Warfield C of E Primary School

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Dear Parents and Carers,

At Warfield, we are continually reviewing and developing our curriculum to ensure that children receive the best possible education. As part of this ongoing commitment, we are making some exciting changes to the way we teach spelling across the school.

This year, children in **Year 1** will be following the **ELS Phonics Programme alongside enhancements from the Spelling Shed Scheme**, two structured programmes designed to help children develop a strong understanding of phonics, spelling patterns, rules and strategies.

As part of this approach in addition to daily phonics lessons:

- Children will take part in **weekly spelling sessions** focused on specific spelling patterns or rules.
- Each week, children will complete a **dictation session**, allowing them to apply the phonics or spelling patterns they have learned in the context of sentences and topic writing or handwriting activities.
- We will be **moving away from traditional spelling tests**. Instead, children will complete a range of writing activities and application tasks that demonstrate their understanding of the spelling patterns they have been learning and give greater identification of areas children need to develop.

The spelling patterns taught through Spelling Shed are carefully planned and mapped out for each year group, ensuring progression and coverage of the National Curriculum requirements. As with the ELS scheme used to teach Systematic Synthetic Phonics.

Please see attached an overview of the learning programme for the year. This outlines the phonic and spelling patterns for each week. Week 1 will start on Monday 14th September. Please talk to your children about their learning and engage in activities to help recall.

We believe that this approach will help children become more confident, accurate spellers by encouraging them to understand and apply spelling rules in their everyday writing, rather than simply memorising lists of words for a test.

Thank you for your continued support. If you have any questions about these changes, please do not hesitate to speak to your child's class teacher.

Yours sincerely,
Warfield CE Primary School