



Kirton Lindsey Primary School

Star Spell

Information for Parents/Carers



Our whole school spelling system is called **Star Spell**.

How it works:

Children will be given four words a week to learn to spell and use in the correct context. Children will be expected to practise spelling and using the words in the correct context at home; they will also be incorporated into work at school. Once a week, they will be tested on these spellings and their test sheet will be sent home to enable you to keep track of their progress and assist with their learning. Any spellings not achieved must become a focus the following week. Your child's master sheet will be attached inside their reading record. If you are unsure when this is then ask your child's class teacher.

It is essential that children do not simply learn to spell the words for one test; they will be encouraged to continue to practise and use the spellings beyond the test and need to retain their knowledge of spelling the words in the long term. At the end of every half term, a big assessment test will be carried out of all the words learnt to date. Children may be awarded a certificate, depending on how many of the words they are able to spell. These awards are named after the 25 brightest stars.

Here are some suggestions of ways in which you can help your child to learn their spellings:

- Use look, cover, write & check - Look at the word, cover it over, children write it from memory and then they check it and repeat the process.
- Sound out the word and agree how many 'sound buttons' it has. Then, ask children to write each sound above a 'sound button'. (Eg. ch i p has 3 sound buttons)
- Practise spelling orally in the car, around the supermarket, on the way to school or football practice.
- Put the words into sentences and practise handwriting at the same time.
- Make up rhymes to remember especially difficult words. Because - **big elephants can't always understand small elephants.**
- Write a couple of the words on cards and stick them to the fridge – each time your child walks past they will read it and it will become more familiar to them.
- Look for words within words – there is **a rat** in **separate**.
- Younger children love to write with anything other than a pencil – chalk on the ground, use bath crayons or make the words with magnetic letters, if you have them.

We currently have four spelling lists which are named after constellations. These are Andromeda, Delphinus, Orion and Phoenix. Your child will bring home a master copy of their spellings from the appropriate list (according to their age / ability). Please see the chart on the reverse of this information, showing how many spellings children need to achieve in order to obtain each certificate. If children do not reach the amount required for a certificate in the first test, they can work towards this the following half term. Each half term the certificates awarded will reflect the total number of spellings they have retained to date.

If you have any queries about this scheme or would like some help in supporting your child in spelling at home, please do not hesitate to speak to your child's class teacher.

Thank you for your continued support.

Year 1 - Certificate Information

Word List	Number of Words Achieved	Award Name
<u>Andromeda</u>	108	Becrux
<u>Andromeda</u>	92	Deneb
<u>Andromeda</u>	72	Regulus
<u>Andromeda</u>	56	Adhara
<u>Andromeda</u>	40	Castor
<u>Andromeda</u>	20	Gacrux