



St Bartholomew's C of E Primary School
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1st October 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

In school, we are teaching spelling using an investigative approach called Word Study. This way of teaching focuses on making links between what the children have learned, about how to read words and what they need to think about in order to spell them.

We are enthusiastic about this interactive approach to teaching and learning about words, because we are able to develop opportunities for the children to make links between sounds, patterns and meanings in words, and also research and make connections about the origins of words.

The children will also spend time generating and testing their own theories about how and why words are spelt; working in an interactive environment which promotes vocabulary development and enrichment. This, in turn, we hope will have a positive effect on their reading comprehension and their writing skills.

As a phase, we have decided to pause the learning of the Year 3 and 4 statutory word list (which is in the back of your child's homework book). We will focus on these again after Christmas, but for now, we want to focus fully on certain spelling patterns within the Word study approach. In terms of support at home, you'd be most welcome to continue to practise the spellings given in the Year 3 and 4 statutory word list, but please understand that these, as previously stated, will not be focused on in class until after Christmas.

We will not be sending out 'word lists' in relation to our learning in our Word study lessons, as this is not part of the investigative approach. However, we thought it would be pertinent and useful for you to know the spelling rules we will be covering each week in order for you to continue to support your child's learning. Please find these overleaf.

Please also see the spelling booklet that we have sent home – we hope this will make spelling practice a bit more interesting and varied.

Yours sincerely,

Miss Gray
Year 3 and 4 Phase Leader



Year 3 and 4 spelling patterns for autumn term

Week commencing	Spelling pattern	Examples
7 th October	Suffixes – er, ed, ing	Forgot, forgetting Begin, beginner, beginning Prefer, preferring, preferring Garden, Gardener, Gardening
21 st October	Suffixes – tion, sion, ssion, cian	Invention Tension Discussion Electrician
28 th October	K spelt as ‘ch’ Greek words	Scheme Chorus Chemist Echo Character
4 th November	Pronounced ‘s’ but spelt ‘sc’ Latin words	Science Scene Discipline Fascinate Crescent
11 th November 18 th November	Prefixes – un, dis, mis, in	Unhelpful Disappear Misunderstand Incomplete
25 th November	Prefixes – super, auto, anti	Supernatural Autobiography Antibacterial
2 nd December	Possessive apostrophes with plural words	Girls’ Boys’ Children’s
9 th December	Homophones and near homophones	Accept/except Affect/effect Break/brake Grate/great There/they’re/their To, too, two Hear/here