

CASE STUDY

Spelling Shed at Park Schools Federation

After initially using SS only in Y4 (and seeing a terrific, immediate impact) we decided to implement the scheme across school. When introducing Spelling Shed, teachers were delighted with the ease of using the strategy – how planning was comprehensive and covered each lesson with fun, colourful resources, homework and games to play. We haven't downloaded the app, as with such a large school it would have been very expensive to download onto each iPad. Children access the games using the web browser and we haven't had any problems.

The sequence of 'assignment setting' is as follows:

1. Friday at the end of the day – we give spellings out. We use the Spelling Shed resources. We send these home with the children on a Friday night without a spelling lesson – just the spelling list and an activity. The children then go home with the spellings on the Spelling Shed online game to practise on.
2. Over the weekend the children practise their spellings.
3. Monday morning I see who has practised and reward them with Pride Points – the online homework means they have to complete the spelling list 10 times before they can use any of the other games. I get the overview up on the board to show the children who has and who hasn't completed their homework on Monday morning – lots of rewards for those who have!
4. Monday Literacy lesson – we begin the lesson using the Spelling Shed resources and complete the relevant spelling lesson. Lots of the class by this point have already completed the homework and understand these words and the spelling patterns they follow – they can often take the role of Teacher or Student Teacher during this lesson.
5. Any children who haven't completed the online homework stay in for intervention during assembly or drop-in over break-time. We monitor who has and who hasn't completed the homework over the week – displaying it on the board each morning and constantly chasing it up! It is simple – the children who practise more have more chance of achieving 10/10.
6. The spelling test is held on a Friday morning and anyone who gets 10/10 receive a sticker that we made at school '10/10, genius spelling!' We created these as there were so many children achieving 10/10 (and pupils who hadn't ever before) we had many parents coming to see us at the end of the day to check if their child was telling the truth. Going home with this sticker proves they got full marks – as many of the children achieve rewards and

treats at home too. If a whole-class all achieve 10/10 they receive a treat from our Headteacher – a movie and sweet snacks to enjoy!

7. Finally, the process repeats with the spellings being given out again for the children to learn over the weekend...

Many classes are now achieving amazing scores – much improved than before using Spelling Shed. For example, children in one class had approximately 30% of children achieving full-marks and now this is over 90% on a weekly basis! In our Y4 classes we have 100% of children completing the main Y3/Y4 spellings – whereas in previous years we have had support groups focussing on ‘support group’ spellings – all children can now access the main spelling lists, which is incredible!

This has had a superb impact on our ability to tackle new spellings during quizzes, due to the fact the children have daily practice and experience of reading, using and practicing different spelling patterns. Children who previously needed support with their spellings no longer need this – Spelling Shas given everyone a chance to be a superstar speller and has removed many barriers to spelling learning.

TIPS AND TRICKS: Check the spelling homework every day and with the entire class present! The children really benefit from seeing how you invested you are (as a teacher) in ensuring everyone does their homework and achieves 10/10 in their weekly spelling test. Even if I am out of the classroom, I make sure I go back and carry out the test with the class – there is a genuine buzz about spellings, being number one on the league table, getting that sticker and getting closer to having a whole class reward! We even made up our own chant to sing if we get 10/10! We love Spelling Shed and the impact has been dramatic, fabulously positive and quite simply incredible.

Having our Spelling Shed league table on display in a communal area has helped too! We make sure to visit our KS1 and KS2 winners every Friday afternoon with a Spelling Shed pencil and certificate. We take a photograph of each winner proudly showing off their scores and put this up with the school league tables.

Thank you Spelling Shed – you have changed the way we tackle spellings and really helped our children begin to perfect their skills!