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Head Teacher: Mrs Paula Fearn



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Dear Parents

I wanted to let you know how very impressed I am at the effort and determination your children are showing in their learning in Year 4. The New National Curriculum has many demands and we are working hard to ensure your child is middle school ready.



Thank you for encouraging your child to complete homework and return it on time. We have high expectations of our children in the top class of our school. They need to be organised and punctual and your children are rising to the new challenges in Year 4 life!



Expectations of spelling capability have risen with the New Curriculum. I very much appreciate how you are encouraging your child to read at home and this will help them enormously when recalling spellings. Your children are being given weekly spelling s to learn for a test. However these spellings are a very small snapshot of the whole spelling picture your child needs to master to flourish in middle and secondary school.

We are encouraging children to look at dictionaries to check their own spellings. Please have one handy at home and play spelling games with dictionaries together e.g. how many words ending with ant can you find in the dictionary in five minutes, how many words can you find with double letters etc. Have fun and encourage spelling to be a playful activity. They need to be looking and investigating spelling patterns.

Year 4 children are having discrete spelling lessons where we are focusing in on certain spelling rules. I know we can work as partners in your child's education and you can encourage your child to improve their spellings at home in many creative ways. I invite you to contribute to the home spelling board where children will be rewarded for their efforts.

Suggested activities are make word searches, treasure hunts where spellings are hidden, art collages with spellings on them, stories with a required number of spellings in them e.g. write a short story about a dragon and include at least 12 words with the mis prefix in them. Spelling is so much more than the weekly spelling test.

This term we will be concentrating on these areas of spellings:

Homophones - in, im, ir and il prefixes e.g. important immense

Apostrophes in words singular and plural e.g. Jan's dog James's dog

Words with ey, ay or eigh in them

Suffix ing, er, en and ed in them lightning, lighten

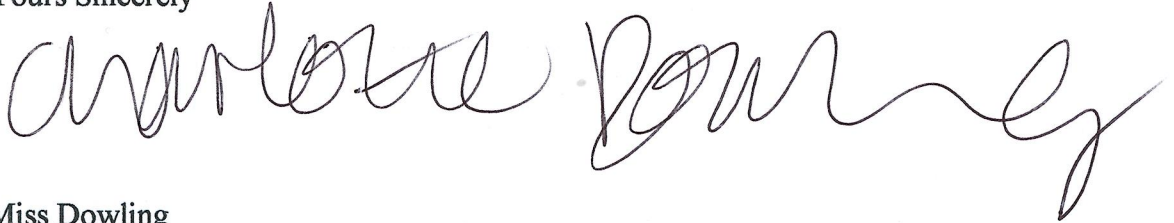
These websites are helpful to use with your child:

<http://www.topmarks.co.uk/Flash.aspx?b=english/spelling>

http://www.learninggamesforkids.com/spelling_games.html

I hope this information is helpful to you. I appreciate how supportive you are as co-educators on your child's educational journey. Spelling is being identified as an area that children need to improve in order to shine and excel in the new curriculum. We are always striving to be the best we can be at St Mary's and I believe, with your support, spelling can be another area of learning we can be very proud of in school.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Miss Dowling', written in a cursive style.

Miss Dowling
Year 4 Teacher