

- Try to establish a routine. Find a regular time which can be dedicated to practising the weekly spellings with your child. This could be before school or before/after "reading" time in the evening.
- Read through the words with your child and ensure they can read them and know the meaning.
- Encourage your child how to use the "look-say-cover-write" method or a method provided by the class teacher. Write the spellings on a blank piece of paper. The child looks at the spelling, says the word then covers it up and tries to write the word before checking it is correct. Using this method regularly your child will see how their spellings are improving through the week.
- Other spelling activity could involve the use of magnetic letters on the fridge, using letter tiles from games such as scrabble or writing sentences with the words in.
- Another way to help your child learn and apply their spellings is to give them a dictation where you read sentences with the spellings in and they write them down. You can then check the sentences together.
- The most important way you can help your child succeed with spelling is to give them lots of encouragement and praise. Try to keep the process as enjoyable and relaxed as possible!



The teaching and learning of spellings is an important element within the teaching of literacy. As children develop the confidence and skills to spell words their writing becomes more fluent and they can begin to focus more on other aspects of their writing, adding more detail and description to their written work.

The skills involved in spelling go hand in hand with those skills required to read. When developing spelling skills children are encouraged to break down words and blend sounds in words. Therefore, supporting children to develop their spelling skills will also help them with their reading.

G O T H A M P R I M A R Y



Kegworth Road  
Gotham  
Nottinghamshire  
NG11 0JS

Head Teacher  
Mrs Sue Lymn-Brewin

Phone: 0115 9149751

Supporting Spelling at Home

# Learning To Spell!



A guide for Parents  
and Carers

G O T H A M P R I M A R Y

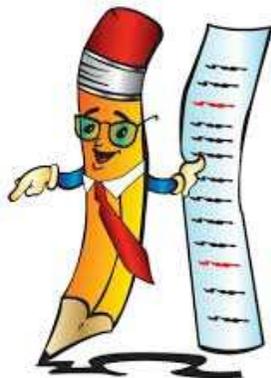
## Spelling Rules ~ OK!

The teaching of spelling is an important element of our work at Gotham Primary. We do not believe in defacing children's writing by correcting every error, but we do place great importance on equipping children with the tools for writing the words that they wish to use.

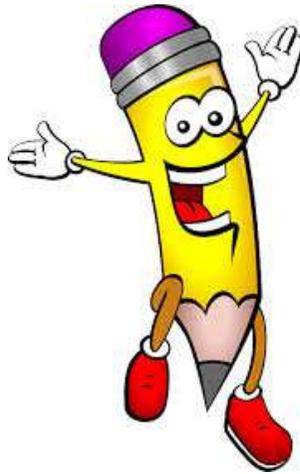
Initially we encourage the use of 'temporary spellings' in tackling unknown words, as we do not wish to stem the flow of the writer's ideas. We support our young writers with a highly structured spelling programme in order to familiarise them with the correct spelling of an increasing number of words.

We teach sight recognition of each letter and the sounds it commonly makes in the spoken form. We then provide small groups of words to be learned each week, and test and reward success in this activity. Our spelling programme is based on the lists of key words specified for teaching in the National Curriculum for English. We look at groups of words which feature common spelling patterns enabling children to apply these patterns to new words as they require them.

As parents and carers you will be able to actively support this activity at home - helping your child to adopt their method of learning the spellings issued by their teacher.



## How we teach spellings at Gotham....



At Gotham Primary school we fully recognise the importance of spelling. Throughout the school we teach spelling skills. Each week children will focus on a different phoneme (sound) or spelling pattern. This process begins in the reception year where children are taught the smallest unit - the letters and sounds of the alphabet. As children move through the school they will build on this, learning the sounds different combinations of letters make. They will also investigate spelling patterns.

As well as learning common spelling patterns, children will be encouraged to learn how to spell high frequency words. These are words which are used often in the English language such as: and, the, have, what etc. These words are listed in the National Literacy Strategy. Your child's class teacher will be able to provide you with the list for your child's year.

We use word games, computer software, dictations, white boards and other fun ways to reinforce the high frequency words and spelling patterns of the week.

## Weekly Spellings.....

Each week children will be given a number of spellings appropriate to their ability. They will be tested weekly and given new spellings.

We also dedicate a time every day to give children the opportunity to practise their weekly spellings within the classroom. We encourage parents to help their children to learn their spellings at home.

