



Scan to watch how to begin your joins!

Wednesday 25th May 2022

Dear parents/carers,

Handwriting may seem an outdated skill, but it's still important in the primary school classroom. Handwriting today often seems like a dying art. Computers, tablets and smartphones are now so prevalent that many of us rarely need to put pen to paper. But despite the fact that technology is eclipsing handwriting, primary school children are still expected to learn to write legibly and fluently, with the National Curriculum setting out targets for every school year.

Evidence suggests that children who write by hand are better connected to their work and more engaged in learning. There's also a clear link between a child's handwriting and the quality of the content of their written work.

You can help your child develop automaticity with their handwriting, and keep up with the expectations of the National Curriculum.

Here are some tips to help your child at home with their handwriting:

- 1. Practise little and often.** Handwriting is best practised in short bursts, so it doesn't become boring, just five minutes a night is enough.
- 2. Use different writing implements.** One of the best things children can do is write using lots of different media: not just pens and pencils, but chalks and their finger in sand. This gives them lots of experience, and getting to use different tools is a good incentive to practise.
- 3. Concentrate on letter shapes.** When your child is learning to write, focus on them forming their letter shapes correctly (for example, writing the letter c with an anticlockwise movement from top to bottom). Size and orientation follow on much later.



As you can see above, the ascenders can join to the following letter although the descenders can never join to the next letter!

- 4. Keep up the momentum.** There is often a big push on handwriting in KS1, then we move on and give it little attention, but many children aren't writing automatically by this stage. Keep doing short handwriting exercises as your child moves through KS2 to help them develop speed and fluency.

5. Ask for help if you're concerned. If you're worried about your child's handwriting, talk to their teacher. Explain your concerns, ask to see their work, and be persistent. If there's an underlying problem like dyslexia, dyspraxia or dysgraphia, help is available, but what your child needs is individual to them.'

If you do need any support, please do speak to your child's class teacher and we will be more than happy to help.

Thank you for your cooperation and support.

Kind regards

Avi Gill

Vice Principal for Year 4 and 5