

Thursday 2nd May 2024

Dear Parents/ Carers,

We are thrilled to let you know that as a school we have invested in WordShark. WordShark is a program that will provide additional support for your child's learning of key spellings. It is a computer program with a long track record of helping students improve their reading and spelling skills, using games.

To access the program, your child will be given login details, (which will be attached to their reading record) – including the Light Years unique Wordshark website address. You will need to bookmark this on your home device. Then once logged in, your child can show you the words each week they are working on under 'My Play Words' - and the games they play. It would be great if you could look together at 'My Play Words' (yellow button in the middle of the screen) and talk about what these words might have in common with each other.

Initially the program will place them at a suitable point in the 'Supershark' course (particularly important not to help them with the Shark Challenge!). They will then be moved on each time they master a list!

Importantly, they may also have Set Work spellings from their teacher. These will include words that are common exception words for their year group and targeted words that they will encounter within the wider curriculum. These word lists are a positive way to pre-teach your child new vocabulary ready for the work they will be doing.

The best thing you can do to help is talk to your child about the words they are learning, and their favourite games - and to remind them to sign in and play for about 15-20 minutes for as many days as possible each week. That way, if you can maintain a regular routine of practice, they will make real progress. In addition to this, the children will be accessing Word Shark as frequently as possible in school.

Class Teachers will be monitoring the children's progress using the WordShark progress trackers, so please ensure that your child completes their spelling games independently, so we can track progress with full accuracy.

If you have any questions, please send us an email and we would be happy to help.

Thank you for your continued support,

Emily Smart
Assistant Headteacher
Light Years School



Start Small, Grow Tall

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