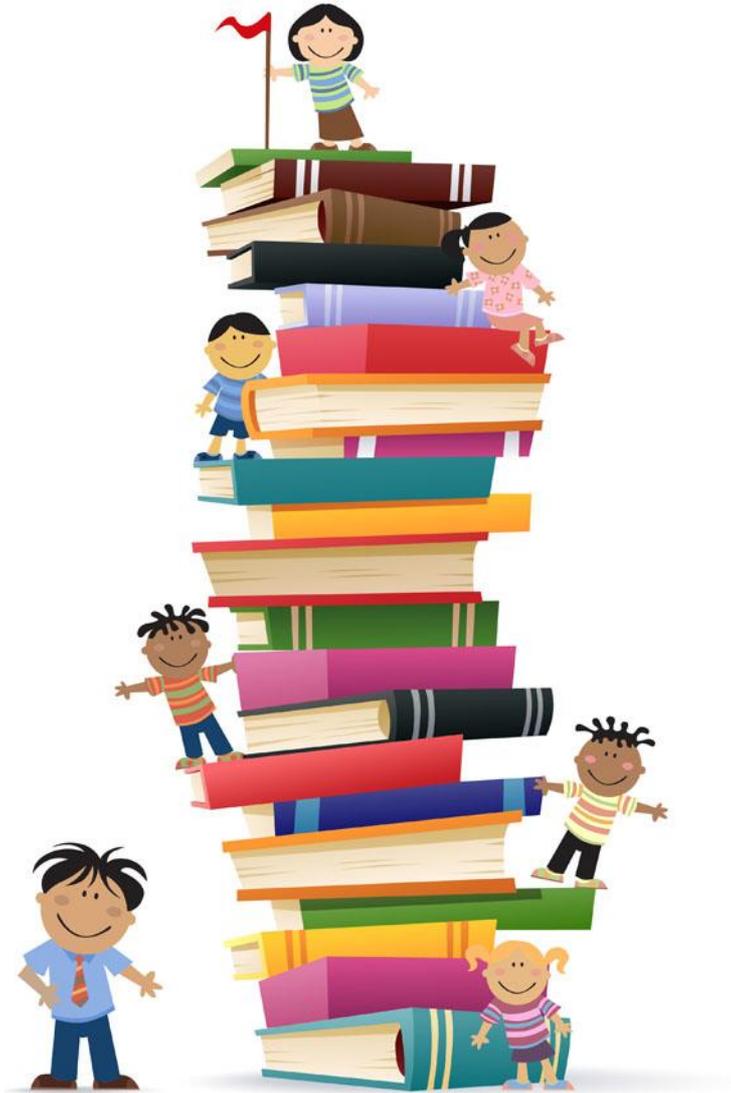


Spelling and Handwriting at Home



**Moving Forward...Learning
Together...Growing in God's Love**

*There are many little ways to enlarge your child's
world. Love of books is the best of all.*



SPELLING

Learning Spellings:

The method we encourage the children to use to learn spellings is LOOK, SAY, COVER, WRITE and CHECK. The children have a list of spellings to learn weekly in this way. If your child needs extra practice, use of plastic, wooden or sponge letters when your child says the word and the sounds may help.

Challenge your child to see how many times they can write the word in a minute. A little practice done often will be the most effective and try to make it as fun as possible. Traditional word games like Scrabble and I-Spy are excellent practice. It is really important that the words in the weekly spelling lists are put into context by using them in sentences. Learning words in isolation will not make children better spellers.



Everyday activities

- Spell out words with fridge magnets or letter tiles from word games. Take some letters out, move them around and ask your child to sort them out.
- Play games with lists of words. Can they sort them into alphabetical order, either by first or second letter.



- Use old newspapers and magazines for word finding games e.g. highlighting every word that ends with -ing, starts with 'ph'. You can make this more complicated as the spellings get harder.

- Use a mirror so your child can see how their mouth moves when saying different sounds and letters that are easily mixed up, like 'b' and 'd', 'm' and 'w'.
- Word ladders are an excellent way of seeing what happens when you add letters to a word e.g. tap – tape – taped.

HANDWRITING

In order to produce legible, fluent joined-up writing it is important that your child holds their pencil correctly and ideally is sitting with both feet on the floor, at a table or a desk. They should grip the pencil between thumb and index finger, using the middle finger as a rest.



If your child is left-handed, they may find it more comfortable to keep the paper at an angle of 45 degrees on the table. Children should enjoy writing and feel confident about making marks on the paper. Ultimately writing in a neat, individual way that is easily read should come naturally to them. Tracing and practicing letter shapes, then moving onto joining them, all takes time, so anything you can do to supplement what is done at school will help your child.



You can help further by

- Modelling good writing as often as possible, by ensuring that what you write is neat, legible, and useful. Children need to understand that writing always has a purpose!
- When they are starting out, inevitably the writing will be untidy. Try not to put them off as they are learning and confidence is essential.
- Write a story your child has told you. You can perfect it together and both be really proud of what you produce.
- Help them to make their own labels, notices, cards and books.
- Use lower case instead of capitals, and use capitals as correctly as possible, as children find lower case letters easier to write but they will very quickly need to understand how capitals are used in writing.

Using the computer to write.

This is an excellent resource for developing language skills in many different ways and most children really enjoy seeing their words on screen. However, your child still needs to be able to write by hand, so any ICT work should supplement writing with a pen or pencil.



A final word....

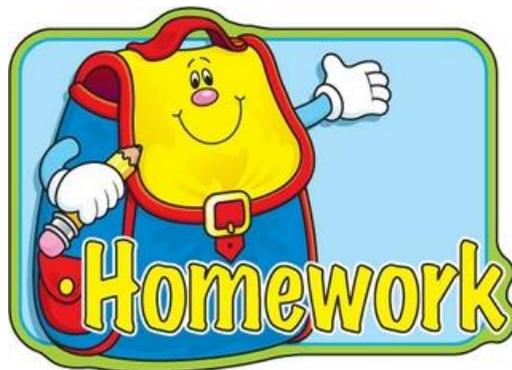
Everything you do with your child's language work should be enjoyable and meaningful for all involved. It should never be a chore. If it looks like this is happening, then use different ways to engage your child. Remember also that your child's teacher is an excellent source of advice and support and will be happy to share ideas that may help you and your child.

Spelling Homework Help

Look, Say, Cover, Write, Check

Follow these instructions carefully to help you learn new spellings.

1. Look at the word. See the shape.
2. Say the word. Can you break it down into syllables: Wed/nes/day? Any silent letters?
3. Cover the word
4. Write the word. No peeking! Use other strategies to help: memory tricks, visualize the word, syllables, word-within-words.
5. Check the word carefully. Check each letter is in the right place and correct.
6. Correct any spelling mistakes. We don't want to see the wrong spelling! Mistakes are good so don't worry about them. Remember to learn from mistakes.
7. Do it again.



Fantastic! Keep doing this a little bit every day and you will soon learn new spellings.

