



LEECHPOOL CURRICULUM Newsletter



Book Fortnight

Since the beginning of term, teachers have been busy preparing for this year's Book Fortnight in the school. The fortnight coincided with Black History Month this year and so this was our theme and focus throughout the choice of texts to explore in classrooms and also in assemblies.

We also held our annual book corner competition during this fortnight; both children and teachers have been busy creating and designing some amazing book corners and below is our 1st, 2nd, and 3rd placed designs. The competition was approached with determination by all and every classroom has a brilliant space where children are able to sit and read for pleasure.

Our fortnight culminated in a fantasy 'dress-up' day. We had children and staff dressing up in all things weird and wonderful highlighting the imagination of everyone (and the authors!) and it was an excellent way to finish an informative, thought-provoking, and enjoyable two weeks.



1st—Bear Class



Spelling at Leechpool

Spelling is certainly tricky and one of the most challenging jobs is teaching children how to spell. The English language contains well over a million words and has been affected by some 1,300 years of history. The National Curriculum highlights, "most people read words more accurately than they spell them. The younger the pupils are, the truer this is." In 2017, only 13% of pupils nationally were able to correctly spell the word 'coarse' in the SATs taken that year.

Our teachers are finding that the pupils are not remembering key patterns or rules no matter how well it was initially taught and after carefully analysing our spelling data across the school, we have decided to embark on a new whole school spelling approach with the aim of increasing the amount of information committed to pupils' long-term memories.

One reason could be down to Hermann Ebbinghaus' theory of the "forgetting curve". This is the idea that if we do not revisit learned information then, over time, the likelihood of us remembering that information will be drastically reduced.

Our new approach to spelling constantly revisits new and already taught spelling patterns and rules and ensures that children do not have the opportunity to forget. The approach is also about enabling pupils to see the magic of words—the patterns that sparkle inside them and how word wizardry can help transform the quality of their writing to new enchanting heights that will keep a reader spellbound. We aim to foster a future generation of curious, excited spellers who enjoy finding patterns in the baffling complexities of English spelling.

"The English Language is full of words that are just waiting to be misspelled and the world is full of sticklers, ready to pounce"

Between You and Me, Confessions of a Comma Queen—Mary Norris

We want our pupils to be able to write in a format that communicates the worthiness of their ideas and as research shows that spelling is valued in society above all other writing conventions, our aim is to ensure our children are accurate spellers.

For videos that highlight more information about our new spelling scheme in KS1 and KS2, spelling games and spelling homework, please visit our [website](#).

2rd—Jaguar Class



3rd—Panda Class

