



Queen Eleanor's Church of England Junior School  
*An Academy in the Good Shepherd Trust\**  
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**"A caring, supportive community, grounded in a Christian ethos, where children are inspired to explore their potential and develop skills for life."**

Head Teacher: Jo Davies

30<sup>th</sup> March 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

From the beginning of the summer term, we will be making a few changes to the way that we teach and assess spellings at Queen Eleanor's. Our new vision is to inspire children to become confident and independent spellers who take an active part in their own learning. This new approach has already been trialled for a term in Year 6 and we look forward to making these positive changes across the rest of the school!

Outlined below are the key changes:

- Each spelling rule will be taught over a fortnightly period rather than weekly. This is to ensure that the children gain a deep understanding of the rule (rather than just learning words for a test) and the chance to independently include these words in their own writing.
- The children will be tested on their spellings fortnightly on a Monday. The spelling homework sheet should also be handed in on this day.
- We will only be testing the children on eight spelling words (five of which will be sent home and three surprise spellings) but also asking the children to identify five of their own words to learn and practise which follow the same rule. Monday spelling sessions in the classroom will be a 'word investigation' lesson so the children should already come home with some ideas of new words.
- Daily ten-minute 'speed spelling' sessions will take place in the classroom. These will consist of a variety of independent, paired and whole-class activities. Each classroom will have a 'speed spelling' display which the children can add to whenever they have included a spelling word in their work and earn a house point.
- You will see on the children's spelling homework sheet a choice of three 'speed spelling' activities to help them practise their words in a more interactive way if they would like to do this.

If you have any questions, please feel free to ask your class teacher.

Best wishes,

Miss White