

Good spellers aren't born, they are taught!

Nearly 90 percent of English words can be spelled if a student knows basic patterns, principles and rules of spelling. Good spellers end up as better readers and writers. Learning to spell is built on a child's understanding that words are made up of separate speech sounds (phonemes) and that letters represent those sounds. As they get more experience with words, children begin to notice patterns in the way letters are used and recurring sequences of letters that form syllables, word endings, word roots, prefixes, and suffixes.

Spelling at St Andrew's - Spelling has been recognised as an area for improvement at our school and is a focus for this year. We have implemented several new things to ensure children at our school have the opportunity to become better spellers and use their knowledge and understanding of letters to become good spellers.

- Children in KS1 have a 20 minute daily phonics lesson. Children in KS2 are taught spelling patterns weekly that link to their Spelling Shed homework. All children are set weekly assignments on Spelling Shed.
- Children complete daily Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar questions within their Literacy lesson to further support spellings.
- Children complete a 'Single Word Spelling word test' at 2 points throughout each academic year to track their spelling age. This not only gives an spelling age to indicate specifically how children are getting on with their spellings in comparison with their chronological age, it also allows the teacher to see individual gaps to plug .
- In each phase of primary there is a statutory list of words children should be able to spell by the end of each Key Stage (these have been sent home previously).

Spelling Shed - In January, we launched a whole school initiative to promote spelling across the school. Each month we announce the class who have earned the most points on Spelling Shed and also the top three spellers in the school. The game aspect of Spelling Shed ensures children are engaged and eager to practise their spellings regularly. The low-stakes games, quizzes and reward systems ensure that children find spelling fun. Spelling along with vocabulary and phonics are critical foundational skills that help your child with reading fluency, reading comprehension and writing.

Spelling Shed provides:

- A game-like format that helps builds your child's confidence in spelling.
- The ability for your child to create their own weekly word lists.
- A full spelling curriculum that is grade level specific and provides weekly online and offline activities.
- Phonics based lists for early learners.
- The ability to track your child's progress and see what words they are frequently misspelling.

Their game supports phonics word lists which enable younger children to use their evolving phonemic awareness to build words with graphemes such as 'er' and 'ai',

Phonics - a method of teaching people to read by correlating sounds with symbols in an alphabetic writing system.

Phoneme— A phoneme is the smallest unit of **sound** in speech. When we teach reading we teach children which letters represent those sounds. For example – the word '**hat**' has 3 phonemes – 'h' 'a' and 't'

Grapheme- The name grapheme is given to the letter or combination of letters that represents a phoneme. For example, the word '**ghost**' contains five letters and four graphemes ('gh,' 'o,' 's,' and 't').

Ideas to support spellings at home

To support spellings at home, it is important that you keep it fun and engaging. ALL children are expected to practise spellings **daily**. There are many games you can play whilst at the dinner table, in the bath, walking up the stairs. You can use technology to practise writing them in fancy ways, get tactile—writing in the sand, or water and even making words out of lego bricks..... the list is endless—anything to make it not feel like the rote learning of spellings. Below are some online links for ideas of games and resources you could use.

Both Key Stages are assessed in spelling as part of their end of Key Stage SATS assessments. Not only is there an individual spelling paper but spelling is also accounted for in their writing assessment too.

<https://www.twinkl.co.uk/blog/spelling-games-to-play-at-home-with-your-child>

<https://www.learnwithhomer.com/homer-blog/4201/spelling-games/>

<https://topnotchteaching.com/lesson-ideas/35-spelling-games/>

There are also many apps that support with spelling and many games that encourage children to practise and rehearse a range of spellings.

KS1

Abc Runner

Word Flashcard

Spelling Bug

KS2

Spelling Shed

Spelling test—learn to spell

Word Connect

We recognise that the support from parents in encouraging and helping children does make a huge difference in all aspects of their learning. Please don't underestimate the impact that you can have on their achievements and the difference it makes. Thank you.

Spelling at St Andrew's



Spelling is
~~difficult~~
~~challenging~~
hard.