigations and ways of writing the phonic sounds using letter/s known as graphemes. The nature of this is a 'slow' look at patterns and work.

They will also take a look at the 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

During this trial, there will be no list of spellings to learn for homework and the children will not be formally tested on their spellings. However, there will be a focus on 5 spellings and these will remain their focus until correctly used in their own independent writing. Children are given a 'Focus Five' grid which allows them to have tailored spellings catered to their needs. Words will be changed as the children require them and show they can use them accurately. The new approach we are trialling works as follows:

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

If you have any questions relating to this spelling approach, please speak to Miss Hartley who will be happy to answer your queries.

Yours sincerely

L A Snowdon

Mrs Laura Snowdon (Headteacher)