



**TEL:** 01582 626489  
**EMAIL:** [admin@redbournjm.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@redbournjm.herts.sch.uk)  
**WEBSITE:** [www.redbournjn.herts.sch.uk](http://www.redbournjn.herts.sch.uk)

*'Building our Futures Together'*

12 September 2016

Dear Parents and Carers

### **Spell to Excel**

We have looked at several options for spelling and have ultimately decided to use a new spelling scheme called 'Spell to Excel'. We trialled this scheme in the summer term in Year 5 and the children thoroughly enjoyed participating in all of the activities it had to offer. These activities put words into context, making learning spellings fun and at the same time reinforcing grammar and punctuation objectives. This scheme is a popular choice amongst other Hertfordshire schools and has had a significant impact on improving standards in spelling.

Spell to Excel places emphasis on children taking greater ownership of their learning and is underpinned by the principle that spelling is best taught through 'a little and often' approach. We only improve our spelling by practising over and over again, a bit like learning times tables. It is vital that parents help support their children at home with spelling.

### **How can parents help?**

#### **Check your child's Weekly Word Wall**

At the start of the week the children will share a class Word Wall and will select some of their own key words for the week. With appropriate care, your child will hopefully copy out each of their key words correctly. This will be their responsibility and at times they could make mistakes. Therefore please check your child's Weekly Word Wall when it comes home on the Monday just in case they have copied any words down incorrectly.

#### **Use their words in context**

As part of their homework on Monday, the children will be expected to write interesting sentences using four of their Word Wall words (see example). Please help support your child when putting these words into context and by checking that they are using correct grammar and punctuation. On Fridays, the children will test their learning through sentence dictations. We are looking forward to working in partnership with parents to deliver this new, exciting spelling scheme.

A Curriculum Evening will be held on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> October from 7-8.30pm at which any queries you may have will be addressed.

Thank you for your continued support.

Kind regards.

Angela Smart  
English Subject Lead

## Word Wall

Select four words that you have generated, or from the class word lists, as your key words for the week.

1. **though**

2. **cough**

3. **rough**

4. **although**

5. **bought**

6. **doughnuts**

7. **thorough**

8. **drought**

### **Dictation**

Make up some interesting sentences using spellings 5 to 8. Ask a parent or carer to help you and to check through your sentences for correct spelling, grammar and punctuation.

- ① Yesterday my mum bought a packet of sticky jam doughnuts and I devoured two after tea.
- ② I carried out thorough research of the Battle of Britain for my World War Two project.
- ③ After two years of drought, the farmers ran outside to dance and celebrate.

Top tip- Help your child edit their sentences looking out for correct spelling, grammar and punctuation.