

English update

Spelling in Key Stage Two

You may have noticed that your child is no longer having a spelling test on a Friday. At Nancledra, we have made this considered decision, in order to develop real, life-long learning.

The reasons behind the change:

1. Getting 100% on a spelling test does not mean a child has a mastery of those words. Most children, even those who achieve 10/10 on Friday's test, will misspell the same word in their writing on Monday.
2. Just because a child can memorise words for a test does not mean they understand the logic or reasoning behind the spelling of words – Yes, the English language is logical!
3. Children need multiple and meaningful exposure to concepts (including the spellings of words) for it to 'stick'. Therefore, memorising words for a spelling test does not give them multiple -nor meaningful- exposure to the words.

What are we doing instead?

1. Teaching spelling. Distinct spelling lessons will take place – just as phonics is taught in Reception and Key Stage One.
2. We do still want the children to practice spellings at home. These spellings will be 'common exception words' – words which do not have a pattern and need to be learned by rote. These words will be repeated, and children will use Spelling Shed, or their homework books to practice. Practice of these will be monitored to ensure children are completing this learning.

Key Stage Two Reading

2022 is the Nancledra Year of Reading. We aim for all our children to become confident, fluent readers as well as nourishing and developing a real lifelong love of reading.

In KS2, once children have completed the book banded reading scheme and the karate bands, they graduate on to the reading journey. This is where pupils are introduced to books which have been carefully selected to introduce them to different genres and styles of writing, as well as develop an interest in language. These are high quality books with high quality vocabulary and which develop comprehension and a love of reading.



Year 2/3: Children develop their reading stamina and fluency. This is the first part of the children's reading journey. Fluency is critical in supporting comprehension, which in turn leads to enjoyment of reading.

Year 2/3: Children will 'pack their bags' with a selection of genres to develop their knowledge of genres, ready for their reading 'journey'.

Year 4-6: Children will start their journey to London, Europe and the wider world by completing a series of reading tasks which will support them in becoming life-long readers.

We need your help! In order to further develop our Literature Spine, we are looking for the following books so support our Year 3 and 4 readers. If you have any of the following books (or sequels) that you are able to donate to our library, we would love to give them a home!



