

January 8, 2019

Dear Parents,

Today your child received our first French spelling words (dictée). Each Tuesday (with this being the first week back from vacation, I waited an extra day) your child will receive a spelling list that will be glued into their agenda. S/he is to study the list **with** the help of an adult. A dictée practice work book has also been sent home today. Feel free to use this dictée booklet for practicing. **Please return the dictée booklet every Tuesday**, as it is where your child's score will noted, along with any words they spelled incorrectly.

Here are a few suggestions for helping your child study for the test:

1. First day, read the list of words a few times
2. Second day, read the list of words and copy them into the dictée booklet.
3. The following days practice writing the words as you read them to your child. You may want to only work on 5 words per day.
4. On the second last day, if your child is only struggling with two or three words, just focus on these words.
5. On the last day (Monday), read all the words to your child.

Please ensure that your child is **WRITING** down the words and not just spelling them to you aloud. The test is a written test so your child **MUST** practice writing the words. You may find that writing the words onto cue cards is also very helpful for quick games/practice in the car, at the sports field or waiting for the bus. Some families put the list on the fridge and each time your child opens the fridge door s/he has to spell a word. I have attached a list of other strategies to help "jazz" up spelling practice as well. If you find a "trick" that works well, please share it with me so that I may share it with the rest of the class. 😊

To help with the pronunciation of the dictée sounds and words, a audio recording will be available to review and use as a study tool for your child. By listening to the recordings, your child can hear the correct pronunciation and work on his or her own occasionally if an adult is not available.

PLEASE do not let your child get into the bad habit of only studying on the night before the test. If s/he does this, the spelling of the words will not enter into the child's long-term memory. As a result, the child does not know how to spell the word three days after the test, which is a such a wasted opportunity for learning.

It is absolutely wonderful seeing the reading growth that has happened in just a few short months. Adding spelling to our learning repertoire will only enhance your child's reading but will have a HUGE impact on her/his writing. Thank you for your anticipated cooperation. If you have any questions or would like more suggestions for practicing, please drop me a line and I will be happy to help.

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