



Andreas School

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Dear Parents/Carers

We will be focussing on looking at improving teaching spelling over the next year and would really value support from home. Research shows that spelling tests do not teach children how to spell so this booklet contains activities that aim to not only help your child remember the spelling of new words, but will hopefully be fun to do too.

Key points to remember when helping your child with spellings

Practice makes permanent so make sure they're practising correctly.

Encourage your child to use the words they've practised – write stories together, keep a notebook of all the words they've learned to spell so far, spot them in reading.

Focus on a few words at a time, no more than 6.

Important approaches

Encourage your child to attempt to spell new words.

Never spell words for them, ask them to try a new word and point out mistakes, highlighting the bits in the word that are correct.

Encourage your child to try spelling the word in parts by breaking it up into syllables and sounding it out.

Focus on the 'look, say, cover, write, check' method by encouraging your child to look at the word and say it out loud. Then cover the word and ask your child to write it down from memory. Lastly, check to see if they have spelled the word correctly.

Tips for helping younger children with their spelling

Try splitting the word into parts (syllables).

Use different letter styles, colour in and illustrate words – write a word in one colour, then go over it again and again in different rainbow colours. Repetition will help your child to learn the shape of the word. Writing words with coloured chalk on black paper is another way of carrying this out.

Write each spelling word on 2 cards and play a matching game such as snap or pelmanism.

Let your child use their finger to write words on your back – guess what they have written and then reverse the process.

Have fun writing words in the air, on different textures e.g. sand, condensation.

Flatten a piece of plasticine and use a pencil to write the word into it. Note any patterns within the word and then smooth the plasticine and challenge your child to write the word from memory.

Encourage your child to draw pictures to accompany their spelling words and then write the words underneath.

See if your child can spot their spelling words in other contexts.

Count the number of letters each word has.

Focus on how many vowels, consonants, double letters etc. Jumble up the letters and see if your child can unscramble them correctly to spell the word.

Tips for helping older children with their spelling

Ask your child to write down their spelling words.

Ask them to colour all the short vowels red, the long vowels blue and all the adjacent consonants green.

Write known spellings down in a muddled fashion and then set your child the challenge of unmuddling them e.g. onhisaf = fashion

Make a word search using key words and ask your child to do the same. When you have both finished making your word searches, swap them over and see if you can find the hidden words.

Let your child use Scrabble tiles to spell the words. Then ask them to add up the score for each word. Which word is worth the most points? The least? Scrabble is an excellent game to play when learning new vocabulary.

Encourage your child to spot familiar letter patterns in the words and then to collect other words that contain the same letter pattern.

The more reading and spelling home practise your child has, the more confident and competent they will be.

Trish Dudley

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Headteacher