

# TEACHING AND LEARNING GUIDANCE FOR PARENTS

Welcome to our monthly Learning Newsletter where we seek to share some of the initiatives and strategies we use in school so you might best support your child in their education, in order to benefit your child and further enhance their educational experiences in the long term.

## Explicit teaching of prefixes and suffixes

We've begun an initiative known as 'Prefix' or 'Suffix' of the fortnight where we focus teaching on specific graphemes to help pupils decode words to improve comprehension and impact on spelling.

Prefix	Base or Root Word	New Word
co-	worker	coworker
dis-	agree	disagree
il-	legal	illegal

**Prefixes** are a group of letters that change the meaning of a word when they are added to **the start**. Most prefixes mean a similar thing when they're added to different words.

1. **un** usually means not. For example, unhappy, unlocked, unfair
2. **dis** and **mis** usually have negative meanings. For example, disagree, disobey, misbehave, mislead
3. **re** usually means again or back. For example, redo, reappear, redecorate
4. **sub** usually means under. For example, subheading or submarine

A **suffix** is a letter or group of letters that goes on **the end** of a word and changes the word's meaning.

Sometimes they also change the original word's spelling. When adding a suffix you might have to double the last letter. For example when adding 'ed' to 'drop' you also double the p so it becomes 'dropped'.

Some suffixes have specific uses. Adding 'ing' can change a noun into a verb eg 'garden' to 'gardening'. While 'ed' can put a verb in the past tense eg 'jump' to 'jumped'.

A **grapheme** is a set of written letters that represent a sound and they're usually taught in phonics work at primary school level. It can be a single letter or, it could be a set of letters that represent a sound (phoneme) e.g. sh, igh. So when a child says the sound /t/, this is a phoneme, but when they write the letter 't' this is a grapheme.

These are all the phonemes in the English language (and some of the graphemes used to represent them).

s sat	t tap	p pan	n nose	m mat	a ant	e egg	i ink	o otter
g goat	d dog	ck click	r run	h hat	u up	ai rain	ee knee	igh light
b bus	f farm	l lolly	j jam	v van	oa boat	oo cook	oo boot	ar star
w wish	x axe	y yell	z zap	qu quill	or fork	ur burn	ow now	oi boil
ch chin	sh ship	th think	th the	ng sing	ear near	air stair	ure sure	er writer

In our lessons, teachers will highlight specific prefixes and suffixes in subject specific words. We've started with 'ance / ence' meaning the 'state of / process of'.

**At home, it can be useful to ask children to try and figure out the meanings of words by themselves by breaking them down into their component parts. Encourage your child to write and spell notes, e-mails, and letters using what they know about sounds and letters. For example, teach that the sound 'shun' is spelt 'tion'.**