



## **Penpals for Handwriting: Years 5 and 6 Information**

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

Joins from the crossbar, 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*

By this stage, children should be secure at joining and able to use joined up writing for most of their work. Children will be experimenting with sloping their writing and using different joins for a more mature and comfortable style and will be writing mostly in ink.

At the end of the primary phase, handwriting will be assessed in the context of general writing. It is therefore important that in Years 5 and 6 children become confident with writing appropriately in different situations.

The Penpals handwriting materials let children develop speed and fluency in writing. They also allow them to assess and improve their own handwriting.

There are also opportunities to practise handwriting for different purposes in projects. These include:

- Note-making – quick writing.
- Fast and fluent writing – neat and legible to all readers
- Best writing – writing for presentations.

The projects allow for the use of print letters (e.g. for labelling) and capital letters (e.g. for posters). There are both fiction and non-fiction projects.