

My spelling is wobbly.  
It's good spelling, but it  
wobbles, and letters  
get in the wrong place."

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## Winnie the Pooh



**Spelling**

isn't

**EZ**



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# Spelling Matters



- Spellings are important.
- In the current educational climate spelling matters a great deal.
- The national curriculum publishes a long list of spelling requirements for key stage 1 and 2.
- Spellings are assessed formally at the end of Key Stage 2 in the GPS test and form a significant element of the writing curriculum throughout school.
- Learning to spell well is learning is extremely useful if we want children to become confident writers. Stopping to think about spellings can impact upon flow and creativity.
- If they're confident spellers, they're also much more likely to make adventurous vocabulary choices, selecting the exact word to communicate their message, rather than playing it safe and using a word they already know how to spell.



# What makes a good speller

- There are many ingredients...
- Good visible memory
- Positive attitude
- Recognise rhyme and rhythm
- Perseverance, care and determination
- Distinguish sounds around them
- Oral blending and segmenting
- Observe order of events
- Recognise parts of a whole
- Syllables
- Learns rules/conventions /strategies
- Recognising Patterns
- Exceptions /tricky words
- Alphabet – sounds and names
- Link letters with sounds
- Hold a pen/ joined handwriting



# What do we think at Barns green?

- While many children across the school do well learning spellings for spelling tests, not all children apply their knowledge with care when it comes to written work.
- This has a significant impact upon a child's progress.
- Parents can be surprised to hear that their child struggles with spelling –
- **Spellings are for life not just for Christmas!**
- **As teachers our role is to promote good spelling through all aspects of work.**



# What can we do to help?



- Children who struggle with spelling usually have no strategies up their sleeve when they get stuck on a word. Ask any weak spellers the question, ‘what do you do when you cannot spell a word’. They will have, at best, one strategy. But it is most likely that they guess. To help them become better spellers they need to acquire a range of different approaches to help them.

- *Pie Corbett*



# Spelling strategies - Our Approach

- A systematic approach toward teaching spelling – learn the rules!
- Playing around with words e.g. Big Elephants Can Always Understand Small Elephants = **Because**, You wouldn't want to FRI the END of your friend! = **Friend**
- Look for words within words -We went TO GET HER = **Together**
- Using mnemonics - **said** Silly ants in dresses!
- Silly stories
- Using **practical** materials to make / form words – link to muscle memory
- Making links
- Key words available
- Explore words including their meaning and history
- Teach the writing process – edit and improve (use of green pen)
- Consistent message!



# What can you do to help?



- Spend some time helping – little and often is best
- Play games – make it as fun and enjoyable as possible
- Fun spelling activities often work better than writing out lists!
- Point out careless errors – value your Child's writing
- **Lots of encouragement !**

