Weekly spellings – using a phonemic approach

Option 1 – pre-text skills.

Ask parents to practise blending and segmenting with their child using a list of words you supply.

(Guidelines for this are included in the Parent introduction to phonemics booklet.)

Option 2 – spelling alternatives.

Learning a list of spellings.

All words on the list are linked by a common phoneme. Show what the *phoneme* is at the top of the list.

For example the phoneme /ee/ can be spelt ea (beak) ee (teeth) e-e (scene) y (very) ie (thief) and ei (received).

The list can include two, three, four or more ways of spelling the same phoneme depending on how complex you want to make the task.

To practise **someone reads the words to them** and they write them down. The accompanying sheets could be used.

Option 3 – additional practice

Initially use a list of words all containing the same spelling alternative for a sound. A tape recorder is used in school to get the pupil to record themselves saying a list of words.

The pupil takes the tape home and listens to it.

As they listen they write the words down

- a) copying from a list
- b) without the list to test themselves.

Once established move onto a new spelling alternative for the same sound. When each spelling alternative has been covered review by using a list from option 3.

(This can be very useful where support at home is less reliable. In some circumstances pupils can even be given dictaphones to use themselves.)

Option 4 – extension activities.

Take a phoneme and find as many words as possible with the same phoneme. This can be done initially with the spelling alternatives provided for the pupils, the harder version is to do it with just the sound as a starting point.

Word sort – children are asked to sort a list of words into two circles of a Venn Diagram according to their *phonemes*. Initially use only one spelling alternative for each of the two phonemes, later add more than one spelling alternative to make the task more complex.

Phoneme /ee/

Spelling alternatives. ea ee y ie ei

Please read these words to your child and ask them to write them down on their spelling sheet. Tick the ones that were spelt correctly.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
b ea ch					
teeth					
scene					
very					
thief					
rec ei ved					

Spelling sheet.	

		<u></u>	<u>©</u>	<u>©</u>	
Monday	Tuesday	Wednes	sday Thurs	day I	Friday
	[50][d]	Fold	Fold	Fold	
			Ľ	<u> </u>	

Phoneme

Spelling alternatives

Please read these words to your child and ask them to write them down on their spelling sheet. Tick the ones that were spelt correctly.

Spelling sheet.

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Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
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