

Wednesday 10th January 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Beginning this term, Connaught will be introducing you and your child to **Spelling Shed** – an online resource to develop spelling knowledge and practise spellings online.

Spellings are an integral part of your child's learning and at Connaught we are always looking for different ways to engage children and encourage them to practise their spellings. Spelling Shed is a fun, challenging programme designed to help pupils revise their spellings. This week, your child's class teacher will be introducing Spelling Shed to the whole class and demonstrating how it works.

Spelling Shed can be accessed online via their website: www.edshed.com. Your child will receive their own login and password which will be stuck into their homework diaries. The website can be accessed on phones, tablets and computers.

There are multiple games for children to play and explore. The children will be set lists of tailored spelling words each week by their teacher. The expectation is that children practice their spellings on Spelling Shed 5 times a week. Please note this practice in their homework diaries. If you feel your child's spellings are too easy or too challenging, please do let their class teacher know and they can adapt the spelling lists to better meet their needs.

There are a few ways children can view their progress:

- **'Shed Score'** is their main score used for leagues and is the total score from the past seven days. This may go down as well as up. It is rolling total which is calculated live and the score is cached after each game play. For example, if you earned 30 million points on Wednesday, the following Tuesday those points would be included in the shed score. However, on the following Wednesday, those points would be more than 7 days old, so they stop being included in the score.
- Your **'highest score'** is the highest score you have earned from one game.
- Your **'total score'** is your total score to date.
- **'Honeypots'** are the currency within the game and can be used to buy accessories for your avatar.

Even if your child feels confident in the spellings set, it is still important that they are practising, as it will improve their fluency and is part of their weekly homework.

The children are very excited about this new resource and we hope they will enjoy honing their spelling skills! Please speak to your child's teacher if you have any problems accessing this resource at home and we will be happy to assist you.

Yours Sincerely,

The Connaught Writing Team

Headteacher: Miss S McGann

Deputy Headteacher: Miss K Whiting

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