

Penpals for Handwriting: Year 4 Information

The main aims during this year are for children to begin to slope 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. Attention is also given to keeping ascenders and descenders parallel.

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. *mm, nn*
- Diagonal join to an ascender, e.g. *tt, ll*
- Diagonal join to an anticlockwise letter, e.g. *ic, ss*

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

- Horizontal join to a short letter, e.g. *ou, on*
- Horizontal join to an ascender, e.g. *ot, wh, 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, j* and *y*. Letters which are never joined to or from are *x* and *z*.

By this stage, children should be secure at joining and able to use joined up writing for most of their word. Children will be beginning to practise writing in ink.

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.

Children will be introduced to the print alphabet for purposes such as captions, headings, labels and posters.