**Teaching of Spelling**

15th November 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

As you will be aware, we have been setting spelling lists every Monday for homework, with children completing a spelling test every Friday. Unfortunately, although children may remember the words for the test itself, this knowledge is not transferring to their writing activities, suggesting that it is not being transferred to their long-term memory. A number of studies have concluded the same, for example, amongst others:

*‘A 2012 study from the British Journal of Educational Psychology found that spelling tests had no significant effect on student learning. In fact, the study found that students who had not taken a spelling test were more likely to perform better in spelling assessments than those who had taken a spelling test. Similarly, another study conducted in 2015 concluded that regular use of spelling tests in the classroom did not have any significant impact on student learning.’*

We have therefore decided to change our approach and will no longer be completing weekly spelling tests. Instead, we will be dedicating more time to the explicit teaching of spelling rules and patterns in school and will be teaching a range of strategies to support long term recall of these rules.

Children with additional needs will continue to be provided with intervention support, receiving targeted support and teaching and extra sessions of guided reading.

We highly value your support in learning spellings at home and are sending home the lists of spellings that children should learn in lower Key Stage 2 (Years 3 and 4) and upper KS2

(Years 5 and 6). We are also sending home the list of words that children should already know from Years 1 and 2. We would appreciate you being able to reinforce the longer-term memory of these words by checking and testing on a regular and ongoing basis at home.

Maths and Grammar homework will continue to be set on Mondays, to be returned on Fridays.

If you have any questions about this, please don’t hesitate to contact your child’s class teacher or Mrs Davies, our English lead.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Sutherland and Mrs Davies