

## CASE STUDY

### The Introduction of Spelling Shed at Poverest Primary School

As a class teacher I started trialling Spelling Shed with my year 6 class in January 2018. It took a while for us to get used to the system and it was a time Spelling Shed was developing. The big change I noticed as a class teacher was the enthusiasm for learning spellings and the weekly hive game was anticipated with excitement from the children.

From September 2018 we decided to offer Spelling Shed across the whole school. As a school leader I hosted a staff meeting and invited other teachers to watch hive games in action. The fun element of learning spellings was clear to see and I managed to engage most of my key stage two teachers.

As a school it helps to have a reliable internet connection and 30 devices. We are fortunate to have class sets. Year 6 have had a device each for all lessons this year as a trial and I am looking into the impact this has on overall standards. Other classes shared class sets but the uptake of words spelt is still high.

Most pupils use the app at school and the website version at home to complete their assignments. We do not use the Spelling Shed scheme but that is an option for the English lead to decide to use in future years should she wish to.

#### Top Spelling Groups

PREMIUM

#	Group	Score
1.	Oak Class	2,147,483,647
2.	Birch Class	924,120,934
3.	Elm Class	589,181,533
4.	Fir Class	292,312,907
5.	Cedar Class	212,853,570
6.	Chestnut Class	4,765,824
7.	Year 3 Intervention	4,361,765
8.	Beech Class	2,253,542
9.	Year 2 Intervention	1,965,657
10.	Hazel	1,501,258

Title	From	Expiry ↓	
James 14th June SPELLING James Spellings	10/06/2019 18:44	14/06/2019 18:44	Details
Mia 14th June SPELLING Mia Spellings	10/06/2019 18:10	14/06/2019 18:10	Details

Summary: Current 9, Pending 0, Expired 365

The biggest proof of success is our SATs spelling test scores. This year including our autistic provision children our average spelling score went from 12.1 to 15.2 and excluding our autistic provision children it went from 12.9 to 15.5. Our previous score of 12.9 was in line with national average for spelling and I now expect we will be well above national for spelling.

### **My tips and advice:**

- For hive games to have the impact you must have 30 devices (iPads or Chromebooks) and a reliable Wi-Fi with enough IP addresses. This not only helps with Spelling Shed but a host of other websites and apps which promote various areas of the curriculum.
- Set lists of no more than 10 words.
- Use the assignments!
- Share assignments leader boards during the week. Those with zero on Wednesday soon play the game before Friday!
- Celebrate successes! We had a dyslexic child who learnt her list 140 times in one week – she got 10/10 in the hive game.
- Appreciate that typing issues do occur when children are racing against the clock. We give house points for 8, 9 or 10 out of ten in hive games.
- Sounds terrible but compare hive scores with the assignment results. I managed to get through to some children that they are not going to get the high scores in the hive games.
- Use the data! We have intervention groups where the teaching assistants set lists on the words they have got wrong in hive games.

### **Next Steps for me:**

I strongly believe Spelling Shed has improved my classes spelling. In the past some children would go home, not learn their spellings, fail the weekly spelling test and repeat the cycle! I now have a system that is encouraging children to learn them and the results in the hive games are showing they have done so. We have more devices next year so I will launch spelling shed again and aim to see the number of assignments set increased.