



## **Parent's Guide to Spelling**

### **Sunny Bank Primary School - Year 1**

Year 1 is a foundation year for spelling, with children being taught important spelling patterns and exception words as well as how split digraphs work. We explain how you can support your child's Y1 spelling learning at home with an understanding of the curriculum and practical worksheets and activities.

#### **Phonics**

In Year 1, children do lots of phonics work to help them with their spelling. This phonics work consists of looking at how different sounds are spelled in different words.

Children will go over all the phonemes (sounds) they learned in Reception. They will learn both digraphs (sounds made by two letters, such as 'ee' or 'ir') and trigraphs (sounds made by three letters, such as 'igh' and 'tch').

They will look at how **the same sounds can be made by different groups of letters**, for example:

- oy and oi (as in 'toy' and 'coin')
- ai and ay (as in 'rain' and 'say')
- ir, er and ur (as in 'dirt', 'fern' and 'turn')
- ow and ou (as in 'cow' and 'round')
- ow and oe (as in 'flow' and 'toe')
- ue and ew (as in 'glue' and 'flew')
- ie and igh (as in 'pie' and 'sigh')
- or, ore and aw (as in 'for', 'more' and 'raw')
- air and are (as in 'fair' and 'dare')

They will also look at how **the same groups of letters can make different sounds**, for example:

- ea in 'bead' and 'bread'
- oo in 'food' and 'wood'
- ear in 'bear' and 'fear'

Year 1 children also learn about **split digraphs**. As mentioned earlier, a digraph is two letters that make up one sound. Sometimes, when the digraph is made up of two vowels, a consonant appears between the two vowels, splitting up the digraph. For example, the word 'bite' is made up of the sounds 'b', 'ie' and 't', however, the 't' in this word splits up the vowel digraph 'ie', so that it is spelt 'bite'.

Here are some other examples of split digraphs:

- o\_e as in 'rope'
- a\_e as in 'tape'
- e\_e as in 'theme'
- u\_e as in 'tune'



## Spelling Patterns

As well as their phonics learning, Year 1 children will learn spellings of words that have particular patterns, for example:

- Words ending ff, ck, zz, ll, ss such as 'fluff', 'luck', 'buzz', 'fill' and 'kiss'
- Words ending nk such as 'bunk' and 'sink'
- Words with two syllables, such as 'ticket' and 'kitchen'
- Words ending ve such as 'have' and 'live'
- Adding -es to the end of plurals and verbs, for example: 'hutch' becomes 'hutches' and 'stitch' becomes 'stitches'
- Adding -ing, -ed and -er to words, such as: 'jump' which changes to 'jumping', 'jumped' and 'jumper'
- Adding 'er' and 'est' to adjectives to make the comparative and superlative form, such as 'kind' which changes to 'kinder' and 'kindest'
- Words ending y, such as 'happy' and 'funny'
- Words containing ph or wh, such as 'telephone' and 'which'
- Adding the prefix un- to change the meaning of a word, for example: 'fit' to 'unfit'
- Compound words, which are words made up of two short words, such as 'football' and 'playground'

## Exception Words

Children are also taught what are now referred to as 'common exception words' (sometimes called tricky words). These are words commonly found in the English language, but which do not follow the phonic rules that have been taught so far. Examples of these in Year 1 are: 'were', 'once', 'school', 'house'.

the	they	one
a	be	once
do	he	ask
to	me	friend
today	she	school
of	we	put
said	no	push
says	go	pull
are	so	full
were	by	house
was	my	our
is	here	
his	there	
has	where	
I	love	
you	come	
your	some	

