

St Mary's Primary



Active Spelling Stage 1 - 3

Guide for Carers and Parents



Dear Parent/Carers,

At St Mary's Primary our approach to spelling is based on the techniques and strategies recommended in the North Lanarkshire Active Spelling programme.

This approach encourages children to be active in their approach to spelling through the use of:

- **Reciprocal Teaching activities**
- **Spelling Strategies**
- **Active Spelling activities**
- **Elkonin Boxes**
- **Phoneme Stories**

All of these approaches are explained throughout this booklet as well as practical activities that you can do at home with your child.

Assessment

Children are continually assessed throughout the week to ascertain how confident they feel and to give them areas to focus on to improve. Children will receive feedback from their teacher and peers as well as opportunities for self-assessment. Teachers can also make judgements about a child's ability to spell words by using them within a context e.g. a dictated sentence

Stage 1 - 3

In Stage 1, 2 and 3 spelling and phonics are taught separately at this stage and a different methodology is adopted for each.

This leaflet is split in two to outline the differences between the teaching of phonics and the teaching of spelling.

What is a Phoneme?

A phoneme is a unit of sound. It can be one letter, two letters or a group of letters that make a single sound.

Single Phoneme

a as in **a**pple

d as in **d**og

Joined Phoneme

sh as in **sh**op

ch as in **ch**urch

igh as in **ligh**t

Split Phoneme

a_e as in **lan**e

i_e as in **lin**e



Phonics



In class, phonics is taught with one main focus lesson in the week, followed by short daily activities to reinforce the learning. Initially in Stage 1, two **single phoneme** sounds are taught per week. This is followed in Stage 2 and 3 by one taught **phoneme** sound per week (this phoneme will either be a **joined** or **split phoneme**).

The children will be introduced to each phoneme in a context e.g. through a Jolly Phonics song, Geraldine the Giraffe (YouTube) or Alpha Blocks (Cbeebies). The teacher will then demonstrate the letter formation and 'word building' through the use of a magnetic board and letters. Children mirror the teacher on their own magnetic board.

This is reinforced throughout the week by:

- Working with partners to read and write words and dictated sentences and then check these. (**Reciprocal Teaching**)
- Using magnetic boards to mirror the taught lesson either individually or with a partner
- Taking part in a range of active spelling activities.
- Working with a partner to say, make/break, blend, read and write each word from a phoneme list.
- 'Identifying taught phoneme in a 'Phoneme Story''

Five Finger Strategy

When teaching a new phoneme, the teacher will use and model the Five Finger Strategy. This involves:

- **SAY** The children say the word
- **MAKE/ BREAK** The children make the word and they break it into its different sounds
- **BLEND** The children push the word back together and run their finger under the word as they say it.
- **READ** The children read the word
- **WRITE** The children write the word



Example use of the Five Finger Strategy – ‘train’

SAY	Children orally say the word ‘train’
MAKE/BREAK	Children then choose the magnetic letters to make the word train and put them together. Children then separate the letters into their sounds: t r ai n They then put the letters back together.
BLEND	The children blend the word by running their finger underneath the letters.
READ	The children read the word
WRITE	The children then write the word on their whiteboard.

How to Support Phonics at Home

When your child comes home with a phoneme and list of words containing the taught phoneme, you can further reinforce their learning by encouraging them to find and read the words containing the phoneme within books, newspapers, magazine, environmental print.

You could also take it in turns to dictate words or simple sentences, which contain the taught phoneme as well as undertake some of the suggested Active Spelling activities in the Spelling Homework Grids for Primary 1 – 3.

Active Spelling Suggestions



Painting Words

Your child could paint the words themselves or they could write their spelling word in white crayon and then go over in paint.



Shaving Foam/Icing Sugar Spelling

Your child could write their spelling words in either shaving foam or icing sugar.



Lego Spelling

Your child could write their spelling words in Lego bricks.



Water Words

Your child could use a squeeze water bottle to squirt water on the ground outside to form letters and words.



Illustrations

Your child could draw an illustration to go alongside 5 of their spelling words.

Elkonin Boxes

By Stage 2 and 3 children will begin to use Elkonin Boxes to help them to learn the words that contain the taught phoneme sound.

Elkonin Boxes are a series of boxes that allow children the opportunity to investigate and record a word by recording each sound (phoneme) contained within the word.

If you think about the word 'faster' and say it out loud, you can hear every letter making a sound. In Elkonin Boxes it would look like this:

f	a	s	t	e	r
---	---	---	---	---	---

In the word speed, you don't hear the 'e' sound, you hear 'ee.' Speed would look like this:

s	p	ee	d
---	---	----	---

WARNING: Elkonin boxes are only used for words that can be sounded phonetically.

- They cannot be used with common/tricky words
- Words that cannot be used in Elkonin boxes are words such as aeroplane, square, ice as they contain split phonemes

Phoneme Stories



A '**Phoneme Story**' contains words from the taught phoneme word list. At home, children can look for words containing their focused phoneme family in newspapers and books. They could even write a phoneme story of their own using the words contained in their spelling homework.



Spelling



Spelling is taught with one main focused lesson in the week, followed by short daily activities to reinforce learning. The words from the taught lesson are known as **common words**.

Common words are the words which children will use most often in their writing and come across in their reading.

Children will have opportunities throughout the week to work with a partner (**Reciprocal Teaching**). They will take it in turns to be the 'teacher' and the 'pupil'. The 'teacher' will dictate words and sentences to the 'pupil' who will write them down. The 'teacher' will then check their partners work for correct letter formation and accurate spelling. The children then swap roles.



When learning their spelling words, children are taught **Strategy Spelling**. Strategy Spelling teaches children to problem solve and use taught strategies they can use to spell tricky words. **Tricky words** are words that don't follow patterns or rules.



Spelling Strategies

Knowledge of Phonics	Sounding it out and using Elkonin boxes
Syllabification	<p>breaking words into syllables. Each syllable will contain a vowel:</p> <p>going go ing remember re mem ber yesterday yest er day</p>
Word Shape	<p>Look at the letter shape, size, ascending and descending letters.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">they</p>
Compound words	<p>joining two separate words to form a new word:</p> <p>breakfast break + fast strawberry straw + berry homework home + work</p>
Using Analogy	<p>You can use words that you already know to help you spell others by using the rhyme.</p> <p>if you know hen, you can spell: then, when</p>
Mnemonic	<p>you can create your own memory aid to remember how to spell a word</p> <p>necessary one collar, two sleeves could o – oh u- you l- lucky d- duck</p> <p>practice ice – noun practise ise - verb separate there is a rat in separate</p>



St Mary's Primary Active Spelling Homework Grids Primary 1- 3



The St Mary's Primary Active Spelling SACAWAC (**S**ay and **C**over and **W**rite and **C**heck) Homework Grids can be found at the back of your child's spelling homework jotter. Please see the grids below for activities suggested for Primary 1 - 3.



Primary 1 Spelling Homework Grid



<p>Creative Letters Write your words by cutting out letters from old newspapers and magazines and stick them on to paper.</p>	<p>Play Doh Make your spelling words using Play Doh.</p>	<p>Air Write Write your words in the air with large arm movements.</p>	<p>Hangman Play Hangman with a parent or carer using your spelling words.</p>	<p>Big Writing Write your spelling words as big as you can.</p>
<p>Chalk Spelling Write your spelling words in chalk on your driveway or a paved area in your garden</p>	<p>Crayon Spelling Write your words in crayon. How many colours can you use?</p>	<p>Felt tip pen Spelling Write your words in felt tip pen. How many colours can you use?</p>	<p>Paint your Words Use paint to paint your words on a piece of paper. Paint a picture of one of your words too!</p>	<p>Finger Tracing Use your finger to spell out each of your spelling words, one letter at a time on your parent or carers back. Can they guess the word? Get them to do the same to you!</p>
<p>Messy Spelling Put some icing sugar or shaving foam on a tray, write your words in the sugar or foam.</p>	<p>Delicious Spelling Write your spelling words in something tasty e.g. jam, honey, peanut butter!</p>	<p>Pasta Words Make your spelling words using pasta.</p>	<p>Torch Spelling In a darkened room, use a torch to write your words in the air.</p>	<p>Picture Words Draw a picture of one of your words. Write your spelling word around the picture.</p>
<p>Speedy Spell Set a timer for 30 seconds, how many times can you write one of your spelling words?</p>	<p>Sentences Write a sentence for 3 of your spelling words. Underline your spelling word in each sentence.</p>	<p>Practice Test Ask a parent or carer to do a mock spelling test with you.</p>	<p>Spelling City Use Spelling City to practise your spelling. All WCPS spelling words are on the site below. www.spellingcity.com/MrsMack109</p>	<p>Your choice Make up your own activity for practising your spelling. Share your idea with your class.</p>



Primary 2 Spelling Homework Grid



Creative Letters Write your words by cutting out letters from old newspapers and magazines and stick them on to paper.	Squiggly Writing Write spelling words in squiggly writing.	Vowel Words Write your words with the vowels in a different colour.	Hangman Play Hangman with a parent or carer using your spelling words.	Big and Small Writing Write your words as big and as small as you can.
Pyramid Spelling Write your spelling words in a pyramid shape e.g. F Fu Fun Funn Funny	Rainbow Spelling Write your words in the colours of the rainbow.	Felt tip pen Spelling Write your words in felt tip pen. How many colours can you use?	Rhyming Words Make a list of words that rhyme with each of your spelling words. How many can you find?	Finger Tracing Use your finger to spell out each of your spelling words, one letter at a time on your parent or carers back. Can they guess the word? Get them to do the same to you!
Stencil Words Find an alphabet stencil and use it to practise your spelling words.	Capital Letters Write your words in capital letters.	Connect the Dots Write your spelling words in dots then connect the dots by tracing over them in a coloured pencil or pen.	Alphabetical Order Write your words in alphabetical order.	Speedy Spell Set a timer for 30 seconds, how many times can you write one of your spelling words?
Silly Sentences Write a silly sentence for 5 of your spelling words. Underline your spelling word in each sentence.	Sentences Write a sentence for 5 of your spelling words. Underline your spelling word in each sentence.	Practice Test Ask a parent or carer to do a mock spelling test with you.	Spelling City Use Spelling City to practise your spelling. All WCPS spelling words are on the site below. www.spellingcity.com/MrsMack109	Your choice Make up your own activity for practising your spelling. Share your idea with your class.





Primary 3 Spelling Homework Grid



Snap! Make two copies of your words. Play Snap with them.	Squiggly Writing Write your words in squiggly writing.	Consonant Words Write your spelling words with the consonants in a different colour.	Hangman Play Hangman with a parent or carer using your spelling words.	Reverse Alphabetical Order Write your words in reverse alphabetical order e.g. from Z to A
Pyramid Spelling Write your spelling words in a pyramid shape e.g. F Fu Fun Funn Funny	Other handed words If you are right handed, write your words with your left hand and vice versa.	Cheerleading Words Make a cheer for some of your spelling words. Share it with the class.	Syllable Words Work out how many syllables each of your words have. Clap the syllables of your words.	Scrambled Words Ask an adult to scramble each of the letters in your words. Try to unscramble the words.
Find the Words Choose a spelling word. Use the letters in your spelling word to make as many new words as you can.	Forwards / Backwards Write each word forwards then backwards.	Chant Chant your spelling words to a parent or carer	Short Story Words Write a short story using your spelling words. Can you use them all? Underline your spelling words.	Speedy Spell Set a timer for 30 seconds, how many times can you write one of your spelling words?
Silly Sentences Write a silly sentence for 5 of your spelling words. Underline your spelling word in each sentence.	Sentences Write a sentence for 5 of your spelling words. Underline your spelling word in each sentence.	Practice Test Ask a parent or carer to do a mock spelling test with you.	Spelling City Use Spelling City to practise your spelling. All WCPS spelling words are on the site below. www.spellingcity.com/MrsMack109	Your choice Make up your own activity for practising your spelling. Share your idea with your class.

