



Supporting your child at home with handwriting A whole school approach that begins in Key Stage 1

Year 1 and Year 2

With email and phones, it is easy to think handwriting is now out-dated, but by no means is this true! The need to be able to write well, and quickly, is greater today than it ever was. Accurate handwriting not only enables a child to write fluently, but it also supports their cognitive development, helping them retain new knowledge in their long term memory. Therefore it is important that during KSI your child develops a secure, fluent handwriting style. This information booklet looks at ways in which you can help support the improvement of your child's handwriting. Like many schools, we use the 'Nelson' handwriting scheme to ensure consistency across the school.

We are very lucky to have such a wonderful group of parents at Wingham and we know that you are always looking for ways to support your child at home. This guide has been put together to give you an idea of activities that will consolidate the learning taking place in school and help develop your child's fluency in handwriting. Little and often is the best approach to practising any skill at home, keeping things as fun as possible with lots of praise.

If you would like any additional information or support please feel free to ask.

Mrs Douglas
Head of School and Inclusion

National Curriculum – these statements show what is expected of children, in handwriting, by the end of Year 1 and Year 2

Year 1: Handwriting

Pupils will be taught to:

- sit correctly at a table, holding a pencil comfortably
- begin to form lowercase letters in the correct direction starting and finishing in the right place
- form capital letters
- form digits zero to 9
- understand which letters belong to which handwriting families (i.e letters that are formed in similar ways) and to practise these

Year 2: Handwriting

Pupils will be taught to:

- form lowercase letters of the correct size relative to one another
- start using some of the diagonal and horizontal strokes needed to join letters and understand which letters, when adjacent to one another, are best left unjoined
- write capital letters and digits of the correct size, orientation and relationship to one another and to lowercase letters
- Spacing between words that reflect the size of the letters

Supporting handwriting at home

Equipment you may need:

Small selection of writing materials for e.g soft writing pencils
(B Grade) and ink pens

Sheets of A4 plain or lined paper

The more exciting the range of materials the better!



Let handwriting play a part in your family's daily life

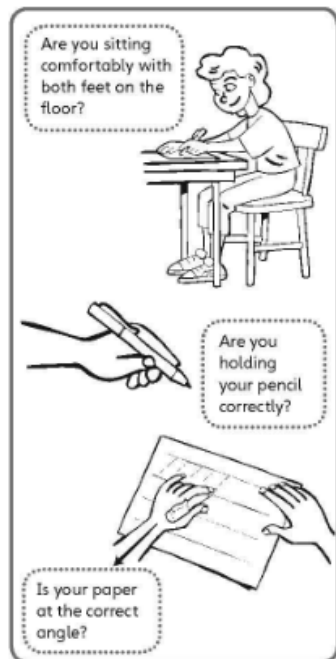


Display your child's work and share why you think it is amazing. Create a scrap book so your child can see their learning journey.

Posture

Good posture is vital for any child, but it is particularly important if your child is left handed, because people who are left handed have a tendency to develop a cramped, curled hand position which makes writing very hard work. Sitting properly can prevent this, so do your best to provide somewhere your child can work, even if it's the end of the kitchen table.

For use by left-handed pupils



Getting ready to write



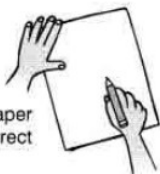
Are you sitting comfortably with both feet on the floor?



Are you holding your pencil correctly?



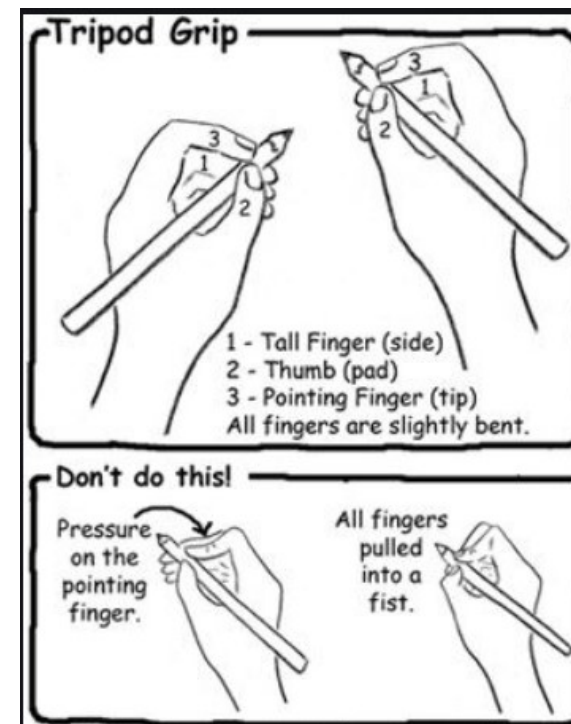
Is your paper at the correct angle?



Pencil grip

Holding the pen or pencil correctly allows the fingers and wrists to move freely without putting strain on the hand, helping to improve handwriting and making it more comfortable.

The tripod grip is the best way to hold a pencil for both left and right handed writers, however it isn't the easiest grip to learn. Luckily, with lots of practise and reinforcement, it can be achieved.



Handwriting at Wingham

At Wingham we follow the 'Nelson' handwriting scheme. This ensures that there is a consistent approach and style taught across the whole school.

We begin at school with letters being written separately (not joined up yet) although you'll see that all our letters have flicks on them so children are ready later.

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

a b c d e f g h i j k l m n o p q r s t u v w x y z

Letter families

For teaching letter formation

Letter family 1

Down and off in another direction

l i t j u y

Letter family 2

Down and retrace upwards

m n r b p h k

Letter family 3

Anticlockwise round

c a d o q g e f s

Letter family 4

Zig-zag letters

v w x z

Cursive Handwriting in Year 2

Children are taught cursive handwriting from Year 2 onwards. Children are taught cursive handwriting because:

- By making letters in one movement, children's hands develop a 'physical memory' of it, making it easier to produce the correct shape. This helps children to learn to spell
- Children are less likely to reverse letters which are typically difficult (like b/d or p/q)
- There is a clearer distinction between capital letters and lower case
- The continuous flow of writing improves speed and spelling
- Leading strokes into letters helps children to sit each letter on the line on a page and start formation

1 The gecko had a long (tail/tale).
2 Hayley asked if the tortoise was for (sail/sale).
3 The man turned (pail/pale) as the snake slid towards him.



Cursive Handwriting in Year 2

Different joins

Bottom letter joins:

ai but ch ck er jig sh th zip

Bottom to 'c' shaped letter joins:

as ea ed igh ing sat ss

Bottom to 'e' shaped letter joins:

be her ie men se ze

Top 'e' letter joins:

ve we oe

Top letter joins:

bl br oa oh oi on oo or ou ov
ow oy wh

Things to remember

It's best if a child can sit on a chair (properly) at a table when writing, with both feet on the floor.

It is difficult to write with a biro—it moves too quickly. Pencils or felt tips are better.

Don't worry if your child is left handed, but encourage them to turn their paper slightly to the right.