

Spelling Books at Fulfen



Information for parents about
the school's spelling system

Is Spelling important?

In the age of the computer, it could be asked whether or not it is still important to learn to spell. Good spelling and grammar make it easier for others to read what you have to say and understand what you mean. Spelling can be especially important because one misspelled word, or the incorrect spelling choice can change the entire meaning of a sentence.



Spelling Patterns

We aim to teach spelling in a way that ensures children take ownership of their own learning, believing that they are able to tackle and learn new spellings for life. In addition to the spellings covered through the spelling book system, the children have opportunities in school to learn how to apply spelling patterns through an investigative approach. This is threefold:

- children investigate to discover a spelling rule or learn how to apply a rule
- at the appropriate level, children later have an opportunity to practise the pattern
- they have opportunities to apply the pattern in new situations
- once a spelling pattern has been learnt and reinforced, it is expected that this will become part of their everyday writing. Where mistakes are made, pupils will self-correct.

This approach is proven to lead to the learning of spelling being sustained over time and equips the children with the skills to continue to learn and apply spelling rules and patterns beyond their time at Fulfen.

Home Spelling Books and High Frequency Words

In partnership with home, we aim to enhance each child's spelling through a system of spelling patterns in school and home spelling books which contain more of the words referred to as 'tricky' or 'high frequency' words (those which do not tend to conform to a pattern).

Blank books and sheets



At the beginning of each year, we will check your child's spelling, retesting words covered previously. This will enable teachers to effectively select an appropriate spelling book. Before a new spelling book is given, your child may receive lists written in a blank book or sheet. These will be words

misspelt from a previous book. Every handwritten list is individual. You may be surprised by some of the words on the list; these may include days of the week and other proper nouns spelt with a capital letter or contracted words without apostrophes (e.g. I'm, don't and won't). Please remember that only words misspelt by *your* child will be sent home in these books. Your child will need to learn these spellings before moving on to one of the Fulfen books at the correct level.

BUILDING VOCABULARY SKILLS

Fuzzy's Top Tips!
Fuzzy has a dangerous way of remembering how to spell call. Be careful how loud you say it!
Call a large lion!
Just add 'ed' to make 'called'!

This next one is good if you are feeling hungry...
Next eat Xmas turkey
Can you work out which word it helps you to remember?

Set 19	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	What does this one help you to remember? a big Ostrich Under Tree	
very						
don't						
Mr						
about						
their						
Set 20	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Set 21	
people						house
your						by
could						made
old						time
day					I'm	

Set 79	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
library			
opposite			
particular			
mention			
experience			

Set 80	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
accidentally			
address			
disappear			
favourite			
famous			

I don't like the word separate. It has a rat in it!
separate

Shiver my timbers! The word library has an extra 'r'! Try saying library.

In the first two books, Garden and Bee Books, your child's teacher will highlight the eyes at the top of a set, to indicate that your child needs to learn to read the words in the set. Please do not tick the boxes at home.

After being tested in school, the teacher will highlight the tick at the top of a set to show that your child needs to learn how to spell these words.

In all other books, the teacher will highlight the first tick at the top of a set to indicate the set of spellings for the week. Again, please do not tick them at home.

AS THE SPELLINGS ARE LEARNT

As the spellings become more complex, your child may receive a book with a speech bubble at the bottom of each set. This will be ticked at school once your child shows that they understand the words in the set and can say each in a suitable sentence.

In the last book - Safari Book - the children will be asked to write the root word for each spelling and then write a sentence to demonstrate their comprehension of the word.

CHECK, CHECK, CHECK...

When a child reaches a gold bar at the end of a test, then the teacher will highlight the ticks in the second column at the top of each set. Your child will then need to look back at these spellings to check that they have been retained. Any that are not known at the end of this 'Big check-up' will need to be learnt before moving on.

Set 81	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
natural		
busy		
business		

At the beginning of each year, every one of the words are rechecked. This is a tried and tested method. Without this repetition, it is incredibly easy for children in Year Six to leave primary school misspelling words that they really should know. This system of necessary repetition really does enable children to commit these spelling to their long-term memory.



TESTING IN SCHOOL

Children will need to bring their spelling book to school every day please.

Within a two week period, your child will be individually tested on their highlighted set of spellings. The test will be carried out by a teacher or a teaching assistant. Correct spellings will be ticked and incorrect ones will be dotted. Once all of the set has been written correctly, then your child will move on to the next set.

Sometimes a child will spell a word correctly at home and then incorrectly in school. It is important that the child does not go on to the next set before every word is remembered and spelt correctly in school. Sufficient time must be given to ensuring that the spellings are remembered in the long-term.

When a child needs to be tested on more than one set - during a 'big check-up', where the previous spellings are revisited in sentences to ensure retention and comprehension - then this may take a little longer.



MARKING SUCCESSES...

When your child has learnt each set, they can celebrate by colouring in one of the pictures on the last double page. At the end of each book, we take the opportunity to congratulate each child's successes, presenting them with a certificate in our Friday



SPELLING AT FULFEN

The chart on the next page shows which book, on average, the pupils should be on. Since the spellings from the more challenging national curriculum have been added to the books, it is probable that many children will fall a little below year group expectations initially. Over time, it is expected that the books indicated below will become the average 'spelling level' for each year group.

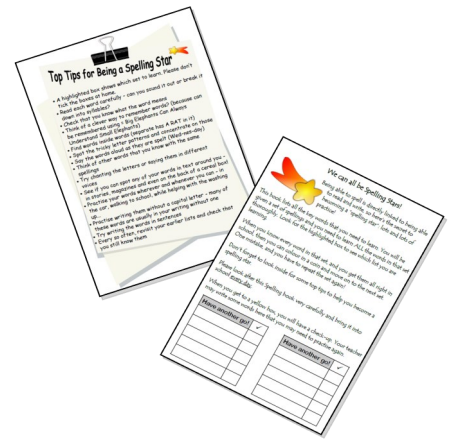
If a child moves past the expected book, then they will be given a blank book containing spellings from their own writing or from curriculum units in school. This ensures that no-one learns spellings that are beyond their comprehension. If a child is not able to use the words in their speech and writing, then the spelling may not be retained.

Farm Yard and Down Under books are extra books. Able spellers may use these books so that they are extending their vocabulary and learning new spellings that are not too tricky to understand and use in their own writing. Children in Year Five may move onto Detective book, missing Farm and Down Under, if they can cope with the spellings. They may return to these books after Detective and Monster, if necessary.

	Reception	Year One	Year Two	Year Three	Year Four	Year Five	Year Six
Book 1 - Garden - Phase 3							
Book 2 - Bee - Phase 4 and 5		✓					
Book 3 - Circus			✓				
Book 4 - Pelican							
Book 5 - Under the Sea				✓			
Book 6 - Pirate					✓		
Book 7 - Farmyard							
Book 8 - Down Under							
Book 9 - Detective						✓	
Book 10 - Monster							✓
Book 11 - Space							
Book 12 - Rock Band							
Book 13 - Skate Park							
Book 14 - Safari							

LEARNING SPELLINGS AT HOME

At the front of each spelling book, there are some general tips and ideas. Within each book, there are specific ideas to help your child to learn some of the trickier words. These may include looking at the root of a word, breaking it down into syllables or using daft rhymes to make the spelling more memorable.



Whilst a few children manage to learn their spellings by saying them out loud, it is more beneficial for your child to learn each one by looking at it closely, saying it, covering it and then writing it. Joining their writing creates a physical memory of the word.

Please also practise a spelling within a sentence, since many children will spell a word correctly when it is written individually, but not when it is written as part of a sentence.

The overall aim is that the children use their new spellings in their writing. On the back of the book, there are a few blank sets; your child's teacher may add a previous spelling here, if it is spelt incorrectly within their written work.

It is also very important to learn each one without a capital letter (unless needed), since the majority of the words are ones that will not be found at the beginning of a sentence.

IDEAS TO USE AT HOME



Spelling practice

doesn't have to

be B-O-R-i-N-G

Talking about a spelling is one of the best ways to avoid making the same mistake again.

Please practise over a period of time: spellings learnt in one evening are often forgotten very quickly. Keep trying different ways of learning spellings:

- ⇒ Why not try writing in chalk and then painting over with water and a paintbrush?
- ⇒ Write in glitter glue and leave to dry, creating a list to look at before bedtime each night.
- ⇒ Write the words in cooked spaghetti!
- ⇒ Write the words on rice paper and then write on with food colouring pen. Eat your spellings once learnt.
- ⇒ Make a word poster, decorating it with your daft ways of remembering each word.
- ⇒ Choose six gel pens and number each one (1-6); roll the dice and write in that colour. Make a colourful pattern with all of your spellings.

