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Headteacher: Mrs Sarah Woolley



'Being Different, Belonging Together'

Dear Parents,

We are starting a different approach to the teaching of spelling this year called Active Spelling. The teaching approach has been devised by L.E.A.D. Equate Teaching School. The approach is rooted in research, with extensive reading to support that the approach will have maximum impact on the children's learning and retention of their spellings.

The sessions will be led by each class teacher on a daily basis for 15-20 minutes and will allow children to recall previously learnt spellings to aid retention. Children will then be taught different strategies that they can self-apply to help them to learn the new list of spellings before they experiment with the application of these words.

There is an evidence base research which suggest that the use of low stakes testing is more beneficial in aiding the learning of spelling. Low Stakes testing (also known as recall practice) simply means any activity that gets pupils to recall what they have learnt from memory. By removing the high stake tests (the traditional spelling test), it removes the fear of spelling and instead helps them to see it as problem solving.

Due to the rapid pace of low stakes testing more time is dedicated to the teaching of the spellings as well as more opportunities for testing occurring throughout the day. The teacher is able to gain a better understanding of what the children can and cannot do, allowing the teacher to clearly measure academic achievement, identify learning problems and inform instructional adjustments.

Whilst we appreciate that some parents like the traditional spelling test it is something we have decided not to continue with in school. We will still provide parents with the list of spellings we will be focusing on during a particular week, so that you can support your child to learn these but there will be no spelling test.

Thank you for your support in this.

Sarah Hill  
(English Subject Leader)

