



YEAR 1 SPELLINGS

Autumn Term 1



The first list of spellings is attached as a document on Tapestry. The children have 2 weeks to practise these, as well as practising in class. Every 2 weeks we will upload a new list. This will include some letters to practise forming correctly, as well as some of their Reception key words to practise spelling. We will let you know at the end of each half term how they have got on with their spellings by sending you home a copy of their tests.

How to practise letter formation

For children to secure fine motor skills, they need to have lots of experience and opportunities to practise their gross motor skills first. This includes work on their core so that they can sit comfortably at a table when writing. Large arm movements, such as climbing, will help develop shoulder strength which is important for being able to hold a pencil for an extended period. The children have lots of practise of this in school as well as completing arm and finger exercises before writing. At home, try forming giant letters using a big paintbrush and water on a patio first. Once they have been able to form letters correctly in this way, then try scaling this down in size. The children's learning books have spaces in between the lines that are 1.5 cm in height and this is the size of writing that the children are working towards. We have uploaded an example of this to Tapestry to give you an idea of size.

How to practise spellings

As a guide, look at the words with your child and read them together. These words are all 'Tricky Words' because they cannot be sounded out using their phonic knowledge. Children need to be able to recall them using the letter names or from memory. Once your child can see the spelling, ask them to say the word as they write it for example: 't - h - e spells the'. They might want to write it a few times. Then cover up the word and ask them to write it from memory and then get them to check it. We call this the 'Look, Cover, Write, Check' method. Repeat this with the rest of the words. If your child is not keen to practise their spellings, try using a whiteboard and pen instead. Sometimes they find this easier to begin with rather than a pencil. Pencil grips can also be helpful for supporting pencil holds. You can get these online or through WH Smiths.

We hope this helps to get you started at home but please ask a member of the teaching team if you have any questions regarding this. Have fun spelling!

The Year One Team