

## **Spelling guidance**

### **Our approach**

Whilst learning weekly spellings can be highly beneficial to pupils, our aim is to also help pupils develop essential skills and strategies, which will allow them to break down and explore new and unfamiliar words. To do this, we follow a weekly sequence, which helps pupils develop the necessary skills to tackle unfamiliar words, make morphological connections between words and to embed vocabulary at a deeper level.

What a typical spelling week at Falcon looks like:

Every session starts with a short spelling game developed by experts, which makes the learning of spellings accessible and engaging for pupils.

Day 1 – Introduce the sound/rule/spelling pattern. Children will explore the focus sound/spelling pattern and focus on strategies for breaking down tricky words into manageable chunks.

Day 2 – Explore the origins of the word. Children will complete a 'Word study proforma', which involves focus on a chosen word linked to our spelling pattern. We will explore how the word is built (the base word and any adjoining affixes), how many syllables it has, the spelling rules used within it, words which link to the focus word and much more.

Days 3-4 – Practise our focus words. Children will complete a range of spelling and handwriting activities, which allow them to practise and embed their focus words.

Day 5 – Assessment. At the end of the week we will assess how pupils have done with their weekly focus words whilst also building in strategies to break down and segment words as they spell.

### **Support for all**

Any children who join us who are not yet ready to move onto spelling rules and patterns will be given differentiated support - planned and resources by our Phonics lead - which focuses on building on their phonological confidence and knowledge base, which will in turn allow them to bridge any gaps in their learning and make the best possible progress.