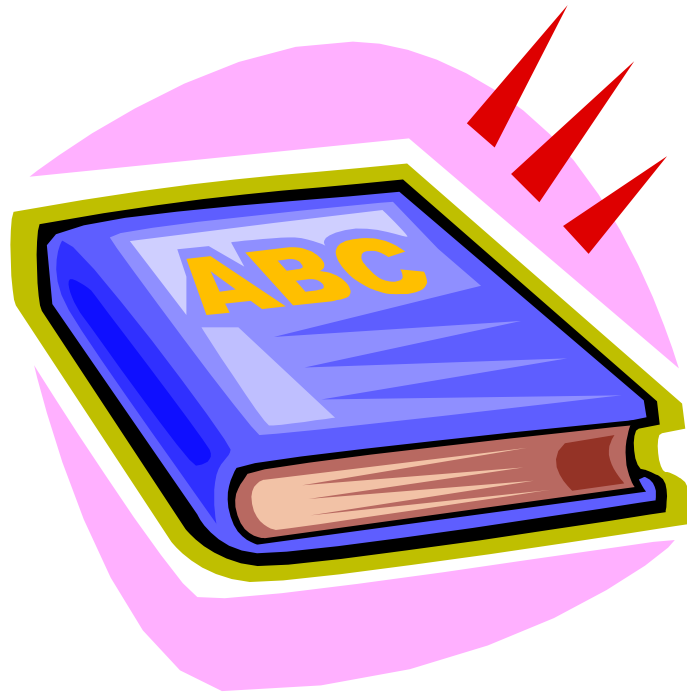


# Phonics and Spelling at Downham



# What we used to do

- Children took home 10 or 15 words a week
- We tested them the next week
- Most children then forgot how to spell the words
- They often did not apply their knowledge in their writing
- Most research shows these weekly tests are not effective in the long term

# What do we want for our children?



To be confident, independent and fluent writers  
So, they need:

- Instant recall of the correct spelling for high frequency words
- To use their knowledge of letter sounds to make sensible attempts at spelling unknown words so that writing is easy to decode

# Our new approach

- ✓ To teach KS1 children in broad ability groups based on their confidence in using phonics for reading and independent writing
- ✓ To send home an overview of the high frequency words and sounds that each group is working on this half term with some example words for each sound
- ✓ To use correct terminology with the children (phoneme, grapheme etc)

✓ To ask parents to practise the example words and similar words with their children at home and look out for them in their reading



✓ To carry out regular assessment activities in school (probably half termly) to check children's progress



# At home...try to make it fun

- ✓ Play card games e.g. Snap or pairs
- ✓ Practise writing using felt pens, chalks, paints etc
- ✓ Use magnetic letters on a board or the fridge
- ✓ Use foam letters in the bath
- ✓ Play Hunt the Word (or phoneme!) when you are reading
- ✓ Have a reward for being brilliant (stickers? 10 minutes extra play before bed etc)

