

Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar (SPAG) Support

For your child to do well in the year 6 SPAG test, they don't just have to be good at writing; they also need a **technical understanding of how the English language works**.

As well as being able to spell words correctly, use a wide range of vocabulary and punctuate well, they need to grasp the meaning of grammatical terms such as noun, verb, adjective, prefix, pronoun and adverb, know what phrases and clauses are and how to use them, understand what connectives are and how they work, know how to turn a question into a command, and so on. This terminology can be a stumbling block even for children who are otherwise good at reading and writing, and make the questions hard to understand.

For this reason some children need teaching SPAG in a small group on a regular basis. In these sessions the children will cover:

- **Sentence grammar** through both identifying and writing sentences that are grammatically correct
- **Punctuation** through identifying and writing sentences that are correctly punctuated
- **Vocabulary** through identifying and writing sentences in which a word is used correctly
- **Spelling**

For a parent-friendly guide to the vocabulary and how English and grammar concepts are taught in primary school see the school run user friendly guide <http://www.theschoolrun.com/primary-literacy-glossary-for-parents>.