

Penpals for Handwriting: Year 3 Information

The main aims during this year are for children to refine their handwriting and to make sure that the size and proportions of all letters, and the spaces between letters and words, are consistent and even.

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 to a short letter, e.g. *am, un*
- Diagonal joins to an ascender, e.g. *at, th, ck*
- Diagonal joins to an anti-clockwise letter, e.g. *ag, nd, of*

Joins from the cross bar, known as horizontal joins, including:

- Horizontal join to a short letter, e.g. *wi, fr*
- Horizontal join to an ascender, e.g. *out, wg, fl*
- Horizontal join to an anticlockwise letter, e.g. *oo, wa, fa*

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

New joining letters introduced during this year are:

Joins from p and b to a short letter, e.g. *pi, be*

Joins to an ascender e.g. *ph, bb*

Joins to an anticlockwise letter, e.g. *po, ba*

By this stage, children should be secure at joining and able to use joined-up writing for most of their work. Opportunities will also be provided for children to practise writing at increased speed so that they can produce longer pieces of writing with greater ease.

There is continued emphasis on using the movements of handwriting to support spelling through the revision of common letter patterns.