The Calder Learning Trust

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January 2025

Spelling Shed

Dear Parents / Carers,

As you will know from our newsletter, we have signed up to new programme to support our pupils with their spelling, called Spelling Shed.

At Calder Primary we want our children to be equipped with a range of strategies for learning spelling and to be able to apply their strategies when spelling words in their independent writing.

To help support this, we have signed up to Spelling Shed for children in Years 1-6. Spelling Shed is a game-based tool that can be used to boost children's confidence and enjoyment in spelling. Children enjoy playing the games and learn their spellings in a fun, interactive way – similar to Times Tables Rockstars.

This week in school, children have been getting used to playing Spelling Shed and have taken part in a baseline assessment on there, which will help teachers to set their spellings appropriately and support them with any areas of need. Teachers are able to login and see all the analytics for the children in their classes including how children have spelt words and any spelling objectives they have mastered or may need more support with.

Feedback from parents at Parents' Evening was that some children were struggling to engage with learning their spellings at home. If you are in a routine of learning spellings each week at home on paper (or another way), that is no problem and there is no requirement to use Spelling Shed at home. If you do think this would benefit your child, you can either use it alongside your current routines or instead. We would suggest to do this little and often to support your child with their confidence and recall. If you are looking for some new ideas to help your child with their spellings or times tables, Five Minute Mum also has some great ideas for simple, fun and offline games to try.

By Friday 31st January, all children will have been given their login information in their reading packets – we know some older children have already memorised their login details and begun to play at home already too! You can access Spelling Shed online here: https://play.edshed.com/en-gb/login and the website can be accessed using a computer, phone or tablet browser. There is also an app available for it, but there is a small charge for downloading this.

I have attached the Spelling Shed Parent Guide to this email as well. It is new to us all and we are all getting used to how best to use it. If you have any problems with logging in or navigating it, please get in touch.

Yours Sincerely,

K.Lambert

Mrs Lambert Calder Primary Headteacher

