Lydgate Junior School

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Dear Parents/Carers,

Y3 spelling

As you will know, the learning of spelling rules and patterns is an essential part of the English curriculum. We aim for all pupils at our school to become confident, independent spellers by the end of key stage 2. We use the Spelling Shed scheme to teach spelling based on phonics, morphology and etymology. Beginning in Y3, your child will be learning a spelling rule or pattern each week through focused learning activities in lessons. The spellings will be revisited throughout the week, in order to consolidate the learning further. We will not be sending home lists of spellings but do look at examples of words that follow the rule or pattern and ask the children to apply this in different activities, including dictated sentences.

All Y3 children have been given a personal username and login for the Ed Shed website where the Spelling Shed section can be accessed. In the coming weeks, your child's class teacher(s) will be setting Spelling Shed 'assignments' on the website that we would like you child to complete at home and in school to aid their spelling learning. The assignments include games and activities using the spelling patterns that have recently been worked on in class.

During the first two weeks in September, class teachers have assessed all pupils' knowledge of the Year 1 and 2 'common exception words' learnt in key stage 1. The most commonly misspelt words are also being integrated into the weekly learning activities.

Teachers will be assessing your child's spelling progress throughout their class work and the extended pieces of writing that they produce and this will form a part of their ongoing assessments of your child's progress over the course of this school year.

Y3 times tables

The children are also working hard to learn their times tables facts. The National Curriculum requires all children to know the tables up to 12x12 by the end of Year 4. Once they have learned the facts, looked for patterns and made links between the tables, it is important for children (right up to the end of Year 6 and beyond) to practise quick recall of these facts. We aim for them to become confident and fluent in recalling any times tables fact so that they are not hindered by slow recall when working on solving more complex problems.

We have subscribed to a website called Times Tables Rock Stars to help the children to practise this quick recall, whilst having some fun with collecting items for their Rock Avatar! The website

uses a theme of rock music and the idea is that each class in school is called a 'band' with the class teacher as the 'band manager'. The children all choose a 'rock name' and design their own character. The aim is to answer as many questions as they can as quickly as possible to set their 'rock speed', and to improve this speed with practice.

Your child has been given their user name and login. They will be logging in at school and shown how to use the website. For this to have maximum impact, we would like them to practise at home as often as possible. They can use the website ttrockstars.com or download the TT Rock Stars app on a tablet or phone.

Spare copies all of both usernames and logins will be available at parents evening.

If you have any questions about the curriculum in Y3 then please speak to your child's class teacher at our upcoming parents eveings.

Thank you for your continued support
The Y3 Team