

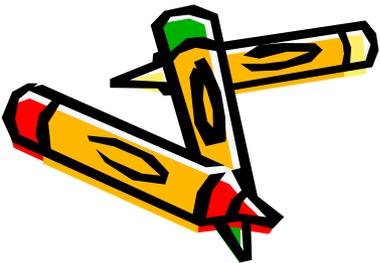


Handwriting Workshop

January 2020

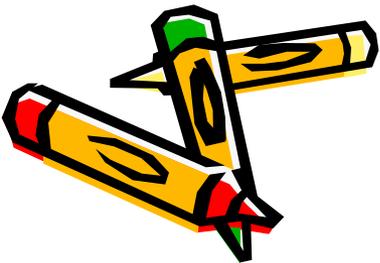
Handwriting – Aims of the workshop

- ❖ Our school approach to Handwriting
- ❖ Words we use - Terminology
- ❖ Handwriting in our classrooms – in each year group.
- ❖ Resources – how to help at home.
- ❖ Have a go!



Our school Approach

- ❖ In September we agreed as a Staff to change our handwriting scheme and style. This was because we had attended training which recommended cursive writing and the benefits of this. We also wanted to introduce some new materials and resources to help us teach handwriting so we reviewed what we were doing and decided after advice from our Wiltshire Literacy Advisor to change to teaching cursive writing.
- ❖ The scheme we have decided to use is called Letter-join.



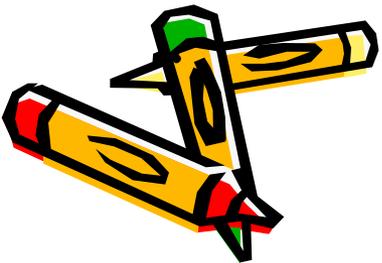
Letter-join 



Terminology



- **Pre-cursive** – the children are taught to write each letter individually first – e.g. c d e
- **Cursive** – when the letters are joined together.
- **Lead ins** – we now start on the line and write the letter starting with the join – so when teaching pre-cursive we teach this.
- **Lead out** – this is either the flick – which joins to the next letter or the tail on the letter which loops e.g. g y f j – we will teach this starting in Reception from Sept so ready for pre-cursive and then cursive.



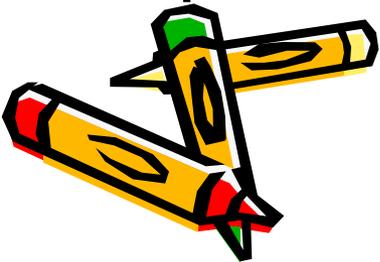
Handwriting in our classrooms

We follow a completely consistent approach in all classes. Teaching Assistants have been trained and are expected to use our new handwriting style as well as all teachers.

We aim to use this style as much as we can when writing – we have it as a font on all our laptops and computers.

You will see this style around our school on displays and notices.

However, we still think it is important for children to read and recognise writing in various forms of print so other fonts may also be on display at times. The children do not see cursive writing in their reading books so need to be exposed to many forms of print.



Reception

- Children in Reception will start school and learn how to write their letter shapes. This will follow the Letter Join style but only use the lead out for letters – the flicks and loops. The children will continue to develop their gross and fine motor skills, learn a correct and comfortable pencil grip, and learn their letter formation alongside their phonics (letter sounds).
- After Easter at the beginning of Term 5 the children will begin to learn how to write pre-cursive letters using the lead-ins. This will help them to be ready to continue to learn pre-cursive and cursive into Year 1. They will then be using the Letter-join scheme more in their class and parents will then have access to the Letter-join materials at home.
- Throughout the Reception year the children will also be practising handwriting patterns from Letter-join e.g.



Year 1

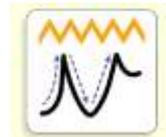
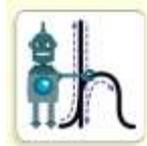
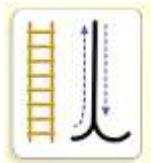


At the beginning of Year 1 the children will start using Handwriting books. These have lines drawn to help with letter size and size in relation to each other.

We follow the letter join scheme - revising how each letter is written individually (pre-cursive).

We continue to teach the children the patterns which help them to remember the direction of letters and helps them achieve the flow they need when joining writing.

The letters are taught in letter families



The 'ladder letters' are the straight letters of the alphabet.

The 'curly caterpillars' are the curved letters of the alphabet.

The 'one-armed robots' are the letters with an 'arm'.

The 'zig zag' letters which are the 'up and down' letters.



Year 1

We then teach the children to join whole words – easy words first. By easy words – we mean words easy to join so first would be

ill, lit, lilt

then moving onto harder joins

yell, eye, jaw.

We also teach the children the correct way to write capital letters. We teach this in Year 1 as this links with our grammar and punctuation teaching which looks at using capital letters and full stops in writing.

As the children become more confident they will be expected to use joins more and more in their writing. This is not an expectation at the beginning of Year 1! We are hoping that most children will be ready to join their letters by the beginning of Year 2.

However this year is the first year we have taught this so we are trialling it at the moment and we need to see how the children progress this year.



Year 2

In Year 2 we aim to increase the fluency and speed of the children's handwriting through regular practise.

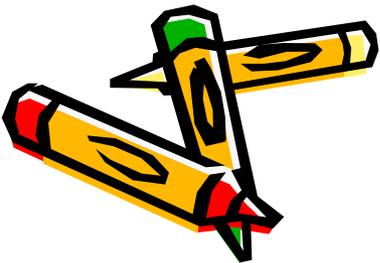
They are still taught using the letter families introduced in Year 1.

Throughout the year the correct orientation and formation of the letters are revised as well as the correct sitting position and pencil grip.

Then the children are introduced to the letters that join diagonally, followed by those that join horizontally.

an

oc



Year 2

Handwriting is used to develop spelling in year 2 with high frequency words, common exception words and weekly spellings all practised through the handwriting scheme.

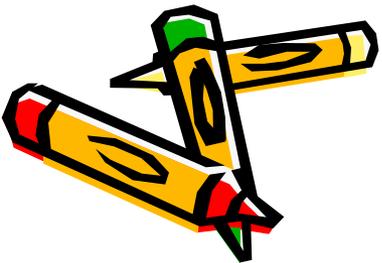
Simple dictation activities are introduced in Year 2 starting with simple CVC word exercises and then moving into short phrases, poems and sequences of sentences.

Number formation and number sentences are also introduced in Year 2.

Handwriting is a deciding factor in Year 2 assessments.

A child working at EXS needs to demonstrate they can form capital letters and digits of the correct size, orientation and relationship to one another and to lower case letters.

To achieve GDS the children need to use the diagonal and horizontal strokes needed to join some letters. As a result we try to encourage the children to use their 'best' handwriting in everything they do.



Resources – how to help at home.

As part of the Letter-join scheme you are able to log in at home and use the resources.

The login is jk6020 on a tablet you then swipe a capital L

On a computer the account password is home

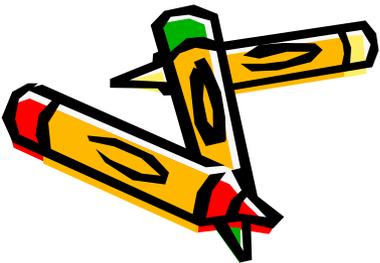
You then click on the correct class and you will be able to access the correct resources. This will be available for the Reception children to access after Easter.

This is particularly useful on a tablet or touch screen as the children can use their finger to practise the letter formation.

They can watch the letters being formed, and there are also links activities which such as phonics.

This sheet is also on our website under letters.

It shows the correct formation for each letter.



Curse Lineer Case Letters



Have a go!

If you would like to have a go there are pencils and paper on the tables! Remember to start each letter from the line.

