



Saltford
CofE Primary School

Saltford CofE Primary School
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Headteacher: Dawn Sage
Co-Chairs of Governors: Megan Jackson and Richard Rowland

Tuesday 5th January 2021

Dear Parents,

The children have embraced their phonics learning and are developing at a rapid rate. We have now completed all of the teaching of Phase 2 phonics and are moving on to Phase 3.. Please do continue to read with your child daily to support their phonic development and don't forget to access their Teach Your Monster to Read and ActiveLearn log in where additional online phonic based books have been allocated.

In addition to this, from today, your child will receive their first set of spellings. Due to the current situation, these will be allocated through Tapestry but, on your child's return to school, they will receive them in a pack. These come in three formats and cover the whole of the two spring terms up until Easter. When possible, please keep the pack in your child's reading folder.

The spellings are presented as a word wall. There are 12 layers of five spellings to each wall- one per week for the term. **Please start from the bottom of the wall and work upwards.** Four of these words per week use phonemes linked to the different phases of Phonics Bug, our teaching scheme. In addition, one word is a 'tricky word'- one that cannot be decoded phonetically but is important that your child knows how to spell. Your child's class teacher has undertaken a thorough assessment of where your child is at in their phonic development and has allocated them a wall that will allow them both success and challenge.

Parent's role in the teaching of spelling remains paramount to their child's progress and this is highly valued by the school. We will not formally test your child on their spellings in school however, in all writing jobs, teachers will hold copies of the wall to support the children and will be constantly reviewing how they are doing with the words they are learning at home. We are extremely aware that children learn at different rates so, while we give a guide of one layer per week, if your child requires more time to consolidate a set of spellings please do continue to work on them before moving on. On the other hand, if your child finds one set particularly easy, try challenging them by asking them to write their spellings in a simple sentence focusing on them starting it with a capital letter, ending it with a full stop and ensuring they have the correct pencil grip and letter formation. We have also included a cursive script example on Tapestry to support this. **Please do not be tempted to work through more than one layer per week.** The idea is that we firmly embed these spellings in your child's long term memory so they are able to apply them consistently.

How to use the walls:

Wall 1 is a plain wall. Focussing on one layer only, can your child read the word? If they can, colour it in. Please do discuss the meaning of the words with your child, putting them into a sentence to give context, to ensure they understand the vocabulary

Wall 2 is two coloured copies of the wall, Cut the words from the card version to get your children to match them. As you move further up the wall you could play this game to recap previous spellings.

Wall 3 is the words in outline form that your children can use to help them write the words in cursive script.

These are just some starter ideas to help you get going. Please do also use what you have at home to reinforce this- foam letters in the bath, magnetic letters on the fridge, writing spellings outside with chalk or making the words with playdough are also good ideas but however works best for your child is fine by us. Please do also share what you are doing on Tapestry- we love to see what the children are up to at home. You will also find additional copies of the walls in the documents section on Tapestry.

In addition to this, our Doodle Subscription also includes Doodle Spell. If you have engaged with DoodleMaths you will know what an excellent resource this app is and Spell is no different. To sign your



child up please download the app or sign up through <https://students.doodleenglish.com/spell> and enter one of the following class codes:

For Butterflies:

For Bumblebees:

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,



Miss Davis
Bumblebee Class Teacher



Miss Donovan
Butterfly Class Teacher