9 October 2025

Dear Parents and Carers

Pathways to Spell

I am writing to inform you about an important change in our approach to teaching spelling for children in Years 3 to 6. After careful consideration, we have decided to adopt the "Pathways to Spell" programme. This marks a shift from our previous resource, Spelling Shed, as well as from formal weekly spelling tests.

The Pathways to Spell programme is designed to enhance your child's spelling skills through a structured and engaging approach. The children will be taught spelling three times a week, following a carefully orchestrated teaching cycle. Each session will include a review of prior knowledge related to a spelling rule, the introduction of a new rule and an opportunity for the children to apply this rule through interactive activities. This approach aims to solidify their understanding and application of spelling in a meaningful context. An additional advantage of this new programme is the integration of spelling instruction within our English lessons.

Consequently, your child will be regularly exposed to their new spellings throughout the week, fostering greater retention and application in both written and spoken contexts.

To assist you in supporting your child with their spelling practice at home, I have attached the relevant word list for your child's year group, along with suggested spelling activities. These activities are designed to be engaging and will help reinforce the spelling rules your child is learning in school.

We believe that this new approach will significantly benefit our children at Hampton College Primary and enhance their literacy skills. Should you have any concerns or queries regarding this change, please do not hesitate to contact your child's class teacher.

Thank you for your continued support in your child's education.

Yours sincerely

MStuffins

Mrs M Stuffins
Deputy Head of School (Primary Phase)

Hampton College