



Striving together for excellence and enjoyment

## New Approach to Spelling January 2015

Over the past term we have been reviewing the way we teach spelling at Pirton School in order to ensure that we are fully meeting the statutory requirements of the new Primary Curriculum. The following information summarises the changes implemented from this term.

We will no longer have a weekly 10 word spelling test. This will instead be replaced with a sound or pattern of the week. Children will learn the rule or focus in class at the beginning of each week and will be asked to practise the sound or pattern using example words as homework to practise segmenting and writing. The children will be expected to add to and develop this list following the given rule.

The purpose is for children to focus on...

*how to spell rather than just teaching words to memorise, that is **what to spell**.*

This will increase children's vocabulary, their knowledge of spelling rules and patterns and also will help the children to apply their knowledge to new unfamiliar words that they haven't practised in their 10 spellings.

At the end of the week children will be tested but they will be asked to complete a short dictation rather than a simple spelling test. The children will independently write a sentence that will contain some words that follow the rule or pattern that they have been learning.

We plan to hold an Information Evening on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March for parents to hear about how we teach spelling at Pirton School in more detail. Further information on this event will be provided in a newsletter nearer the time.