



Monday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2024

Dear Parents/Carers

As part of our work to promote high standards of spelling throughout the school, we will be introducing the **William Byrd Spelling Bee**, which will take place over the last week of each half term. This will be introduced to children in assembly next Friday. We feel that this is a motivating and fun way to celebrate the achievement of our children.

### What is it?

The Spelling Bee competition is becoming more popular in the UK and as we celebrate our children's sporting achievements, we are looking for other ways to acknowledge our children's successes. Our Spelling Bee will take place from Years 1 to 6.

### How does it work?

Each year group will be given the list of common exception words recommended for children to read and spell for their age. Common exception words are words in which the English spelling code work in an unusual or uncommon way. They are not words for which phonics 'doesn't work', but they may be exceptions to spelling rules, or words which use a particular combination of letters to represent sound patterns in a rare or unique way. Children in Year 1 and Year 2 will have a new list each year and children in Year 3 to Year 6 will have one list over two years.

Each class teacher to choose 10 words from the list at random for children to write. Anyone who gets all ten words correctly spelt will move to round two.

This is the oral stage where children will be asked to spell aloud 10 random words from their spelling list. Anyone who gets 10/10 will move to the semi-finals.

The Semi-finals is a knockout round. This is continued until there is one person identified to represent their class.

### Finals

Once a class winner has been found they will challenge their partner class held in the style of knockout resulting in a year group winner.

We encourage parents and carers to support the children with practising their words in preparation for the Spelling Bee, which will take place during the last week of each half term.

If you have any questions, please speak to your child's class teacher.

Yours sincerely

Miss Nessa

**Assistant Head Teacher**

