



St John's C of E Primary School, Danbury

HANDWRITING INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

By the time children leave St John's we aim to have children produce legible joined handwriting.

We begin in Reception teaching printed letter formation (see Handwriting formation EYFS and Year 1). In Reception and KS1 we also strengthen children's fine motor skills using a variety of activities. Activities at home to encourage fine motor skills such as threading beads, playing with Lego are useful pre writing skills to build up strength in the fingers. Drawing on fences or walls with chalk is also very good for strengthening the shoulder girdle which is key for fine motor skills required in forming handwriting.

When practising letters at home, please correct any letter reversals or incorrect formation as this can prove difficult to correct later on. Correct letter formation is the foundation of joined handwriting in later years.

Numbers and capital letters are also practised too. Numbers and capital letters, all start at the top of the line. We use the straight 4 and 9 versions. (See Number formation).

Later in KS1 or early in KS2, we begin to teach how letters join to each other by adding a flick onto the end. Capital letters do not join to lower case letters. Lessons are taught in families with similar letter joins. Ascenders and descenders are taught as well as a focus on the size of each letter in relation to the line. See:

[Beginning to join letters at year 2 onwards](#) and [Days of the Week example of handwriting](#).

Usually by the end of Year 3 children are beginning to feel confident to join their writing and this is becoming natural for them. In KS2 the focus moves to writing letters with the correct size and building speed. Children's handwriting is analysed and lessons are targeted to specific needs.

Depending on children's individual needs and fine motor skills, not all children will be taught to join their handwriting.

There are sheets on the website if you child would benefit from additional handwriting practise at home.