



Dear Parents,

The Teaching of Spelling at Cestria

We began a review of the teaching of spelling, across the school, last year, following the introduction of the new curriculum. To meet the demands of this curriculum and address individual needs, our spelling scheme now consists of the following elements: -

- The Rising Stars Spelling scheme is used in school in years 1 to 6. This focuses on the teaching of the specific spelling rules for each year group and involves a range of engaging activities.
- The use of the Big Spelling (in all classes Y1-6), which is able to match spellings to individual ability, and is therefore able to support individual spelling needs, as required.
- A whole class spelling 'hit list', which is sent home, via Marvellous Me, which identifies commonly misspelt words, identified through marking. This is designed to replace the traditional spelling lists, which have been sent home in the past for children to learn. The idea is that children make sure that they can spell these words, not for a test, but for use in their everyday writing across all subjects.
- Confident spellers - some of our children are 'natural spellers' and they can spell most words expected for their age and beyond - if this is your child...fantastic! Concentrate on reading challenging books with them and exploring exciting vocabulary and spelling words they perhaps don't normally meet.
- From time to time, teachers may send additional spelling homework, linked to the Rising Stars scheme, but this will focus more on recognising spelling patterns or exploring spelling rules rather than lists to learn.

National research shows that this approach to spelling better equips children to tackle a wider range of spellings in their work and, in turn, become more confident writers.

Our children have performed **significantly above** average in SATs spelling tests for the past 3 years in both key stages!

Diane Marshall
(KS2 English Coordinator)