Spelling Rules Revision Sheet

### Plurals

**When to add 's' or 'es'**
- Add 's' to most nouns and verbs. For example: cows, jumps and teachers.
- Add 'es' to words ending in: 's', 'ss', 'z', 'x', 'sh' or 'ch'. For example: boxes, princesses, brushes, buzzes, churches.

**Words ending in 'y'**
- If the letter before the 'y' is a consonant, then change the 'y' to an 'i' and add 'es'. For example: butterfly → butterflies.
- If the letter before the 'y' is a vowel, do not change the 'y', just add 's'. For example: boy → boys.

**Words ending in 'o'**
- For some words that end in 'o' add 'es'. If there is a vowel before the 'o' then add 's'. For example: mango → mangoes ratio → ratios.

**Words ending in 'f'**
- Change the 'f' to 'v' and add 'es'. For example: wolf → wolves.

EXCEPTIONS: Some nouns to not change for plurals, for example: lamb. Some nouns have different words for plurals, for example: tooth → teeth.

### Rules for 'ie' and 'ei'

- Put 'i' before 'e' for example: believe, grieve, chief, piece. Exceptions: leisure, either, their.
- Put 'i' before 'e' except after 'c' for example: receive. Exceptions: science.

### Prefixes

Prefixes such as 're', 'mis', 'dis' do not change the spelling, just add them on. For example: like → dislike spell → misspell pay → repay.

### Suffixes - 'ed', 'ing', 'ly', 'less', 'able'

- For most words, the spelling does not change, just add the suffix. For example: walk → walked, walking, walker.
If the word ends in 'e', drop the 'e' if the suffix begins with a vowel. For example:
love → lovable       race → racing
If the word ends in 'e', keep the 'e' if the suffix begins with a consonant. For example:
care → careless       safe → safely       hope → hopeless
If the word has one syllable and the suffix begins with a vowel, double the consonant. For example:
sit → sitting         nap → napping
If the word has one syllable and the suffix begins with a consonant, then just add the suffix. For example: shy → shyly

Using an apostrophe (') in spelling

Add an apostrophe 's' ('s) to singular nouns to show possession or ownership.
Add the apostrophe after the 's' in plural nouns to show possession or ownership.
For example: These are the cat's toys.
            These are the four cats' toys.
Use an apostrophe (') to replace a letter or letters in words to shorten them, such as: 'a' in 'am' and 'are', 'i' in the word 'is', 'o' in the word 'not', 'wi' in the word 'will'. The shortened words are then joined to the word before.
For example:
I am → I'm
They are → They're
It is → It's
Do not → Don't
We will → We'll

Tip:
Read as much as you can! Story books, novels, newspapers and even comic books are all excellent reading material.
Keep a notebook and a dictionary handy when reading. If you find any new words, record the new words and their meanings in your notebook. Use your new words in your sentences and essays where appropriate.