

Dear Parents and Carers,

We wanted to let you know about a change to how we will be teaching spelling in Year 3 and 4.

After reviewing current research and reflecting on our own experience, our teaching team has decided to **stop setting weekly spelling lists and tests**. Studies show that while children often do well in weekly spelling tests, this kind of short-term memorisation doesn't necessarily lead to long-term learning or accurate spelling in their everyday writing.

Instead, we will continue to focus on **evidence-based spelling strategies** that help children understand how words work and apply their knowledge in real contexts. This includes:

- Exploring **spelling patterns and rules** (such as prefixes, suffixes, and word families).
- Learning about **word meaning and structure**, including roots and origins.
- Practising spellings through **writing and reading activities**, rather than memorising lists.
- Encouraging children to **notice, investigate and correct spellings** in their own work.

These approaches are proven to build a deeper understanding of spelling and improve children's confidence and accuracy over time.

We understand that spelling tests have long been part of school life, and this change may feel different at first. Please be reassured that your child will still receive regular spelling teaching and support, but in ways that lead to more lasting progress.

If you have any questions about our approach or how you can support your child's spelling at home, please don't hesitate to speak to your child's teacher.

Thank you for your continued support,

The Year 3 and 4 Team