

BOURNE ELSEA PARK CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY ACADEMY

Executive Headteacher: Mrs S J Moore

Acting Head of School: Mr P Bellamy

**Sandown Drive
Bourne**

Tel: 426968

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Dear Parent/Carer

ACTIVE SPELLING

Spelling is a vital skill and at Abbey Academies Trust, we understand that children learn to spell at varying rates and need to be taught accordingly.

As a result, we have taken the decision to make considerable changes to our approach to teaching spelling. As a Trust we have already adopted Active English as a whole-school method of the teaching and learning the grammar elements of the National Curriculum and we have now adopted the programme Active Spelling. Active Spelling will predominately be used from Y2 - Y6 following on from phonics teaching using the Read, Write, Inc phonic programme in Reception and Year 1.

Active Spelling is a teaching approach devised by L.E.A.D Equate Teaching School and the approach is rooted in research. The sessions will be led by each class teacher on a daily basis for 15 minutes and will allow children to recall previously learnt spellings to aid retention. Children will then be taught different strategies that they can self-apply to help them to learn the new list of spellings before they experiment with the application of these words.

There is an evidence base which suggests that the use of frequent low stakes testing (recall practice), which is an inherent part of the Active Spelling programme, is more beneficial in aiding the long term learning of spelling than a traditional weekly spelling test, which can often cause anxiety. By removing the high stake weekly tests, it removes the fear of spelling and instead helps children to see spelling as problem solving. We believe that this approach to teaching spelling will better support children with their long-term learning of spelling structures and patterns. Therefore, weekly spelling lists will no longer be sent home for children to learn for a weekly test.

We appreciate that this is an innovative move and we will be undertaking a cycle of regular review and monitoring to ensure that our provision for teaching spelling continues to support children in making progress and succeed in spelling.

Where children require more individualised support with spelling this will continue to be provided through specific interventions and group work put in place by the class teacher where appropriate. Where specific home support with spelling may be beneficial to your child's progress their class teacher will speak to you about this.

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

The English Team