



FOXHILLS JUNIOR SCHOOL

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Dear Parents/Carers,

Spelling Curriculum

At Foxhills Federation we sequentially map our curriculum so that children are able to learn skills and knowledge and then revisit and apply them to different contexts. In line with the rest of our curriculum, we have mapped the spelling curriculum so that children are able to learn new spelling patterns as well as revisit and apply previously learned patterns.

Children will have at least three spelling lessons each week where they will be revisiting previously learned spelling patterns and learning new ones. Each week these patterns will be in your child's planner so that they are able to practise these at home.

At Foxhills Federation we are moving away from 'formal' spelling tests as research shows that these have little to no impact on a child's ability to spell. Children are often able to correctly spell words in a test but then cannot apply them in their writing. It is important that children can apply spelling patterns to their writing. During our spelling lessons, there will be more informal assessments which will enable teachers to identify any children who have not secured their understanding of a new pattern. Teachers will then implement interventions to help these children to 'keep up' as is necessary.

Spelling Bee

Spelling Bee was introduced at Foxhills Junior school to raise the profile of spelling. It was designed to incorporate the statutory word lists from the national curriculum which children are expected to know by the end of year 1, year 2, year 4 and year 6.

These words were split up according to the difficulty of the words:

- Blue – Year 2 common exception words
- Yellow – Year 2 common exception words
- Bronze – Words from the statutory years 3 and 4 word list
- Silver - Words from the statutory years 3 and 4 word list
- Gold - Words from the statutory years 3 and 4 word list
- Bronze star - Words from the statutory years 5 and 6 word list
- Silver star - Words from the statutory years 5 and 6 word list
- Gold star – Words from the statutory years 5 and 6 word list

Whilst we recognise that lots of children enjoy the approach of Spelling Bee, we also recognise that it can be disheartening for lots of children especially those who find a formal test overwhelming. For children who wish to continue using spelling bee there will be opportunities to visit an adult from their year group every **Tuesday lunchtime at 12pm** to be tested for their spelling bee.

At Foxhills, we value and appreciate the support of all parents/carers in their child's education. We therefore ask you to help your child by practising the spelling pattern which they are learning each week. Ways to practise spellings can be found in children's planners on page 15.

If you have any questions about the spelling curriculum at Foxhills, please do come and speak with us,

Rachel Griffiths & Sophie Foster
Foxhills Federation English Leads