



Parent Guide

St Blaise Primary School

Spelling



Dear Parents

We would appreciate your help at home in supporting your child with their spelling, this booklet gives you ideas as to ways you can support your child at home

Learning to spell can be very tricky for children.

Some children learn to spell effortlessly and some take a little longer. A weekly spelling test can be scary for some children which is why it is important we ensure the words they learn are purposeful and linked to their reading and writing so that they stay in the long term memory.

Spelling must be made fun, enjoyable and interesting.

Children only become really good at spelling by practising over and over again and this is best done in fun and interesting ways. Most of us, even if we consider ourselves to be good spellers, make spelling mistakes at some point. What is important is that we know what to do when we get stuck and we know how to correct our mistakes. At St Blaise School children learn the rules, conventions and spelling strategies needed to become confident at spelling.

In this booklet you will find some suggestions for things that you can do at home to make spelling fun for your child. Each week your child will bring home spellings set by their teacher which may be linked to their phonics, topic or from the word lists for each year group. Your child will benefit greatly from your support in helping them learn and remember their spellings.

How can I make learning spellings more fun whilst helping my child to become a confident and accurate speller?

Find the word

Look to see if you can see a small word inside your word.
e.g. where (here), friend (end)



Write each of the following words in the box that matches the letter shape of that word.

see	three	two	we	yellow
the	to	up	where	you
where	the			
two	to			
see	yellow			
we	up			
three	you			

Word shape

Draw around the shape of the word and try to remember the shape of the word.

Word painting

Draw the word in chalk and brush over it with a wet paintbrush.

Look, say, cover, visualise, write, check

- **Look** at the word
- **Say** it out loud
- **Cover** the word
- **Visualise** the word (imagine a picture of it in your head)
- **Write** the word from memory



Jumbled letters

Write your word on paper, cut each letter and put the word back together.

Rainbow words

Break the word down into syllables and write each part in a different colour.

**Tracing**

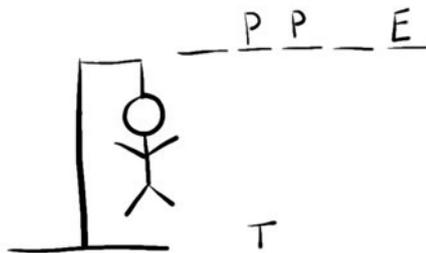
Write your word down 3 times and trace over it in different colours.

Sliders

Cut two slits in the centre of some A4 card and insert a strip through the centre with some words on. As you pull the strip it will reveal and hide different words.

Hangman

Play hangman with a partner, using the words you are learning.

**Bubble writing**

Write the word in bubble writing and write inside it.

Rhymes and pictures

Use rhymes or pictures to go with words to help them remember.

1. You **hear** with your **ear**
 2. The word separate has "a rat" in it (separ**ate**).
- Donkeys, monkeys - There are **keys** in donkeys and monkeys.

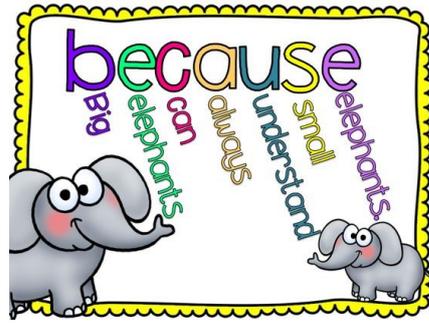
The word here is also in its opposite **there**.

Villain - A **villain** is one who lives in a **villa**.



Matching pairs

Find matching pairs of words with a spelling pattern in. e.g. train / rain



Mnemonic

Write a mnemonic to remind you of the spelling. The first letter of each word in the sentence spells the word. e.g. **where**:

What **h**as **e**veryone
really **e**aten?



Musical Spellings

Make up a short rhyme or song to remember spellings or rules for spellings.



Strategies for spelling

All children will learn to spell in different ways which is why they need a range of approaches to help them learn and remember their spellings. It will also help them as they will see the word in different contexts.

- ⇒ Listening for sounds and breaking them down
- ⇒ Breaking a word into syllables
- ⇒ Using rhymes and mnemonics and songs to help them remember
- ⇒ Using visual approaches e.g.: word shape, bubble writing
- ⇒ Multi sensory approaches e.g.: word painting
- ⇒ Verbal and social e.g.: spelling tennis
- ⇒ Physical e.g.: spell jump

Applying Spellings

How can I make sure they write spellings correctly in their writing?

As well as engaging in all the fun activities suggested, it is still important to put the words into sentences for your child. This puts it into context and also gets them to apply the spelling within writing rather than just a 'list of words.'



What if my child forgets their words after a few weeks?

Your child will be introduced to using a spelling dictionary at school. This is simply a book that they can add spellings to but importantly, refer back to. Your child needs to know that learning spellings isn't just for the day of the test but it is for when writing too.



Remember that your child's class teacher will be happy to help and answer any more questions!