

Whitesheet Handwriting

Reception

In the Reception Class we teach handwriting as part of Read Write Inc (RWI) phonics lessons. The correct letter formation is taught as each phoneme/grapheme is introduced.

We use the Read Write Inc rhymes and characters to ensure correct formation, using noncursive print.

We do not teach handwriting as a separate lesson but will correct finger grip and letter formation if needed during writing in RWI lessons.

We identify children who need to strengthen their pencil control at the start of the year and they follow a programme of finger gym activities to improve their fine motor control.

Year One

At the start of Year One we are passed on the list of children identified as needing a little additional support with their fine motor skills. These are placed into an intervention programme.

The Autumn Term focuses on ensuring all children can form their letters correctly, using a non-cursive print but with the flick afterwards.

Correct letter formation is reinforced throughout the daily RWI lessons. Children that are recognised as not forming specific letters correctly, are asked to work with the class teacher or TA on a one-to-one basis or as part of a small group.

We also continue to use the RWI rhymes to ensure correct formation. Letters are grouped according to the RWI scheme:

'Around letters': c a o d g q

'Down letters': l t b p k h i j m n r u y

'Curly letters': e f s

'Zig zag letters': v w z x

We have handwriting books which are used for teaching letter groups, e.g. all the 'Around letters' etc.

It is our aim to have the majority of the class printing their letters using the correct formation (with a flick) by the end of Year One, ready to join up in Year Two. Some children start to join their letters at the end of Year One if they are ready.

Year Two

During Year Two, we are still closely monitoring children to ensure they are using the correct formation and amount of pressure in their writing. Children who are still finding

difficulty with their writing will be given support with this, and this will also be followed up in their RWI group.

Some children starting Year Two will be ready to start joining their letters. Children will be encouraged to do so as long as their formation is secure. We will teach joining patterns, initially concentrating on digraphs and trigraphs (special friends) which will be the most common joins. It links well with the spelling programme and the joins will be taught as the spelling programme progresses through the year.