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Spelling Update – November 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

This year at NJA, we have launched a new “Read, Write, Inc.” spelling scheme across school for all children. Every day, in every class, children have a dedicated 20-minute spelling lesson, where they learn, practise and test one-another on their spellings. Hopefully, you have also seen the information sheet, “How to Help Your Child with Spelling” that has been added to the children’s Home/School Diaries as well and this can be found below, too.

Our aim across school is to reinvigorate spelling, and make children passionate about learning and improving their spelling skills. The scheme we have chosen delivers age-related spellings in a fun and engaging manner. No longer do we learn by rote, with the hope of scoring 20 out of 20 at the end of the week in a spelling test.

Instead, children watch videos, discuss words and the patterns in them, identify tricky parts, reflect on their own spelling by spotting their mistakes and making correction, and generally engage with and interact with words and spelling through a whole range of different activities.

Testing still forms a core part of the scheme, however, instead of the traditional spelling test, children continually test one-another throughout the week.

At the end of each week, children then discuss in teams which spellings have been tricky and what makes it tricky, and then a team leader tests the other children in their group, with all the children given the opportunity to mark and then review their spellings.

Overall, the learning activities that the children participate in throughout the week are rooted in current educational research, and children have really engaged with their spelling learning.

If you have any further questions about our spelling scheme or how to support your child at home, then please feel free to get in touch.


Yours faithfully,


Mr Boylan
Spelling Leader

HOW TO HELP YOUR CHILD WITH SPELLING

Learning how to spell is an essential part of a child's learning as it supports both reading and writing.


We want to give you the help and advice to support your child with this essential part of their learning at home, so we have gathered together some activities and ideas that you can use to help your child when they are learning their spellings.


 Play "Spelling Pairs" with your child's weekly spelling words. Draw a word grid and write each word in a new box. You will need to write each one twice (in separate boxes). Cut them out, making sure you have two of each spelling. Turn them over and mix them up. Challenge your child to turn over two pieces of paper and then read each word. Are they a pair? If not, turn them back over and repeat this until they find matching pairs. Once they have found a pair, look at the spelling together and ask your child to spell the word without looking.


 Find words within the spelling words for example: disappeared - appear appeared ear pear


 Use the classic: Look, Cover, Say, Write, Check

- ◆ Look at the word, sounding out each letter or sound.
- ◆ Cover the word up so it can't be seen.
- ◆ Say the word aloud - focus on the sounds in the words.
- ◆ Write the word, checking that the letters match the sounds.
- ◆ Check by looking back at the original word.

 Write a word out – it could be a word from the weekly spellings list – cut it up and ask your child to put it back in the correct order.

 Challenge your child to write a story using as many words they are learning to spell as you can.

 Make up a word search using the spellings.

 Search for the words when you are out and about. Are there any of the spellings they can spot in the supermarket? What about walking down the street or other places you visit?

There are hundreds more ideas that we could add, but hopefully these will get you started. A quick search on Google for "How to help my child with spellings" will turn up a whole load more suggestions too. And of course, come and speak to us for more advice!