

Penpals for Handwriting: Year 2 Information

The main aim during this year is for children to begin to develop an easy and clear handwriting style which can become fluent and automatic. This will help to prepare children for writing and spelling tasks during the school year.

Letter formation of capitals and lower case letters should now be familiar and secure.

Children have been introduced to the two basic join types:

- Joins from the baseline, known as diagonal joins, including:
 - Diagonal join, no ascender: *am, un, lp*
 - Diagonal join to an ascender: *at th ck*
 - Diagonal join to an anti-clockwise letter: *ag, nd, if*

Joins from the crossbar, known as horizontal joins, including:

- Horizontal join, no ascender, e.g. *op, wi*
- Horizontal join to an ascender, e.g. *ot, wh*
- Horizontal join to an anticlockwise letter, e.g. *oo, wa*

Break letters (i.e. letters which are not joined from at this stage) include: *b, g, j, p, y, x and z*.

New joining letters introduced during this year are:

- Join from q: *quick quiet queen*
- Joins to and from r: *ran her hurry*
- Joins to and from s: *has sent class*
- Joins from f: *far fluffy*

So far, children have only tried joining one pair of letters in a word. This year they will gradually learn to join more letters in a word, using all the different joins: e.g. *calculator, kitten, handwriting*.

To begin with, however, children will focus on joining letters that combine to make a common letter pattern (e.g. *ee* as in *feet*; *oi* as in *foil*; *oa* as in *boat*). Learning to combine letters in this way links handwriting with spelling and helps children to become more confident spellers.