

Pear Tree Word Study Policy

Spring term 2016

Word study is based on the belief that most spellings (words) do follow generalisations or patterns. Through studying these patterns children can then understand how words are built and apply this knowledge to their reading and writing.

Children are **ACTIVE** in the process of comparing, contrasting, sorting and classifying words. They are encouraged to use word generalisations when they read and write. They learn to focus on patterns and meaning chunks and as a result apply their knowledge to a greater number of words.

Word Study addresses:

- Word recognition – recognise words on sight.
- Vocabulary – improve spoken and written vocabulary.
- Phonics – develop phonemic awareness.
- Spellings – learn about spelling patterns and multi-syllable words.

Word Study in KS1

Red class:

Assess letters and sounds knowledge.

Letters and sounds four sessions a week.

Grouped with Orange, according to regular assessment.

Jolly Phonics, word sheets/home learning.

Tricky sight words alongside reading.

Word matching and sorting – group activities.

Orange Class:

Letter and sounds, four sessions (assessed and grouped with Red).

Magic words based on word families/phonics practised at home.

Word Activities – sorting and matching.

Yellow class:

Phonics Group.

Word Study – Daily 15 minutes.

Children to discover word patterns, and investigate using a variety of activities.

Words following a pattern or family are learnt in school and at home.

They are assessed weekly on being able to apply the spelling rule.

This becomes a word study investigation.

Word Study in KS2

Word study sequence

- A group of words following a word pattern are introduced.
- Children discover the rule by sorting and classifying. They are encouraged to compare and contrast features in words e.g. ai – rain, brain, wait, aim, aid. ai is always in the middle or beginning and not at end as no English word ends in i.
- Children are given learning opportunities to apply knowledge and relate patterns to previously acquired word knowledge,
- Word Study session, once a week to introduce word family, activities in morning activities to reinforce and apply.
- Words can be part of learning wall to add to during the week.
- Word Study as part of Home Learning, to investigate and learn. They can then be assessed on whether they have applied the rule – transferred the knowledge. e.g. 10 words to learn in 'ai' family but give them a few words not included in the list.

In teaching Word Study, syllables, root words, prefixes, suffixes from Greek, Latin and other languages should be directly taught. Dictionary work should be included in the weekly word study for attaining word meanings as well word sorting.

Mnemonics can be taught for tricky words. High frequency words can be gathered and kept in their Magpie/Word Study book for reference.

Above all it should be about INVESTIGATING and EXPLORING words and discovering and making connections. If the children are active in this process they will hopefully improve their spelling.