

 **ST JAMES CATHOLIC**

**PRIMARY SCHOOL, HEBBURN**

10th March 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian,

**St James’ LKS2 Spelling Bee 2021**

From **11th March 2022,** the children in Year 3 and Year 4 will have an exciting opportunity to go head-to-head and take part in our first ever LKS2 school Spelling Bee competition. For the children who would like to enter, their usual spelling homework will be replaced with alternative lists of spellings, each week alternating between the Year 3 and Year 4 spelling curriculum to keep the competition as fair as possible. Spelling lists will be provided as a hardcopy and can also be accessed through Spelling Shed.

For the children wishing to enter, they will be given their first 10 spellings on Friday, with a further 10 spellings provided on Monday and then on Wednesday. In total, within a week, the children will have to try and learn 30 spellings. Whilst this may sound daunting, we are trying to encourage children to use spelling patterns to support their understanding of words and we can only ask children to attempt what they can. By the following Friday, participating children will have a spelling test, focusing on a small selection of words they have learnt on their list. This process will be repeated across the following weeks:

Week One: 11th March First Spelling Issued - 18th March Week One Test

Week Two: 18th March New Spellings Issued - 25th March Week Two Test

Week Three: 25th March New Spelling Issued - 1st April Week Three Test

Week Four: 1st April New Spellings Issued - 8th April Week Four Test

Week Five: (School half-term and a well-deserved break and a chance to revise all learnt spellings)

Week Six: Head-to-head final

**Spelling Bee final**

After four weeks of intense spelling-learning, four children from Year 3 and four children from Year 4 will be selected, based on their results, to go head-to-head in our Spelling Bee final during a LKS2 school assembly. The children will be tested on a random selection of spellings from their previously learned lists and, if the situation were to arise where there was a draw, the children would enter a tie-breaker round. All finalists will receive a prize and our winner will also take home our first ever LSK2 Spelling Bee trophy!

**Why should my child participate?**

As a school, we know spellings can be incredibly tricky to some children. Not all children will have the confidence to enter into a Spelling Bee and some may find the process overwhelming. However, we ask that children not be discouraged by the amount of learning and to focus on what they can achieve. As well as an individual LKS2 winner, the children can also participate on behalf of their school house team. For every correct spelling they achieve in their weekly test, it is a point they are adding to their school team total. By the end of the competition, the house with the most points will gain an exciting reward for the collaborative efforts!

If you would like any more information, please speak to a LKS2 member of staff.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs V Hayden

(Acting English Coordinator)