



NEW SWANNINGTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Headteacher: Mrs Judy Ramsell

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Dear parents/carers

RE: SPELLINGS AT NEW SWANNINGTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

By now your child would have normally received some spellings to learn at home and be tested on in school. However, we have decided to take a new approach going forward which will mean that we will no longer be doing this.

Spellings work will all be done within the school day using a new spelling scheme still in line with the National Curriculum. Children in EYFS and Year 1 will have daily phonics as before. Children in Years 2 to 6 will have a 2-week cycle of spellings lessons. The underlying structure of the cycle is based on three 'zones of spelling', explored through looking at patterns, how to make best-bet choices based on this and how to strengthen strategies to remember words. By shifting the focus to really picking words apart and understanding the patterns, we hope this will reinforce life-long strategies and help to improve the quality of writing.

Although words sent home in the past have been matched to your child's ability they haven't always gone the extra step to make them really personal and tailored to each individual's specific needs. Our new spellings teaching also includes picking a 'Focus Five' for your child of 5 key words they are struggling with in their independent work. When they can demonstrate that they are able to spell one of the words consistently right in independent work, the word is taken off the list and a new word added. Strategies are taught to show how to avoid the common errors and embed the correct version on their long-term memory.

We hope that by removing the burden of having to learn spelling outside of the school day, families are able to concentrate more on the reading that comes home and support their child's learning through time spent on this.

If you have any questions relating to our spelling scheme, please let us know and we will do our best to answer any of your queries.

Thank you and kind regards,

Beth Carr
English Leader