Dear Parents and Carers,

On Friday, we sent home the list of common exception words for your child’s year group. In school, we learn these words through RWI groups, English lessons, and individual reading.

It would be great if your child could practice reading and spelling these words whenever you can at home. Keeping to a manageable amount is important, so practicing around 5 at a time is ideal.

These words do not always follow the phonics rules, so, often, we can’t sound them out. Mnemonics can be a useful device for learning common exception words. Examples include 'because' (**b**ig **e**lephants **c**an **a**lways **u**nderstand **s**mall **e**lephants) and 'said' (**s**illy **A**nn **i**s **d**ancing).

Another useful tool can be to practice spelling them using a grid. See example below:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Read the word**  | **Copy**  | **Say then spell** | **Write then check** |
| old |  |  |  |
| cold  |  |  |  |
| gold |  |  |  |

I am always happy to help, so let me know if you have any questions.

Best wishes

Miss Adler