

Why do we teach handwriting?

- ☺ The focus on handwriting in the national curriculum is specific; it highlights its importance and makes the connection between a child's handwriting and their composition and spelling.

"Handwriting should be fluent, legible and eventually, speedy." English National Curriculum 2014

- ☺ A flexible, fluent and legible handwriting style empowers children to write with confidence and creativity. As such, we actively teach handwriting as part of the English curriculum through daily phonics lessons and discrete weekly lessons, quick reinforcing sessions and application every day.
- ☺ Handwriting is a developmental process with its own distinctive stages of progression from readiness for handwriting, through to letter joins, practising speed and fluency and higher presentation skills.

Key Goals of our Handwriting Teaching:

- ✓ Developing joined handwriting for all writing except where other special forms are required.
- ✓ Developing speed and consistency in the size and proportion of letters and in the spacing between letters and words.
- ✓ Developing a range of presentational skills, e.g. print script for captions, sub-headings and labels; capital letters for posters, title pages and headings.

Cursive Style:

Our handwriting style is a cursive style. The joined-up writing style ensures words are formed in one, flowing movement.



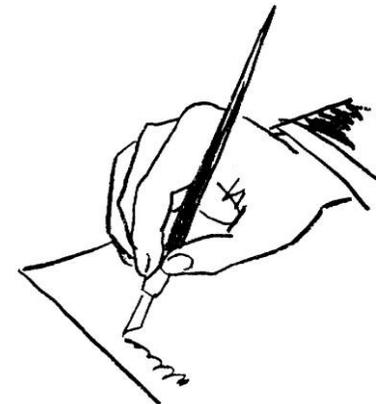
Handwriting Facts

- ✓ Handwriting is one of the most demanding movement skills which a child is expected to master.
- ✓ The principal aim is that handwriting becomes an automatic process, which frees pupils to focus on the content of the writing.
- ✓ A flexible, fluent and legible handwriting style empowers children to write with confidence and creativity.
- ✓ Motivate your child by providing him/her with a variety of tools such as felt-tips, chalk and paint as handwriting requires a lot of practice.



Supporting your child's cursive Handwriting.

A guide for parents.



Letter Formation Tips for Young Writers:

- ✓ To form the letters, start at the dot and follow the arrows.
- ✓ Lined paper helps children to practise the letter formation as the key feature of this handwriting style is that the lowercase letters always start on the line.
- ✓ Some children will struggle with pencil control and grip. If that's the case, please speak with your child's class teacher and they can give you a range of activities to help develop their fine motor skills.
- ✓ Once children are able to form all the letters correctly, you can begin to support children with uniformity of letter size.

Letter Groups:

- ✓ When children are taught handwriting, letters are taught in groups.
- ✓ Children also practise handwriting patterns to help them with the flow, rhythm and movements required to form the different letter groups.

Four Basic Joins:

- ✓ Diagonal joins to letters without ascenders:
e.g. *ai, ar, us.*
- ✓ Horizontal joins to letters without ascenders:
e.g. *ou, ni, mi.*
- ✓ Diagonal joins to letters with ascenders:
e.g. *ab, ul, it.*
- ✓ Horizontal joins to letters with ascenders:
e.g. *ot, wh, ot.*
- ✓ q is the only lowercase letter not to join and is a break letter (children form this letter, remove their pencil from the page and then start to form the next letter).
- ✓ Capital letters do not join.



How is each letter formed?

<u>Continuous Cursive Letter Groups</u>	
Rockin' Round Letters	A a A a C c C c D d D d G g G g O o O o Q q Q q S s S s
Climb 'n' Slide Letters	I i I i J j J j L l L l T t T t U u U u Y y Y y

Tunnel Letters	B b B b H h H h K k K k M m M m N n N n P p P p R r R r
Loop and Hook Letters	E e E e F f F f
Square Letters	X x X x Z z Z z
Zig Zag Letters	V v V v W w W w