



20<sup>th</sup> April 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

On Monday, all staff were trained in the teaching of a new spelling programme called Active Spelling which we shall be introducing in KS2 from Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> April. This means that children will no longer be given weekly spelling lists to learn for a test. Please read the information below to help you understand why we have decided to adopt the programme.

Active Spelling is an approach to teach spelling and vocabulary to Primary aged children. It has been devised by L.E.A.D. Teaching School Hub Lincolnshire in collaboration with schools across the Midlands with fantastic results for the children within our schools.

The approach is rooted in research, with extensive evidence supporting that the approach will have maximum impact on the children's learning and retention of their spellings and vocabulary acquisition.

The sessions will be led by each class teacher on a daily basis for 15-20 minutes and will allow children to recall previously learnt spellings to aid retention. Children will then be taught different strategies that they can self-apply to help them to learn the new list of spellings before they experiment with the application of these words.

There is a very strong evidence base to suggest that the use of Low Stakes testing is more beneficial in aiding the learning of spelling. Low Stakes testing (which is a form of retrieval practice) simply means any activity that gets pupils to recall what they have learnt from memory. By removing the high stake tests, it removes the fear of spelling and instead helps them to see it as problem solving.

Due to the rapid pace of Low Stakes testing more time is dedicated to the teaching of the spellings and strategies to learn them. The teacher is able to gain a better understanding of what the children can and cannot do, allowing the teacher to clearly measure academic achievement, identify learning problems and inform instructional adjustments.

If you have any questions about the programme, please contact Mrs Clayton, who is our English specialist, or your child's class teacher.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to be "Mrs Clayton", written over a horizontal line.

Mrs HR Simms

Headteacher

