**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**

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

**Key Stage two**