

Stanbridge Lower School



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Dear Parents/Guardians

The Teaching of Spelling in Year 3 and Year 4

The staff and I have reviewed the way we teach and the children learn spelling rules based on the success of our Phonic Homework booklets that we started a few years ago in KS1. Since the introduction of these booklets we have been amazed at the rate of progress the children are making because they are spelling words and remembering how to spell words in the context of their writing, and over a period of time moving onto learning more complex spelling patterns. In Year 3 and 4 these will include use of prefixes, suffixes, compound words, contractions and homophones as well as other spelling patterns found in the vocabulary, spelling and grammar section of the National Curriculum. We feel this is more educationally sound approach to the teaching of spelling rather than children just learning spellings for a test. The children do not retain the information in the same way and don't apply words they have learnt in a test to their writing. Spelling needs to be taught in the context of writing.

Due to the success of this approach we will no longer be sending home spelling sheets for Year 3 and Year 4, as we feel this makes spelling too restrictive and takes away the real purpose of learning to spell. Instead the children will have a Spelling Homework Book which will keep spelling purposeful and children can practise spelling as part of the writing process.

The children who have been working with this approach tell us they have a much more enjoyable homework experience and they seem to really have taken pride in their work, applying all that they learnt to their writing and reading in school.

Yours sincerely

R J Godwin
Head Teacher

E Forbes
Literacy Subject Leader



"We believe in our children"

