

# WILTHORPE INFANT SCHOOL

## PARENTS BOOKLET

### HELPING YOUR CHILD WITH SPELLING



#### What is a 'good speller'?

Good spellers are people who know what to do when they are stuck. Very few people can spell every single word correctly. Most of us, even if we are good spellers, make some mistakes from time to time. The important thing is that we know how to attack a word which is difficult or unfamiliar.

If we are asked what we do when we attempt to spell a word, most of us would say 'sound it out'. However when we stop to think about it we realise that 'sounding out' is only one of things we do.

There are lots of words we need to spell that we cannot spell out.

Your child will be some where along the way to becoming a good speller.

Listed below are a few strategies good spellers use:-

- They have a store of words they can spell- beginning spellers known words like **am, here, the, I, is, it.**
- They sound words out – beginning spellers can sound out words like **cat, mum, dad, sit, fit,** etc
- They know many common letter patterns, so they know when a word looks right – beginning spellers know patterns like **sh, th, ch, ing** later on **ought, ious** etc
- They can divide words into syllables- beginning spellers can do this with words like **carpet** and **garden.**
- They can make links between the meaning of words and their spelling – beginning spellers don't do this much. Later on connections will be made between words like **sign, signature, circle circumference**
- They work out spelling rules for themselves
- They use adults and dictionaries to help them.

It is very important that children are encouraged to have a go at spelling words they don't know when they are writing. If they do not have a go they will not get the chance to practice these important strategies. If children only use words they can spell, they may never make a mistake, but they will not get the chance to become good spellers.

**Always praise your child for having a go!**

At school your child will be introduced to the look, cover, write, read check technique for learning spellings. This technique is explained below.

## LOOK, COVER, WRITE, READ CHECK TECHNIQUE

LOOK – look carefully at the words so that you remember what you have seen

COVER – cover the word with card/paper

WRITE- write the word from memory

READ – say the word out loud

CHECK – check that you have written the word correctly

If you have not written the word correctly, **start again.**