St Mary's Primary



Active Spelling Stage 1 - 3

Guide for Carers and Parents



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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.

<u>Assessment</u>

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 apple
	d as in d og
Joined Phoneme	sh as in shop
	ch as in church
	igh as in l igh t
Split Phoneme	a_e as in lane
	i_e as in line



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.



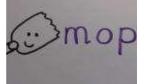
Lego Spelling

Your child could write their spelling words in Lego bricks.



Water Words

Your child could use a squeezy 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

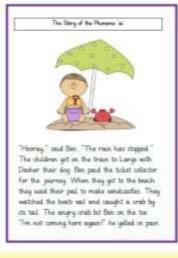
In the word speed, you don't hear the 'e' sound, you hear 'ee.' Speed would look like this:

s p	ee	d
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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 Ekonin 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.

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Spelling Strategies

Vacuuladaa af	Counding it or	ut and using Elkonin hoves			
Knowledge of	Sounding it out and using Elkonin boxes				
Phonics					
Syllabification	breaking word	s into syllables. Each syllable will contain a vowel:			
	going	go ing			
	remember	re mem ber			
	yesterday	yest er day			
Word Shape	Look at the let	ter shape, size, ascending and descending letters.			
•		they			
		riteg			
Compound	joining two separate words to from a new word:				
words					
	breakfast	break + fast			
	strawberry	straw + berry			
	homework	home + work			
Using Analogy	You can use w	ords that you already know to help you spell others			
	by using the rh				
	if you know he	en, you can spell: th en, wh en			
Mnemonic	you can create your own memory aid to remember how to spell a				
	word				
	necessary	one collar, two sleeves			
	c ould	o – oh u- you I- lucky d- duck			
	pract ice	ice – noun			
	pract ise	ise - verb			
	separate	there is a rat in separate			



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



The St Mary's Primary Active Spelling SACAWAC (**Say and Cover and Write and Check**) 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



Creative Letters	Play Doh	Air Write	Hangman	Big Writing
Write your words by	Make your spelling	Write your words	Play Hangman with a parent	Write your spelling
cutting out letters	words using Play	in the air with	or carer using your spelling	words as big as
from old newspapers	Doh.	large arm	words.	you can.
and magazines and		movements.		
stick them on to				
paper.				
Chalk Spelling	Crayon Spelling	Felt tip pen Spelling	Paint your Words	Finger Tracing
Write your spelling	Write your words	Write your words	Use paint to paint your words	Use your finger to
words in chalk on	in crayon. How	in felt tip pen. How	on a piece of paper.	spell out each of
your driveway or a	many colours can	many colours can	Paint a picture of one of	your spelling
paved area in your	you use?	you use?	your words too!	words, one letter
garden				at a time on your
				parent or carers
				back. Can they
				guess the word?
				Get them to do the
				same to you!
Messy Spelling	Delicious Spelling	Pasta Words	Torch Spelling	Picture Words
Put some icing sugar	Write your spelling	Make your spelling	In a darkened room, use a	Draw a picture of
or shaving foam on	words in something	words using pasta.	torch to write your words in	one of your words.
a tray, write your	tasty e.g. jam,		the air.	Write your spelling
words in the sugar	honey, peanut			word around the
or foam.	butter!			picture.
Speedy Spell	Sentences	Practice Test	Spelling City	Your choice
Set a timer for 30	Write a sentence	Ask a parent or	Use Spelling City to practise	Make up your own
seconds, how many	for 3 of your	carer to do a mock	your spelling. All WCPS	activity for
times can you write	spelling words.	spelling test with	spelling words are on the site	practising your
one of your spelling	Underline your	you.	below.	spelling.
words?	spelling word in		www.spellingcity.com/MrsMackl09	Share your idea
	each sentence.			with your class.



Primary 2 Spelling Homework Grid



Creative Letters	Squiggly Writing	Vowel Words	Hangman	Big and Small
Write your words by	Write spelling	Write your words	Play Hangman with a parent	Writing
cutting out letters	words in squiggly	with the vowels in	or carer using your spelling	Write your words
from old newspapers	writing.	a different colour.	words.	as big and as
and magazines and				small as you can.
stick them on to				
paper.				
Pyramid Spelling	Rainbow Spelling	Felt tip pen Spelling	Rhyming Words	Finger Tracing
Write your spelling	Write your words	Write your words	Make a list of words that	Use your finger to
words in a pyramid	in the colours of	in felt tip pen.	rhyme with each of your	spell out each of
shape e.g.	the rainbow.	How many colours	spelling words. How many can	your spelling
F		can you use?	you find?	words, one letter
Fu				at a time on your
Fun				parent or carers
Funn				back. Can they
Funny				guess the word?
				Get them to do the
				same to you!
Stencil Words	Capital Letters	Connect the Dots	Alphabetical Order	Speedy Spell
Find an alphabet	Write your words	Write your spelling	Write your words in	Set a timer for
stencil and use it to	in capital letters.	words in dots then	alphabetical order.	30 seconds, how
practise your spelling		connect the dots by		many times can
words.		tracing over them		you write one of
		in a coloured pencil		your spelling
		or pen.		words?
Silly Sentences	Sentences	Practice Test	Spelling City	Your choice
Write a silly sentence	Write a sentence	Ask a parent or	Use Spelling City to practise	Make up your own
for 5 of your	for 5 of your	carer to do a mock	your spelling. All WCPS	activity for
spelling words.	spelling words.	spelling test with	spelling words are on the site	practising your
Underline your	Underline your	you.	below.	spelling.
spelling word in each	spelling word in		www.spellingcity.com/MrsMackl09	Share your idea
sentence.	each sentence.			with your class.





Primary 3 Spelling Homework Grid



Snap!	Squiggly Writing	Consonant Words	Hangman	Reverse Alphabetica
Make two copies of	Write your words	Write your spelling	Play Hangman with a parent	Order
your words. Play	in squiggly writing.	words with the	or carer using your spelling	Write your words
Snap with them.		consonants in a	words.	in reverse
		different colour.		alphabetical order
				e.g. from Z to A
Pyramid Spelling	Other handed	Cheerleading	Syllable Words	Scrambled Words
Write your spelling	words	Words Make a	Work out how many syllables	Ask an adult to
words in a pyramid	If you are right	cheer for some	each of your words have.	scramble each of
shape e.g.	handed, write	of your spelling	Clap the syllables of your	the letters in your
F	your words with	words.	words.	words. Try to
Fu	your left hand	Share it with the		unscramble the
Fun	and vice versa.	class.		words.
Funn				
Funny				
Find the Words	Forwards /	Chant	Short Story Words	Speedy Spel
Choose a spelling	Backwards	Chant your spelling	Write a short story using	Set a timer for 30
word. Use the letters	Write each word	words to a parent	your spelling words. Can you	seconds, how many
in your spelling word	forwards then	or carer	use them all? Underline your	times can you write
to make as many	backwards.		spelling words.	one of your spelling
new words as you				words?
can.				
Silly Sentences	Sentences	Practice Test	Spelling City	Your choice
Write a silly	Write a sentence	Ask a parent or	Use Spelling City to practise	Make up your own
sentence for 5 of	for 5 of your	carer to do a mock	your spelling. All WCPS	activity for
your spelling words.	spelling words.	spelling test with	spelling words are on the site	practising your
700. 0000	1	1	below.	spelling.
Underline your	Underline your	you.	Delow.	spennig.
	Underline your spelling word in	you.	www.spellingcity.com/MrsMack109	Share your idea

