Dear Parents/Carers (of children in year 2-6),

Over the past half term, as a staff we have been thinking about how we teach spelling in school and how we ask for spellings to be learnt/practised at home. We asked all the children in KS2 to learn words ready for a class spelling bee, the first round of which will take place on Friday. This approach has been well received by the children and it is clear that many of them have put considerable effort into learning their words. Thank you all for your support with this.

The new National Curriculum spelling requirements are challenging and at Dormansland, as in many schools, we have been compelled to make changes to ensure the children reach the highest possible standards in spelling. Spelling at Dormansland will incorporate:

1) Teaching and learning of spelling rules/patterns in school a number of times during a week. Children will also be taught a range of ways of learning spellings.

2) Spellings will be tested weekly as they have been prior to this academic year. However, it will not be a case of simply learning words. The children are expected to learn 'about spelling' and this means they need to learn the rule or spelling pattern being studied. They will be given only a few words to learn as well as the rule. They will then be tested on these words and in addition, other words that fit the spelling pattern. This will ensure they have the tools to tackle unknown words rather than just words they have learnt by rote.

3) Personal spelling dictionaries will be used by the children, containing words they have spelled incorrectly in their written learning, words they have looked up in a dictionary and words they have asked for help with. These dictionaries will also contain reminders of spelling patterns previously taught.

If you have any further questions about the way spelling is taught in school or how you can help at home, please do not hesitate to get in touch with your child's class teacher or with myself.

Happy Spelling!

Yours sincerely,

Miss J Carter
English Co-ordinator