



Brockley Primary School, Clowne Rd, Shuttlewood, Chesterfield, S44 6AF

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1st March 2016

Dear Parents and Carers,

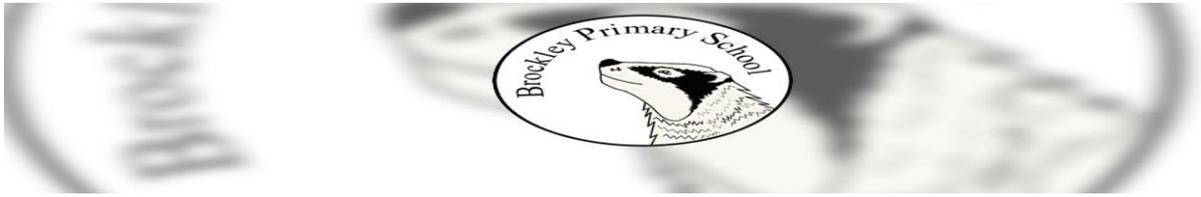
Spelling is a really big part of the new curriculum and Year 2 children will be being assessed in this as part of their end of year tests. They will have a spelling test and spelling will also be assessed in their writing. Many children at the moment aren't applying their spelling learning from Read, Write Inc into their daily writing and this affects their progress in both spelling and writing.

To help the children be more successful with this, I have decided to introduce weekly spelling lists to learn and weekly spelling tests. This will also prepare them a little for Elephant class where this is part of their weekly routine. It is expected that the children will return the completed sheets on the day of the spelling test. Stampers and table points will be given for this. Children who do not complete their homework might have to join a lunchtime homework club. Perhaps you could reward your child's success in spellings at home as well with, for example, going to bed five minutes later, an extra portion of pudding, their choice of TV program etc.

The best way for children to learn to spell is 'little and often'. Cramming for spellings the night before a test has very little impact on their learning. If children practice spelling for 5 to 10 minutes every day, the spellings are more likely to 'stick'. Could you find five or ten minutes a day and build it into your daily routines? Maybe it could be as soon as they come home from school, straight after tea, just before bedtime etc. Spellings could also be practiced just by talking at other times such as on the way to school, around the supermarket etc.

As I'm sure some of you are aware, the new curriculum is much more challenging than in previous years. Children are expected to learn much more by 'rote' or 'rehearsing', and this includes spelling. So you can see the expectations, I have attached the common exception words for year 1 and year 2. All children are expected to be able to read and spell ALL of these words by the end of May!

I have also attached the government document of other spellings needed to be learnt by the end of Year 2. Most of the Year 1 sounds are taught through Read, Write, Inc and children are showing success with these. The weekly spelling lists will therefore



also include some of the Year 2 sounds the children are expected to be able to read and spell.

The class spellings will mean that my English group will have two lots of spellings to learn each week. I believe the children have the capacity for this, and they have lessons where they are taught the English Group spelling rules for three hours a week. I will also ensure these children have extra practice time in class and I will review this as we are going along to ensure it isn't too much for them.

We all want your child to be the best they can be and I therefore thank you in advance for your support with this.

If you have any questions or anything you would like to discuss, please feel free to email me at Debbie.monk@brockley.derbyshire.sch.uk

Yours sincerely,

Mrs D Monk
Senior Leader