



Longstone CE (VA) School

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Headteacher: Mrs. Sophie Rawding

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February 14th 2024

Dear Parent/ Carer,

At Longstone, we recognise the importance of teaching our children to spell accurately. Children who can spell feel confident and are able to write with enjoyment. We want our children to be equipped with a range of strategies for learning spelling and to be able to apply their strategies when spelling words in their independent writing. We encourage our children to enjoy exploring and investigating the patterns and contradictions of the English language and to take delight in what they discover.

Since January, we have been working with our Governing Body and our Local Education Authority English advisors to introduce an accredited whole school spelling scheme, to ensure high quality and consistent teaching of spelling across school. We are excited to let you all know that we have adopted the Spelling Shed scheme and will be delivering the scheme to children after the February half term.

Some of you may recognize the Spelling Shed brand, as spelling games were loosely used to support the learning of weekly spelling patterns throughout school lockdowns and in subsequent months. The Spelling Shed whole school scheme is much more than the game interface that you may have experienced before.

Our staff will be accessing Spelling Shed training on the whole school INSET day on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> February, when the school will be closed to all pupils. The training will equip all staff with the 'science behind spelling' and the tools to deliver high quality spelling sessions.

To celebrate our new whole school spelling journey, we will be holding a **Spelling Shed Launch Day on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March**. Children are invited to come to school in **bee themed fancy dress** and we will hold a staff spelling bee during the day, where children will test the teachers on their spelling skills! After the launch, your children will come home with new Spelling Shed logins to practice spellings on the spelling shed website.

As ever, if you have any questions, please get in touch via the school office.

Best wishes,

Miss. G. Sedgwick  
English Leader