



ST JAMES
C.E. PRIMARY SCHOOL

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"With God, there is no limit to what you can do. There is no obstacle you can't overcome. Through Him all things are possible." Matthew 19:26

Tuesday, 16th September 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

We would like to let you know about an important change to the way we approach spelling in school. After reviewing the latest research and reflecting on our teaching practices, we will no longer be setting weekly spelling tests.

Studies have shown that traditional spelling tests do not have a significant long-term impact on children's ability to spell accurately in their everyday writing. Instead, what makes the biggest difference is learning spelling patterns, rules, and strategies in context—and having regular opportunities to apply them in real writing.

As part of our new approach, we will continue to follow a structured spelling scheme, but this will be changing to a newer, more engaging format. Children will explore spelling patterns and strategies in class through a variety of engaging activities. They will also be encouraged to use and apply these skills across all of their written work, helping spelling to become a natural and lasting part of their learning.

You can support your child at home by encouraging them to notice spellings in their reading, talk about word patterns, and practise using tricky words in their writing. We will also provide guidance and resources for fun, practical ways to reinforce spelling outside of tests.

Thank you for your continued support as we make this change to best support your child's learning and progress.

Kind regards,

Mrs L Parkinson
Deputy Headteacher



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