

Never Heard the Word

Never Heard the Word is a language and vocabulary resource which all of our children use across the school in all of their lessons. Never Heard the Word has been designed to teach the pupils at Eyres Monsell primary School a rich and varied vocabulary which they can use to develop their oracy skills and their writing.

‘We must give our students the necessary tools to develop their vocabulary independently.

Considering we want a child to be leaving school to have something like 50, 000 words, it is a daunting task. But we can close the gap. By explicitly teaching a mere one hundred words well in the classroom children grow their vocabulary by learning the related word families and having more tools to read independently with success’

Closing the vocabulary gap – Alex Quigley (P.20)

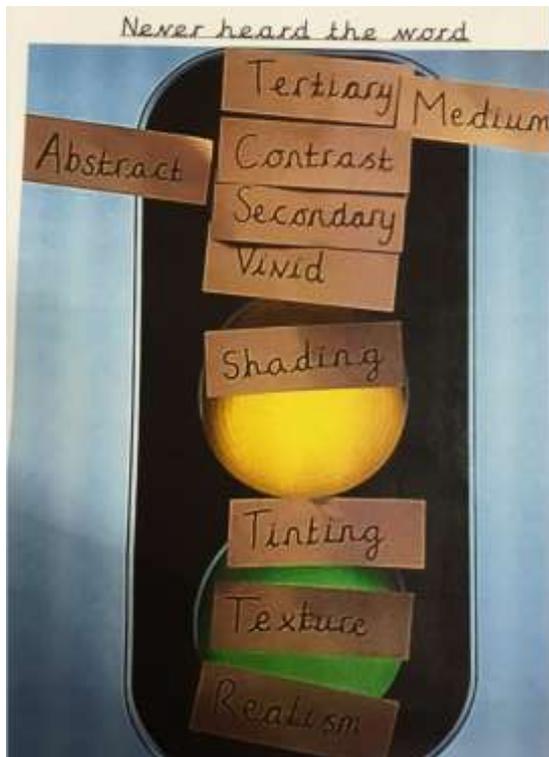
How does it work?

Never Heard the Word is a concept in which all children across the school from Foundation Stage up to Year 6 are given a list of words linked to the topic/book which they are studying. The words are designed to stretch the pupil’s language skills and to introduce them to new terminology and language. The children with the support of their teacher decide if they have never heard the word before, heard the word but are not quite sure of the definition or have a good understanding of what the word is. Building on these words, oracy activities are developed which provide opportunities for the children to discuss what the words actually mean.

[Watch the videos below to see our amazing children explaining what Never Heard the Word is.](#)

Examples of how Never Heard the Word is used in different year groups across the school.

Key Stage one



Key Stage two

Key words	Never heard the word before	Heard it but not sure of its meaning	Know what it means and can explain in words - get down your ideas here
evanescent	✓		First trip made by a ship at ocean level
colossal		✓	A large building mass as it looked from a distance of the sea and carried on to sea
liner	✓		A large luxurious passenger ship
perished	✓		More than 1500 people perished when the Titanic sank
inadequate	✓		Lacking the quality required in sufficient for a purpose
abandoned	✓		Right side of a ship or aircraft
reluctant	✓		Not eager
impact		✓	The force of one object
scrutinise	✓		More skillfully or carefully
revolutionary	✓		Has led to or involves radical change

Once the children have a good understanding of what the words mean, they then start to transfer this knowledge into their writing.