



Ss Alban & Stephen Catholic Infant & Nursery School

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Dear Parents,

From this term, our spelling homework will be changing from a weekly list of ten words to a letter pattern or sound of the week.

Year One will focus on a letter pattern linked to Letters and Sounds while Year Two will examine a new sound each week, e.g. finding different ways to write the long 'a' sound in the middle of a word e.g. rain, brain, chain, tail, wait. You will find a table of letter patterns in the back of a new homework book with a link to the Jolly Learning website where you can hear the correct pronunciations. We are asking parents help children find words with the appropriate sound or pattern to write in their homework books.

For some time we have sent home a list of ten spelling words each week that children were asked to learn for a weekly test and many children achieved 10/10. Despite this success, children continued to struggle when spelling the same words in other work because they were only learning a word off by heart for the test. Whilst the ability to remember spellings is important, learning to apply spelling rules or patterns and having the confidence to 'have a go' are skills that will serve children well throughout their education.

Teachers will assess how effectively the children apply their knowledge in their writing and report any concerns. We will also have a diagnostic test each week using a selection of words chosen by teachers but no test books will be sent home. We will review progress at the end of the Autumn Term.

Thank you for your support.

Best wishes

Paula Holden



University of Hertfordshire

working in partnership to promote excellence in teacher education

Building God's Community of Love and Learning