

St Mary's Church of England School, Kirkby Lonsdale

Dear Parents

The English language is a very complex thing to learn and master. For example, trough, dough, bough, are spelt with the same sound 'ough' but sound very different when spoken. A significant amount of our children also face various barriers to spelling correctly such as being on the dyslexia spectrum. Despite the many challenges we face it is essential that we make every effort to teach our children creatively and appropriately to acquire and secure spelling patterns. Each year all schools reflect on key areas to focus on to ensure the children's learning is improved. This year we feel it is appropriate to focus on spelling. We are going to work very hard this year, and beyond, to give our children a solid foundation in spelling. With this in mind we have invested in a very exciting spelling scheme. We have seen first-hand by visiting other schools, the dramatic success the scheme has on improving spelling.

We are launching our spelling scheme on Monday 17th September in all classes from Y2 – 6 and the spelling programme will be taught every day. Children will be learning spelling patterns and certain spellings each day with their peers. They will be given a booklet to support lessons in class and will have a 'log book' which will go home with reading records/planners each day. Throughout the week children will be asked to learn spellings which they do not know. We are asking parents to initial these as the children learn them regularly throughout the week. We will be moving away from weekly tests which don't seem to translate to accurate spelling in writing. We will however be focusing on learning spellings on a daily basis and then concluding a half term with a spelling assessment. How well children have secured their spellings will be reviewed in class every Monday.

We are very excited as a school to embrace this focus on spelling and the scheme to support our teaching and learning. We are urging all families to support the learning taking place in school, by regularly working on the spellings written in the new log books.

Over this year we will be monitoring the progress the children make in spelling. Importantly we will review the children's confidence levels and how spellings lessons translate to improved spellings in writing. We hope you will join us in encouraging your children to improve their spelling ability and support them in being creative in practising spellings.

Best wishes and have a lovely weekend.

Mr Jones
Headteacher

One of the most exciting things we can do is enrich our children's vocabulary. With this in mind perhaps you might like to share the word of the week with your family and try to encourage the children to use it in their chat, discussions and writing.

To fathom – to probe and understand something

Westmorland Show

Our children had the most wonderful day at the Westmorland Show. The weather was mixed but mostly dry which made for super day. Whilst some children they have attended the show regularly this was the first time for some of our children who really enjoyed the varied things on show. One super highlight was the visit of HRH The Countess of Wessex who chatted with our children at our school exhibition and around and about the stands.





After School Sports Club (Year 5 and 6 – Hockey)

Children in Year 5 and 6 are being given the opportunity to take part in hockey club throughout this term after school on Thursdays. Please contact the office to get onto the list, if you wish your child to attend. We aim to have 20 places for this club on a first come first served basis.

Rugby Training

Casterton, Sedbergh Prep will be hosting rugby training for 25 children in Year 5 and 6. We will provide funding to pay for transport for these events throughout this term. Letters will be coming out next Monday to inform you if your child has been asked to attend. Our focus is to initially offer this opportunity to those who do not play rugby regularly.

European Languages Day – Thursday 27th September



Each class is exploring a particular country on European Languages Day. Every year we celebrate this day and learn about a new country. This includes the language, geography, history, rulers, food, famous art, traditions etc.. Our children dress up in the colours of the flag or are inspired by the traditional clothing.

Nursery	Sweden
Reception	Sweden
Year 1	Greece
Year 2	Spain
Year 3	France
Year 4	Coatia
Year 5	Iceland
Year 6	Portugal



Violin Lessons



Please get in touch if you would like your child to learn violin and we will be able to put you in touch with our violin teacher, Adele Killip.

Please join us for a brew.... 17th Sept 2-3:05pm



Please come and join our team of volunteers offering a brew on Monday from 2:00 – 3:00pm in The Shed!

Home Learning Projects



hand in day is Monday 24th Sept.

Have a wonderful weekend.

Mr Jones