EDEN PARK PRIMARY & NURSERY SCHOOL · ENGLISH

How We Teach Spelling

A guide for parents · 2026–27

We want children to understand **why** a word is spelt the way it is, not just to memorise it. From Year 3, children learn one spelling pattern or rule each week. When a word really is irregular, we tell them so, and they learn it as a word to remember.

Every spelling rule is taught in three steps (Years 3 to 6)

1 Discover

Children investigate a group of words to find the pattern or rule, and talk about why the words are spelt that way.

2 Apply

Children practise the rule through a range of activities, and use it when they write.

3 Review

Children come back to rules they have learnt to help them remember. Each term includes review weeks to check what has stuck.

How spelling grows through the school

Years 1 and 2

Children learn to spell through **Read Write Inc.**, our phonics programme. They learn the sounds in words and the letters that make them, and use these to spell.

Years 3 and 4

Children learn how words are built: adding endings (such as *-ing*, *-ed* and *-tion*) and beginnings (such as *un-*, *dis-* and *re-*), and sounds that can be spelt in more than one way.

Years 5 and 6

Children learn trickier patterns and endings (such as *-cious*, *-ant* or *-ent*, *-able* or *-ible*), words that sound the same but are spelt differently, and families of related words.

How you can help at home: ask your child what spelling rule they are learning this week, and ask them to explain it to you. Spotting the pattern in words you see together, in books or out and about, helps it stick.

This is a summary of how spelling is taught at Eden Park. If you would like to know more, please speak to your child's class teacher.