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Dear Y3 Parents/Carers,

First of all, the Year Three team would like to wish you a happy new year!

Spelling is a key part of the Year 3 curriculum and this term we are encouraging the children to recap and learn to read and spell a list of words set out in the national curriculum as 'Year 1 and 2 Common Exception Words'. These are words that do not follow any key spelling rules. Children simply need to know them by sight and to be able to increase the fluency and speed of their reading. In simple terms – they just need to know them! This list can also be found in your child's home school diary.

Year 1 and 2 Common Exception Words

Year 1

the	they	one
a	be	once
do	he	ask
to	me	friend
today	she	school
of	we	put
said	no	push
says	go	pull
are	so	full
were	by	house
was	my	our
is	here	
his	there	
has	where	
I	love	
you	come	
your	some	

Year 2

door	gold	plant	clothes
floor	hold	path	busy
poor	told	bath	people
because	every	hour	water
find	great	move	again
kind	break	prove	half
mind	steak	improve	money
behind	pretty	sure	Mr
child	beautiful	sugar	Mrs
children	after	eye	parents
wild	fast	could	Christmas
climb	last	should	everybody
most	past	would	even
only	father	who	
both	class	whole	
old	grass	any	
cold	pass	many	



After school, as many days a week as possible, we would like you to spend 10 minutes with your child completing a spelling activity, focusing on approximately five words at a time. Throughout their school life, your child will continually have to practice a variety of spelling rules, which will often be set as home learning.

The traditional method to learn spellings is to write them out several times using the 'Look, Say, Cover, Write, Check' method. Although this can be an effective method, it can sometimes be tedious for a child after a long day at school. Below, you will find a list of suggested games that can be used to learn spellings in a variety of ways. By using different, fun methods to learn spellings, you will be helping your child to retain and master the spelling of those words.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to speak to your child's class teacher.

We thank you in advance for your help and co-operation with our spelling focus.

The Year Three Team

Spelling Activity Ideas List

Cloud Writing

Say a key spelling word and then your child has to write the word in the air while saying each letter aloud. The movements can be as big and as exaggerated as they want. The bigger the movements, the more fun they'll have!

Words on your Back

This is a fun and sometimes 'tickly' way to learn words. Sit with your back facing your child and ask them to write one of their spelling words on your back. If spelt correctly, they get a point. If spelt incorrectly, provide the spelling on paper or say each letter aloud so your child can write it on your back correctly. You can also allow your child to check if you can spell the word correctly too by swapping roles.

Spell-Leader

Pretend to be a cheerleader and spell out the words by saying the letters individually and then the word altogether. Use a high cheer for tall letters (like t, l, h, etc.) or put hands on hips for letters that sit within the line (a, e, n, c, etc.). You could do a low cheer for letters that drop below the line (y, g, j, etc.).

Spell And Throw

This spelling game is ideal if you are looking for a more physical, interactive way to practise your child's spellings. To get started, you'll need a ball that you can easily throw around (preferable, one that isn't too heavy to avoid any injuries). If you are playing the game outside, a beach ball is ideal as it is lightweight and easy to catch, but if you're playing inside, some rolled up paper may do the trick! To play the game, get everyone to stand in a circle, or if there is two of you, stand across from each other. Then, the person starting must call out a word and throw the ball to someone else. The person who receives the ball must then say the first letter in that word. They, then, throw the ball to another person, who says the next letter of the word, and so on and so on until the full word has been spelled. When someone gets a letter wrong, they just pass the ball onto someone else, who tries to guess the correct letter.

Lily Pad Spellings

Write all the letters of the alphabet on pieces of paper or sticky notes and lay them out (in any order) on the floor like lily pads on a pond. Say a word for your child to spell and they then have to step from one letter to the next spelling out the word correctly. If they get a letter wrong, pause at the incorrect letter and remind them of what letter should come next. Then, start again from the beginning of the word. You could give a point every time a word is spelt correctly. You could also set a time limit within which your child needs to spell the word, i.e. 30 seconds. Alternatively, you could let your child hold the spelling words and test you to see if you spell them correctly. This will help your child to think of the order of the letters as they check if you're stepping on the correct letters in the correct order.

Story Time

Write a short story using all your words. Don't forget to check your punctuation!

Shaving Cream Practice

An easy way to clean those dirty tables is to finger paint on them with shaving cream. Squirt some on the table for your child and then give them a word. Your child then practises spelling the words by writing them with your finger in the shaving cream.

Colourful Words

Children use two different coloured pens to write the words, one to write the consonants and one to write the vowels. Do this a couple of times then write the whole word in one colour.

Salt Box Spelling

Pour salt into a shallow box or tray (about 3cm deep) for your child. They can then practice writing their spellings in it with their finger.

Design A Word

Children pick one word and write it in bubble letters. Colour in each letter in a different pattern.