

## Why please use?

I recently had a dyslexic child in my class. Realising that I had no idea how to meet her needs, I enrolled on a Postgraduate Diploma in Dyslexia and Literacy with Dyslexia Action (validated by the University of York). The handwriting and spelling scheme tries to incorporate what I have learnt on this course and elsewhere. It is estimated that 4 to 8% of children are dyslexic; hence you are likely to have a dyslexic child in your class. Even if you do not, I feel that the scheme will be an improvement on how most schools currently teach spelling.

### How the scheme could be used

**From Reception / Year 1** - I believe that this would help prevent children with special needs, particularly dyslexia, from falling behind their peers as much as they would otherwise do in spelling.

**As a catch-up scheme** - If you have a child or group of children who are struggling with handwriting and / or spelling.

### When should a child start on the spelling scheme?

It is crucial that children only start on the scheme after they have achieved some key milestones:

1. Knowing all of the individual letter *sounds* so that they can spell all consonant-vowel-consonant (CVC) words e.g. 'dog', 'lip', 'tan' etc.
2. Knowing all of the individual letter *names*.
3. Knowing how to correctly form all of the letters.

If children do not know the letter sounds *and names* they will be unable to learn the irregular words e.g. you cannot sound out the word 'said'.

**If children do not know how to form their letters correctly, they should work on this first** before bad-letter-forming habits become engrained through repetition.

### Scheme not used in school yet

I will only be introducing the scheme to my school for the first time in 2011/2012, as it was only created in the summer of 2011; therefore I cannot vouch for its effectiveness. The principles behind the scheme and the reasons why I believe it should be used are given in the manual to accompany the scheme. **Given that the scheme is untested, I would be very grateful for any feedback on it, both from teachers who do use it and from those who decide not to use it.**