

THE FEDERATION OF MIDDLEHAM (VA) AND SPENNITHORNE (VC) CE PRIMARY SCHOOLS



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Dear Parents

You may or may not be aware that an area for development across both schools is English and in particular, writing. A huge part of this is the ability to spell well and this is something we are trying to address.

Under the New Curriculum introduced in 2014, the goalposts for children in grammar, punctuation and spelling changed and by different ages, children are required to be able to master different spelling patterns as well as spelling key words which are also known as common exception words. An example of how tricky these words are that by the age of eleven, children are required to spell words such as communicate, disastrous, rhythm and sufficient. Words that many adults would misspell!

To find out about the common exception words each stage are required to know and spell correctly, please follow the link below.

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/239784/English_Appendix_1_-_Spelling.pdf

With this in mind and with assessment evidence that shows that even after making changes to how we teach spelling in the past, still the impact we have had in helping the children to achieve these goals has been limited. Therefore, we have decided to try a new approach.

We are going to be introducing a new spelling system across both schools using a spelling package called 'No Nonsense Spelling' which is designed for children from Year 2 upwards.

Weekly or even fortnightly, children will be spending 15 minutes a day in school learning, practising and playing with a spelling rule in special spelling jotters. This pattern is shared with you in a spelling book and we ask and encourage you to practise this pattern at home. The Look-Say-Cover-Write-Check method is still a valuable way of learning spellings.

Also within the spelling book, the children will be given a number of common exception words (for lists, please see link above) on a weekly basis. These words will come out on a Friday and will be tested (through dictation) on the following Friday, so that they are using the words in context. These words might be words from the common exception spelling list or words which contain the spelling pattern they have been working on both in school and hopefully with you at home.

This needs support from home and spelling well is such a key skill, by us working together, we hope this could really make a difference.

If you have any questions about this, please come and speak to one of us for further clarification.



COMMUNITY, CREATIVITY, COMPASSION



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With kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'L. Evans', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Mrs L Evans

Mrs R Brown

Mrs R Ibbotson

Mrs S Bradbury

Mrs C Shepherd



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