Dear parents,

This letter is an invitation to come into class and be part of the children's spelling program as a buddy.

What is the buddy program?

The buddy program not only benefits students by giving them a chance to interact with a variety of adults, they also gain the benefit of learning to spell from the spelling lists provided each week.

You may be familiar with the approach of students writing lists of spelling words. The approach we are taking in class, and for homework, aims to place words in a natural environment, allowing the students to gain more meaning from spelling tasks.

What can I do?

In essence, the buddy system asks the student and the buddy to ‘share and compare’ sentences written using the same words. The student is required to ‘have a go’ at sounding out the words they need (the parent does not automatically tell the student the correct spelling) and then the student and parent or buddy swaps work and ‘compares’. The student can then have ‘another go’ at writing a better sentence if they have noted their own areas for improvement.

You don’t need to be an expert, and neither does your child. All you need to do is ‘have a go’!

Invented spelling

This style of learning is called ‘invented spelling’. In class we are going to encourage our children to ‘have a go’. So you may notice that some words are not spelled correctly all the time. Don’t worry, there are many studies that show invented spelling leads to an active engagement with literacy, and increases the likelihood that your child will learn to not only be an excellent speller, but also an interested student.

If you would like to participate, please get in touch. We would love to have you in the classroom!