

# Oaklands Junior School



Headteacher  
Mrs H West

20<sup>th</sup> September 2017

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Thank you to those of you that were able to attend last week's parent forums. If you were unable to attend, one of the presentations was regarding the teaching of spellings.

Going forward, we are going to change the way that we teach spellings, as well as the homework tasks that are set. This is for a variety of reasons, which are detailed below:

- Our Y6 writing results are currently behind the national average but improving.
- A key element of the Y6 SATs is spelling, both in the writing assessment and in the Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling (GPS) test.
- There is now a heavier weighting of the spelling test in the overall GPS grading.
- In writing, our Teacher's Assessment has to take spelling into account.
- Research shows that the traditional method of teaching spellings (10 words tested weekly) does not work.

I have spoken to several local schools, who have outstanding results in their writing SATs and we are going to implement strategies that they have already successfully used. The changes that are going to take place are the following:

- The vast majority of children will be given the same spellings.
- Going forward, we will focus on 5 key spelling words per week.
- 5 lessons/activities completed in school each week.
- No weekly test (instead, there will be a half-termly test on all words covered in that half-term). Copies of these tests will be sent home, so that you know which words your child has not yet learnt.
- Homework will also change:
  - A sheet with the 5 spelling words (and, if applicable, the week's spelling pattern) will be handed out weekly.
  - Instead of sentences, at the beginning of a term the children will be given a spelling homework grid with a range of activities to choose from. The children will then need to tick and date an activity when they do it. They will be expected to complete all the tasks over the course of the term.



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- Children will need to hand in their weekly spelling homework sheet (in their spelling folder) with either the task completed on it or a signature to show that an activity has been completed.
- Extension activities will also be suggested on the spelling homework grid.
- Support activities available on website.

Now that the parent forums have taken place, the new style spelling homework will be rolled out to all year groups this week. A copy of the presentation is available on the school's website (in the Parents' Information section).

If you have any questions with regards the above, please either contact your child's class teacher or myself.

Kind regards,

Mr. S. Lee  
English Subject Leader