

## **New Handwriting and Spelling Scheme**

Dear Parents / Carers,

Please find below information on the school's new handwriting and spelling scheme:

### **Cursive (joined-up) letter formation**

Children will be taught to form some letters such as f and k slightly differently, as well as being taught to form all letters with an 'exit stroke' (flick at the end). Please find attached a sheet to show you how each letter will be formed. The aim of this is to have children joining up their handwriting as soon as they know how to form all of the letters.

### **Linking handwriting and spelling**

Whenever spelling is taught in class or at home, children will first trace over the word twice (in a cursive style), before writing their own version of the word twice. Linking handwriting and spelling in this way 'kills two birds with one stone'.

### **Which year groups will use it?**

In Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 all children will begin to use the scheme. In Years, 3, 4, 5 and 6 some children will be selected by their class teacher to use the scheme. Not all children in Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 will use the scheme as some of them will have already developed a personal style of handwriting and it would be difficult and counter-productive to try to train them to change their style. If you would like to know why your child has or has not been asked to work on the new scheme, please speak to his or her class teacher.

Children will not start on the spelling scheme until they have learnt to form all of the letters correctly and are able to sound out CVC words, such as dog, van, lid etc.

### **Half-Termly, not weekly tests**

Children will be tested after they complete a 'stage' of the scheme. This will mean that they have a test (approximately) each half-term. Tests will involve a selection of words to check that each child has learnt the rules / patterns covered in the stage. Assessing them in this way is a better way to check that they have learnt the rules / patterns for good, and not just for the week. If a child does not perform well enough on this half-termly assessment they will work on those spelling rules / patterns again.

Kind regards,

Mr / Mrs