



A Revolutionary Individualised
Spelling Programme

Spellings for me

- ▶ Spellings for Me is a spelling programme that creates individual spelling lists for every child.
- ▶ It is based completely on spelling ability, not age/class /STens etc.
- ▶ No two children will have the same spellings.
- ▶ It differentiates for every child - from children with dyslexia/weak spellers right up to especially gifted spellers.
- ▶ The differentiation of spellings is done for the teacher.
- ▶ Spelling strategies have to be specifically taught offline.

Spellings for me

- ▶ There are 40 spelling tests
 - ▶ Level 1 - Level 40
- ▶ Approximately 4,000 words (including the 3,000 most commonly used words. This makes up approx. 90% written and conversational English).
- ▶ Online Spelling Tests
 - ▶ Arranged from easiest to most difficult but also frequency is taken into consideration.
- ▶ Each level has corresponding Dictation Sentences.

Spellings for me

- ▶ Short, frequent bursts of testing. e.g. 10/15 mins per day.
- ▶ They don't have to complete the test. They can 'save and exit'.
- ▶ Put a timer on. Stop when timer goes off.
- ▶ They will have 4/5/6/7 weeks to get locked out.
- ▶ Do not help them with their tests!

How has Grown Each Year Thanks to Teacher Feedback

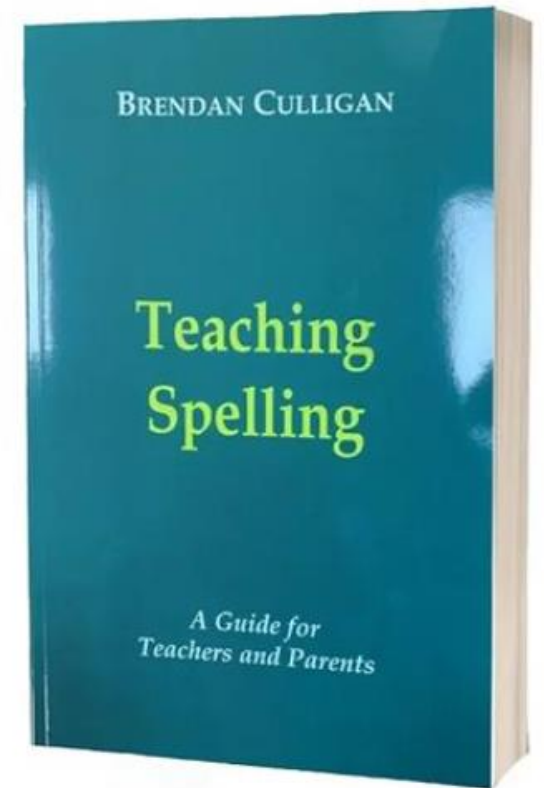
	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
Individualised Grids	✓	✓	✓	✓
Dictation Tests	✓	✓	✓	✓
Mastered Words Tests	✓	✓	✓	✓
Practice Units to Learn Strategies	✗	✗	✓	✓
Video Lessons on Strategies	✗	✗	✓	✓
Offline Option with differentiated Letter String/Word Family Grids used with struggling spellers and 1 st and 2 nd classes	✗	✗	✓	✓
Letter String/Word Family Tests	✗	✗	✓	✓
Online Dolch Tests	✗	✗	✓	✓
Online SNIP Tests	✗	✗	✓	✓
School Custom Tests Creator	✗	✗	✓	✓
QR Login Option	✗	✗	✓	✓
Progress Summary Report	✗	✗	✓	✓
Multi Unlock Learning Words Feature	✗	✗	✓	✓
Online Games	✗	✗	✓	✓
Editable Error Ceilings (i.e. locked out at this number of words)	✗	✗	✓	✓
Last Test Completed Date on Teacher Dashboard	✗	✗	✓	✓
Learning Words Grid Showing Student Answers	✗	✗	✓	✓
Status Column Showing LW and Error Ceiling (20/48)	✗	✗	✓	✓
All Incorrect Answers Report for Each Child	✗	✗	✓	✓
Yellow/Orange Test Layout	✗	✗	✓	✓
Diverse Cartoon Characters	✗	✗	✓	✓
Option to Wipe All Learning Words for Child	✗	✗	✓	✓
Mistake Mapping	✗	✗	✗	✓
6 Workbooks for Each Standard with Varying Activities	✗	✗	✗	✓
Offline only option with all classes based on the letter string/etymology/morphology theme.	✗	✗	✗	✓



Teaching Spelling

Brendan Culligan

Available now at
www.brendanculligan.ie



www.brendanculligan.ie



Westwood (2003) queries how this individualisation of spelling programmes may be accomplished and states that ‘in classrooms containing twenty eight or more students it is virtually impossible to find the necessary time to devote to such a personalised approach.’ If there is a need to ‘differentiate/individualise spelling instruction,’ and research evidence strongly supports this, then teachers need to be empowered as to how to plan and implement such instruction in classes with a high pupil-teacher ratio.

How do you Teach Spellings Effectively?

Spelling Strategies

Etymology

Morphology

Make it individual to each child based on their spelling needs

Etymology

the study of word origins

Word Study - Etymology

2

TWO

Why is the number two spelled with a 'w'?



Word Study - Etymology

TW comes from Old English and means **two**.

twin

Two people who were born at the same time.



between

The space that separates two people, objects or places.



twenty

Two sets of ten.



twice

Two times.



Morphology

the study of word structure (bases, suffixes, prefixes)



Activity 1: Prefixes

A prefix is a group of letters that is placed at the beginning of a word.
E.g. un + kind = unkind. Un is the prefix.

Circle the prefixes in these words..

unkind	disagree	preschool
superhero	reunite	underwater

Can you think of any other words with prefixes? Discuss with a friend. Write down any you can think of.

Activity 2: Suffixes

A suffix is a group of letters that is placed at the end of a word.
E.g. Help + less = helpless. Less is the suffix.

Circle the suffixes in these words..

sadness	calling	quickly
spotless	playful	jumped

Can you think of any other words with suffixes? Discuss with a friend. Write down any you can think of.

First introduced in
Workbook B and
continues to
Workbook F.

Morphology

the study of word structure (bases, suffixes, prefixes)

How many words can you make?

stop	watch	able
un		dog
re		ed
		es
		ing
		ful

Word Sums

stop + watch = stopwatch
un + watch + able = unwatchable
re + watch = rewatch
re + watch + ing = rewatching
re + watch + ed = rewatched
watch + ed = watched
watch + es = watches
watch + dog = watchdog
watch + ing = watching
watch + ful = watchful
watch + ful + ly = watchfully


Spellings for Me - Online/offline

Online (assessment)

Offline (learning)




Spellings



✓	✓	🔄	🔒	🔒	🔒	🔒	🔒	🔒	🔒
🔒	🔒	🔒	🔒	🔒	🔒	🔒	🔒	🔒	🔒
🔒	🔒	🔒	🔒	🔒	🔒	🔒	🔒	🔒	🔒
🔒	🔒	🔒	🔒	🔒	🔒	🔒	🔒	🔒	🔒



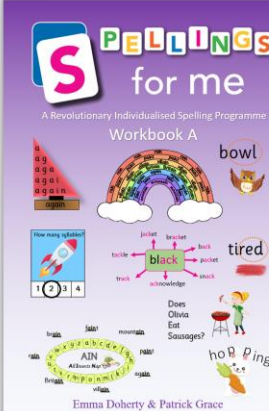
Learning Words



✓	✓	✓	✓	🔒	🔒
---	---	---	---	---	---

[Print Learning Words](#) [Print Learning Words with answers](#)

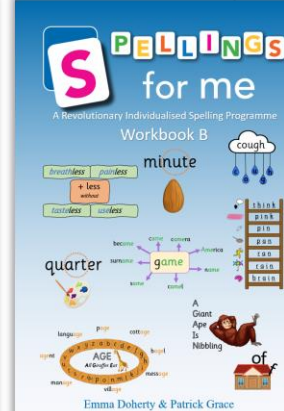
SPELLINGS for me
A Revolutionary Individualised Spelling Programme
Workbook A



bowling, bowl, black, tired, Does Olivia Eat Sausages?, ho Ping

Emma Doherty & Patrick Grace

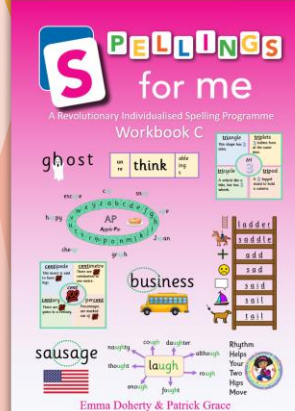
SPELLINGS for me
A Revolutionary Individualised Spelling Programme
Workbook B



minute, game, quarter, A Ghost Appears Nibbling, of

Emma Doherty & Patrick Grace

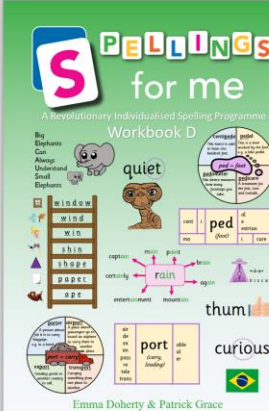
SPELLINGS for me
A Revolutionary Individualised Spelling Programme
Workbook C



ghost, think, business, sausage, laugh, Rhythms Help Your Teen Hips Move

Emma Doherty & Patrick Grace

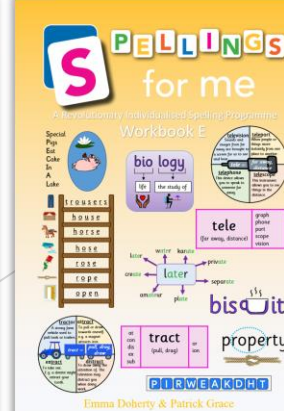
SPELLINGS for me
A Revolutionary Individualised Spelling Programme
Workbook D



quiet, ped, thumb, port, curious

Emma Doherty & Patrick Grace

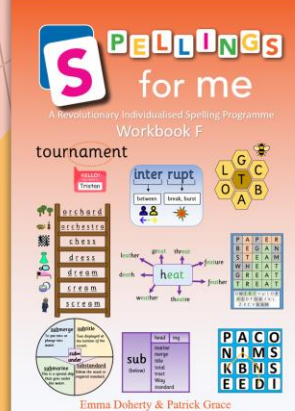
SPELLINGS for me
A Revolutionary Individualised Spelling Programme
Workbook E



biology, tele, later, bisquit, tract, property

Emma Doherty & Patrick Grace

SPELLINGS for me
A Revolutionary Individualised Spelling Programme
Workbook F



tournament, inter rupt, L T C B, O T A, PACO, NIMS, KBNS, EEDI

Emma Doherty & Patrick Grace

Spelling Test Level 13 (118 words)

Monday	soccer	colours	corridor
Tuesday	swimming	orange	playground
Wednesday	shopping	yellow	posters
Thursday	cinema	green	whiteboard
Friday	park	brown	marker
Saturday	running	black	communion
Sunday	going	silver	confirmation
tomorrow	drawing	blue	penance
yesterday	dancing	white	older
today	football	pink	younger
weekend	hurling	purple	mother
Spring	cooking	grey	father
Summer	writing	golden	brother
Autumn	reading	tired	sister
Winter	library	happy	cousin
January	restaurant	sad	aunt
February	favourite	excited	uncle
March	computer	nervous	grandmother
April	school	angry	grandfather
May	sport	scared	English
June	street	surprised	maths
July	avenue	worried	history
August	road	hate	geography
September	lane	afraid	science
October	square	amazing	music

Dictation Sentences Level 13 (118 words)

- The **spring** months are **March**, **April** and **May**.
- The **summer** months are **June**, **July** and **August**.
- The **autumn** months are **September**, **October** and **November**.
- The **winter** months are **December**, **January** and **February**.
- We spend Christmas and **Easter** with my **aunt** and **uncle**.
- My **grandmother** and **grandfather** will go to my First **Penance** and First **Communion**.
- I saw my **cousin** at her **confirmation** party after **school** on **Thursday**.
- Today** is **Tuesday** and **tomorrow** is **Wednesday**.
- Yesterday** was **Monday** and I went to **drama** class.
- I go **swimming** every **Friday** morning.
- I will go **shopping** with my **mother** and **father** on **Saturday**.
- Every **Sunday** my **brother** and **sister** go **running** in the **park**.
- I will go to my **favourite restaurant** at the **weekend**.
- The **library** is close to the **college**.
- Are you coming to the **cinema** after **soccer** or will you be **tired**?
- Our **football** team's **colours** are **black** and **white**.
- The **primary** colours are red, **blue** and **yellow**.
- The **secondary** colours are **purple**, **orange** and **green**.
- My brother won a **silver** medal in **hurling** and a gold medal in **dancing**.
- My sister has **brown** hair.
- There is a **pink rubber** and a **grey sharpener** in my **pencil** case.
- I love the core **subjects**- **English** and **Maths**.
- I feel both **excited** and **nervous** when we played football in school.
- I am **happy** when I am **drawing** pictures and **cooking** food.
- We do a lot of **reading** and **writing** in English.
- I was **scared** when we got the wrong address for the Hallowe'en party.
- I was **surprised** when we did **science** in a different **classroom**.
- Are you **going** to the **birthday** party across the **street**?

Spelling Tests

- Children log into their own profile and begin testing at Level 1*.
- Any words they get right are forgotten* (Excel / certificates).
- Any words they get wrong are stored in their “Learning Words”.
- Once they have got a pre-set number of words wrong, they are locked out of spelling tests (their ceiling). This is set at 48 by default. This can be edited easily by the teacher.
- These 48* incorrect words goes to their “Learning Words” bank.

Fig 1: A child who is locked out of their spellings tests

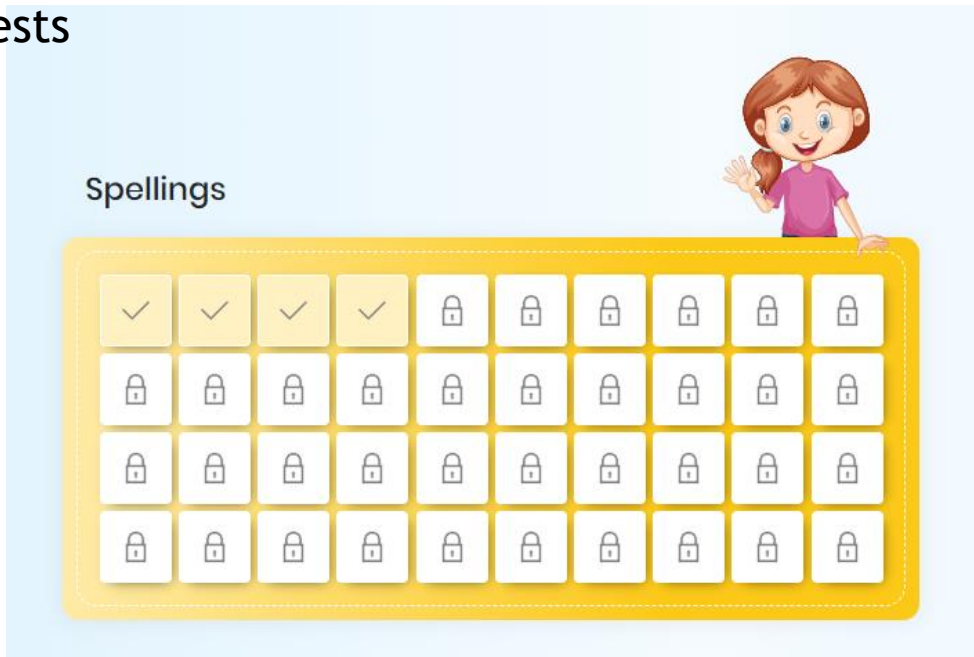
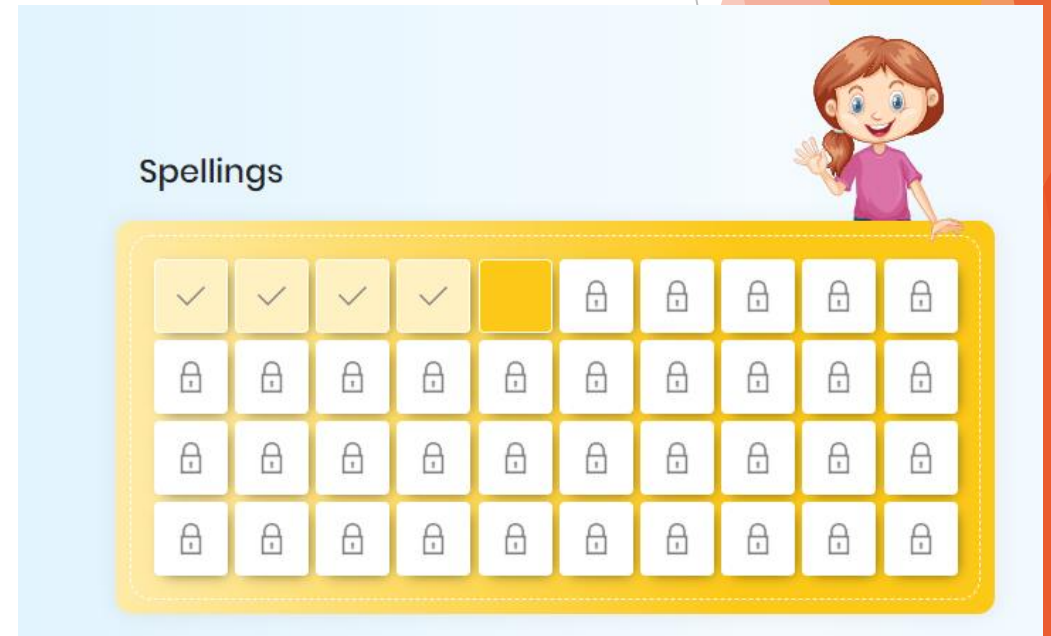


Fig 2: A child who is not locked out of their spellings tests



1 Students stick 4 grids into the workbook.

- Grid 1 in Week 1
- Grid 2 in Week 2
- Grid 3 in Week 3
- Grid 4 in Week 4



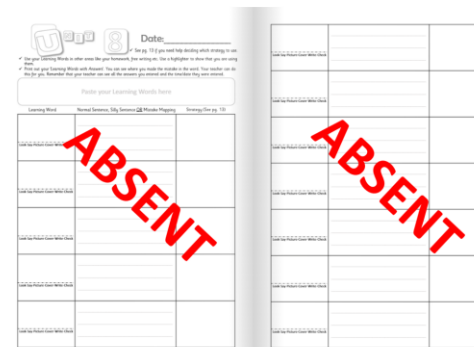
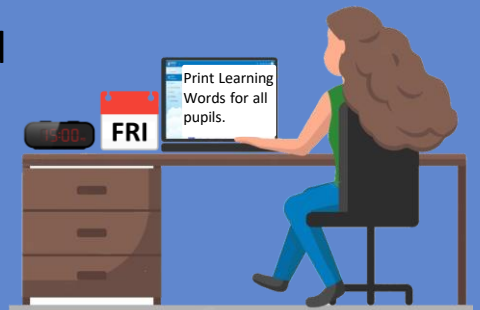
2 On Thursday morning of Week 4, the teacher will log in and bulk unlock the orange Learning Words test for your students.



3 On Week 4, the children take turns and test on Thursday and Friday for 2/3 sessions of 15/20 minutes. Two devices should be set up at the back of the room for these two days every month.



4 On Friday afternoon the teacher logs in and bulk prints the next 4 grids for the next 4 weeks and the cycle begins again. (2mins login time).

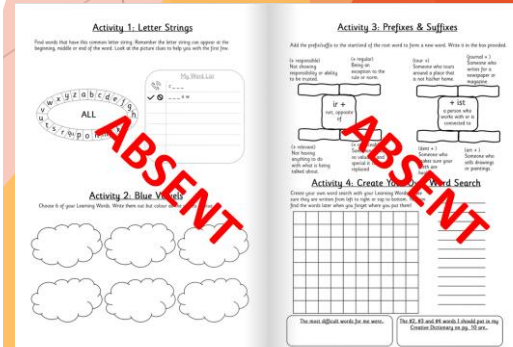


JANUARY 2023						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

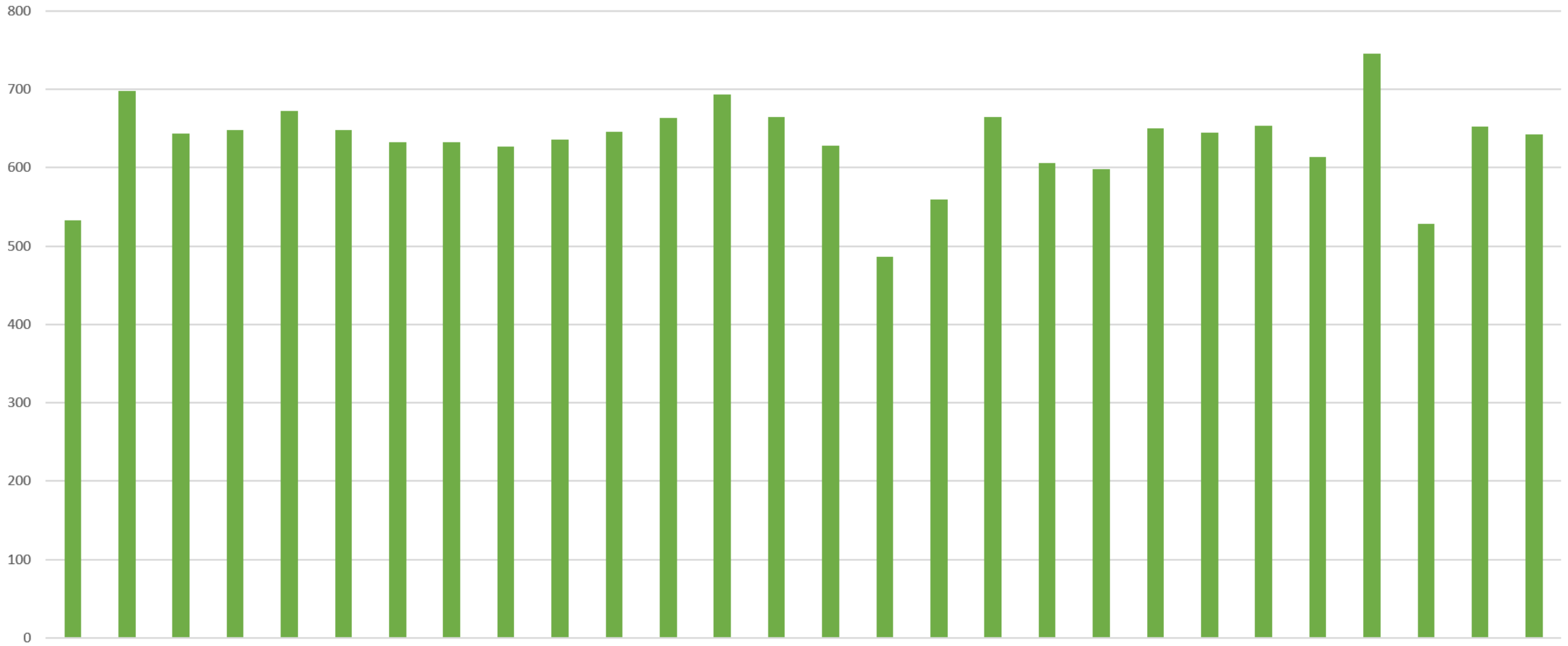
FEBRUARY 2023						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28				

MARCH 2023						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

Rule: All children are testing on this week- do not unlock tests on different weeks for children absent- keep the testing cycle easy for you to run as a teacher.



Number of Mastered Words Since Beginning Spellings for Me (May 2022)



100% of children made progress in spelling.

Average number of Words Each Child Has Mastered = 632.36 words (Since September 2020)

Mastered Words refer to words the child did not know how to spell before September 2020