

Spelling Mastery Parent Information

Spelling Mastery Program:

Students in Years 1-6 at Bald Hills State School learn to spell using Spelling Mastery which is a differentiated spelling program. The program uses an explicit, teacher-directed method of teaching called Direct Instruction.

Spelling Mastery is an effective, research-proven spelling program that teaches students the strategies they need to become successful, life-long spellers. Spelling Mastery helps students to understand the relationship between sounds, word parts and spelling patterns and encourages them to become proficient writers.

Through Spelling Mastery, students learn to spell in three ways:

1. Students learn words using a phonemic approach. This sound-symbol method teaches students predictable spellings for different sounds.
2. Students learn using a whole-word approach. This whole-word method teaches students common, irregularly-spelled words. For example, words like *friend*, *answer* and *people*, whose spellings can't be figured out.
3. Students learn rules about how to put different word parts together. These word parts are all called *morphographs*. Once they have learned to spell a few morphographs, students can mix them up to spell many words. They also learn the rules of putting morphographs together.

How you can help your child:

Your child will be explicitly taught spelling strategies during lessons at school, so there is no necessity for them to learn spelling words as part of their homework. If you wish to encourage your child to do so however, the spelling lists for each level can be requested from your class teacher or the school's Head of Curriculum.