Year 4 Spelling Overview

What we've learnt this half term

Half term:	Autumn 2, 2026/27
Spelling quiz:	Week 12

This half term, Year 4 have learnt the 50 spellings below through Ready Steady Spell, our spelling programme. Each week's words share a spelling pattern, and children are taught the pattern alongside the words so they can use it to spell other words that follow the same rule. This half term has been about endings that sound alike but are spelt differently (tion, sion, ssion and cian), plus silent letters, apostrophes with plurals and homophones. Tricky words come from the national curriculum list of words children should be able to spell by the end of Year 4. Many don't follow the usual rules, so children learn them by sight and usually need more practice with them.

Week 12 is a practise and apply week, when children revisit the half term's words and sit a short spelling quiz on a selection of them. Spellings only stick if they keep being used, so please keep coming back to these at home after the quiz too. A few minutes, two or three times a week, does far more than one long session.

Week	Spelling focus	This week's words	Tricky words	Try this at home
Week 7	**sion** making the soft zh sound (television, explosion). The suffix **ation** turning a verb into a noun (inform, information).	infusion, television, explosion, illusion, information, sensation, education, punctuation	**favourite, mention**	Say television slowly and listen to the soft sound in the last syllable, like the s in treasure. If you can hear that sound, it's almost always spelt **sion**.
Week 8	Choosing tion or sion. Use **tion** when the root word ends in t or te (invent, invention). Use **sion** when it ends in d or se (expand, expansion; tense, tension).	invention, action, operation, donation, expansion, extension, comprehension, tension	**fruit, grammar**	Find the root word first and it gives the answer away: invent ends in t, so invention. Watch out for attention: attend ends in d but still takes tion.
Week 9	Use **ssion** when the root word ends in ss or mit (discuss, discussion; admit, admission). Use **cian** when it ends in c or cs (magic, magician; politics, politician).	discussion, impression, permission, admission, magician, politician, optician	**enough, imagine, increase**	cian words are nearly always people's jobs: a magician does magic, a musician makes music. Ask your child how many more they can think of (electrician, mathematician).
Week 10	Silent **b** (numb, climb, lamb, doubt). Apostrophes for plurals: after the s if the plural ends in s (**sweets'**), or **'s** if it doesn't (**children's**).	numb, climb, lamb, doubt, sweets', cakes', children's, mice's	**knowledge, through**	Ask: does the plural already end in s? sweets does, so the apostrophe goes after it: the sweets' wrappers. children doesn't, so add 's: the children's coats.
Week 11	Homophones: words that sound the same but have different spellings and meanings (meat and meet; missed and mist; rain, rein and reign).	meat, meet, missed, mist, rain, rein, reign	**material, busy, business**	missed is the past tense of miss (I missed the bus), which is why it ends in **ed**. For the others, a quick sketch helps: a king who reigns, a horse's rein.
Week 12	**Practise and apply:** children revisit all of this half term's words and sit the half-termly spelling quiz on a selection of them.			

Ways to practise at home

QUICK-FIRE QUIZ
Read out five words from different weeks. Your child writes them, then checks against this sheet and fixes any mistakes.

IN A SENTENCE
Pick two words and write one sentence using both. Check the spelling, the capital letter and the full stop.

SORT IT
Write some of the words on scraps of paper and sort them by ending: tion, sion, ssion or cian. Then add a new word to each pile.

SPOT IT
Look out for this half term's words in reading books, on signs and on packaging, and point them out together.

LOOK, SAY, COVER, WRITE, CHECK
For any word that's still wobbly, use the same method as the weekly practice sheet.