



How you can help at home with spellings:

Being a good speller requires regular practice and attention to detail. Parents can support by practising the spellings your child brings home each week.

Look, Say, Cover, Write, Check

Look, say, cover, write, check is one strategy we use to help children when they are learning to spell new words:

You can help your child to:

Look

- Look carefully at the word you are learning
- Look at the shape of the word as a whole
- Look at each letter from left to right

Say

- Say the word
- Say the sound of each letter (or group of letters e.g. 'ch')

Cover

- Cover the word so that you can't see it

Write

- Write the word
- Say the 'sounds' as you do this (but no peeking at the word)

Check

- Check if you have written the word correctly. Tick if it's right
- If it is wrong, tick the letters that are in the right place
- Look carefully at where you went wrong so that you can put it right next time

Holtsmere End Infant & Nursery School



Happy learners, Aiming high

English - Spelling Homework

Reading and spelling common exception words Challenge

At Holtsmere End Infant School we teach every child the importance of good spelling. We want every child to be a good speller and to take a keen interest in the spelling and meaning of words. Being a good speller boosts a child's confidence; relying on spell checkers and other gadgets is no substitute for learning the art of spelling.

For younger children, the teaching of spelling is linked to the teaching of phonics e.g. as they learn to 'sound out' words, for the purpose of reading, they learn to apply the same skills when spelling words. As children learn to read within a structured phonics method all these different phoneme (spoken unit of sound) and grapheme (the written symbol that represents a sound) correspondences are explained, and the 2014 English curriculum has set out the various spelling rules (and exception words) that need to be learnt by children in each year of their primary education.

Common exception words are 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.

Some exception words are used very frequently, which is why children are introduced to them very early on in their phonics learning (in Reception, alongside high frequency words, and in Key Stage 1). At our school these common exception words are displayed in each classroom and are referred during lessons.

Our English homework will now focus on all children mastering the ability to read and spell all the key words that are expected for their year group. This in turn will ensure your child makes good progress in their reading and writing and will benefit their everyday learning.

Homework:

Children will each have a key ring containing four words to learn to read. These will be tested on a Thursday in class. Once children have learnt the words they will be given four more to learn and so on. New words will be given out on a Friday. When your child brings new words home this will indicate that they have successfully read the words. The children will learn to read the words first and spell them after they have successfully read all common exception words for their year group.

Once this has been achieved they will receive the following rewards:

The children can:	Reward
Read all common exception words for their year group	Notebook
Spell all common exception words for their year group	Special pen

Once children are able to spell and read words for their year group they will be given words from the next year group up.

If you have any questions regarding the reading and spelling challenge, please ask your child's teacher.

