



Friday 9th February 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 EYFS Spelling Bee, which will take place in the next half term. We feel that this is a motivating and fun way to celebrate the achievement of our children.

How does it work?

Each Reception child will be given the list of common exception words recommended for them to read and spell for their age. Common exception words are 'tricky' words in which the English spelling code works 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.

In the next few weeks, on a Friday, the class teacher will choose 3 words from the list at random for children to read and write. Anyone who gets all 3 words correctly will collect a point. Children will collect their points in the next few weeks and those with the highest number of points will receive a special prize at the end of each half-term.

We encourage parents and carers to support the children with practising their words in preparation for the Spelling Bee.

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

Your sincerely
Reception Team

