

Spelling Bee Gets Pupils all Abuzz

One of the priorities in the Year 4 English curriculum this year has been to raise attainment in spelling. We wanted to encourage children not just to aim high in weekly spelling tests and termly assessments, but to enjoy learning about words and their origins and also to encourage them to be ambitious in their choice of vocabulary in writing. Having fun learning about words and practising spelling with hands on, fun activities was important too.

Raising the profile of spelling was another priority, and how better to do that than to hold a Spelling Bee competition. So, as the last event of our new Harry Potter and Spelling Day on Monday 24th June, eight top Year 4 spellers took part in the inaugural Spelling Bee competition.

An excited and supportive audience held aloft banners to support their Houses as the contestants were put through their paces by Mrs Britten. After three rounds, no one had been eliminated and it was beginning to look like it could be a long afternoon! The degree of difficulty of the words increased; one, two, then three pupils were eliminated, but five still remained. Then as tension gripped the room, four contestants stumbled over the same word – they were all out! Visibly nervous, Charlie S spelled out his winning word, to huge cheers from the room. What was the word that exercised them?.... exercise!

Charlie said the tension had got to him, “But I just didn’t want to let my House down, “ he explained.

Congratulations to the first Year 4 Spelling Bee champion Charlie S, and the other contestants: Saachi, Amelia, Harry G, Lily CB, Ellen, Navya and Isla J for a thrilling afternoon of spelling.

