



As part of our English curriculum Ashfield is using a new resource called WordBlaze to support our teaching and learning in reading and spelling within the new national curriculum framework.

What is WordBlaze?

There are 6 WordBlaze challenge booklets all relating to physical challenges around the world with the aim of adding motivation and inspiration as they progress through their reading and spelling journey.

WordBlaze can be used for whole classes, small groups or even on an individual basis and the level of challenge increases in difficulty as the child progresses through the Wordblaze challenge booklets. It is a fun and stimulating programme and the children can see their progress through the motivational rewards such as 'Red Hot Reader' and 'Perfect Punctuator.'

When does WordBlaze happen?

We use WordBlaze on Monday mornings during the whole class spelling lesson and then follow this up with 3 further 20 minute Wordblaze sessions spread over the week to consolidate the work.

What is the structure of WordBlaze?

As with all our spelling work, children will be tested on their spellings on MONDAYS within a spelling dictation and will continue to be scored out of a total of 20 marks but they will not bring their dictation home. Children get the opportunity to work with the dictation sentences during their WordBlaze sessions and focus is on the spelling patters as well as common words and sentence punctuation.

During their WordBlaze session on Monday, they will be introduced to the new spelling pattern and at the end of the session they will be given a list of spellings (stuck into their small blue spelling books) to take home to practise. These spellings will include words from the new spelling pattern as well as some spellings from the previous week's spelling pattern to give the opportunity for further consolidation of these words.

Children then complete activities in their sessions across the course of the week and including 'One Minute Wonder' where they time how many words they can read in one minute from the spelling pattern and they then practise and get the opportunity to improve on their scores.

What does spelling homework look like with WordBlaze?

Every Monday the children will bring home a spelling list of words to learn. They can practise these using the Look Say Cover Write Check grids that will accompany the list. In addition the children will be given a 'One Minute Wonder' word list. Please time your child reading the word list every day to see how many words they can read accurately from the list in one minute. You can circle the word they read up to to if you wish. We are looking for precision, so it is not a race. But over the course of the week we find children show a marked improvement on their accuracy and reading speed. This should take no more than 5 minutes a day.

If you have any further questions please contact your child's class teacher.