Ashley Junior School

Ready • Respectful • Responsible

READY RESPECTFUL RESPONSIBLE

Handwriting at AJS

Handwriting at AJS

Intent
At Ashley Junior School we aim to develop the children's ability to write with ease, speed and legibility, enabling them to maximise the fluency, quality and quantity of their work. Children learn cursive handwriting which teaches pupils to join letters and words as a series of flowing movements and patterns. Cursive handwriting is taught with a sequential and progressive approach. Handwriting is a taught skill and it is important that teachers are seen to put a high value on teaching and sustaining good handwriting. We believe that children's self-esteem and pride in their learning can be raised by good quality presentation.

At AJS our aims are:
- To teach correct letter formations
- To enable children to develop their own style of handwriting as they progress
- To support the development of correct spelling and to aid in the elimination of letter reversals through the learning of word patterns and the correct joining of letters
- To assist children in taking pride with the presentation of their work
- To teach children correct letter formation, joining and good handwriting habits, so that they can write fluently and legibly

Handwriting

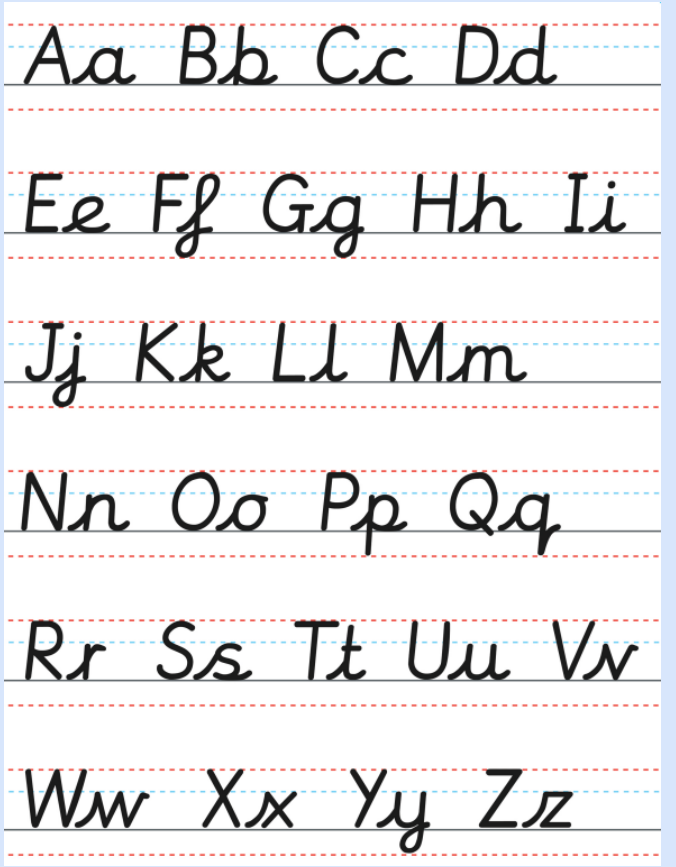
Implementation

We seek to fulfil the requirements of the National Curriculum 2014. Planning is based on objectives taken from these, which ensures a progressive structure. Handwriting is taught regularly and at least weekly through spelling and English lessons. It is taught discretely throughout school, where appropriate. During lessons we ensure that children sit appropriately, position their paper/book, and hold their pen/pencil correctly using their other hand to hold their work firmly. In addition to specific handwriting sessions children are expected to apply their learning in their books and to show care for the presentation of their work. Staff model the handwriting style and use the appropriate joins, demonstrating fluency and legibility of the style. Children are supported in small groups when required. Year 3-5 have a small book to record their hand writing in and Year 6 record their writing in the writing book.

Impact

Handwriting is a skill which affects written communication across the curriculum. Our aim is that children are able to write with ease, speed and legibility. By year 6 children will use cursive handwriting using flowing movements and patterns. This handwriting should be demonstrated in all writing across the curriculum. Writing should be fluid in style to allow children to apply their thinking into the content of their writing as opposed to the formation of the letters themselves.

Continuous Cursive Handwriting

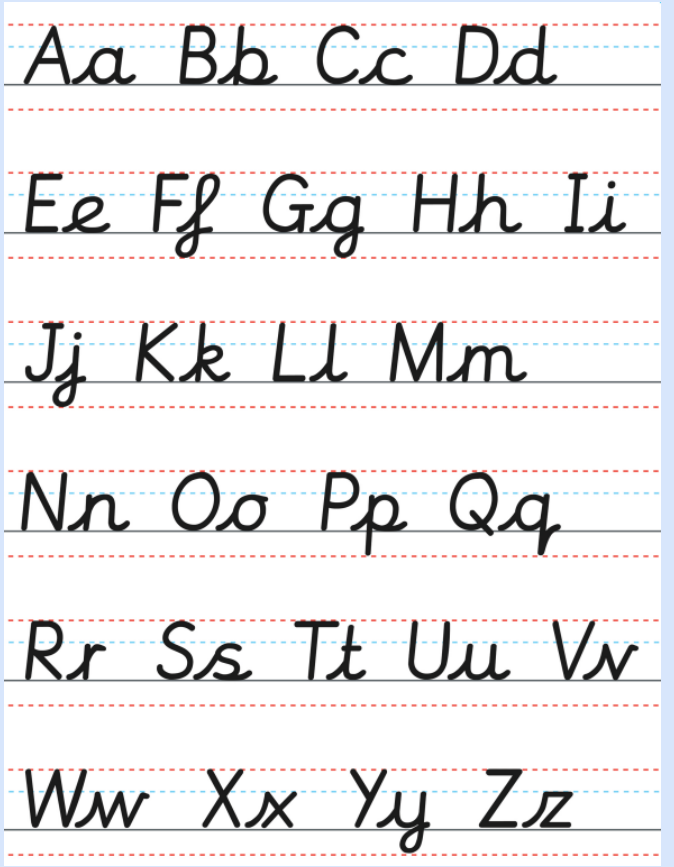


Handwriting Features

Key features of continuous cursive handwriting:

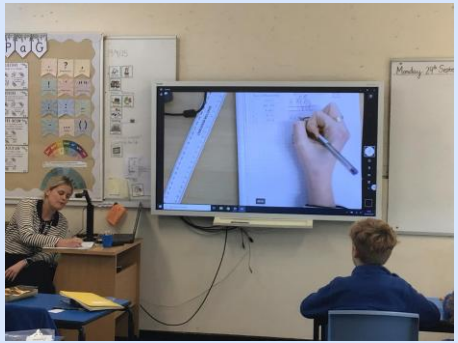
- The handwriting style is known as 'continuous cursive handwriting' which means each letter is formed without taking the pencil off the paper, so each word is formed in one fluid movement
- There is a clear distinction between capital and lower case letters
- The continuous flow of writing ultimately improves speed, spelling and fluency
- All letter start on the line
- The majority of letters finish on the line with a 'flick'
- The pencil does not leave the paper until the word is complete
- 'ts' and 'xs' are crossed and 'I's' are dotted when the whole word is complete
- The alphabet is organised into stroke-related groups for easy teaching

1. c, a, d, g, o, q, e, s, f
2. r, n, h, m, b, k, p
3. l, i, t, u, j, y
4. v, w, x, z

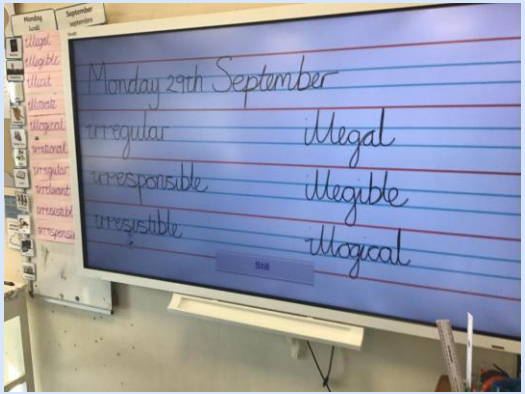


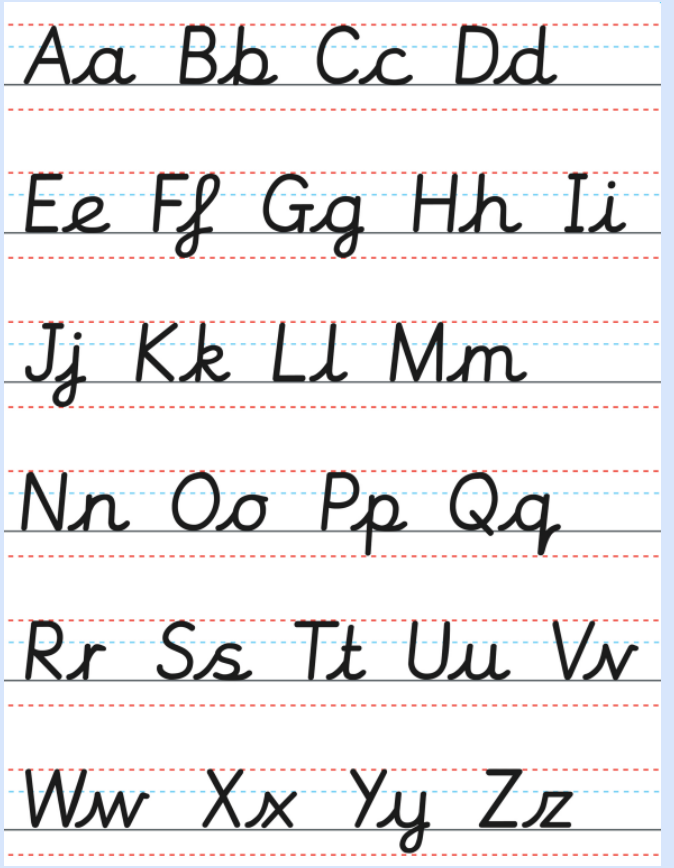
Handwriting in the classrooms

- Key words on display in classrooms are hand written
- Handwriting is modelled by adults e.g. using a visualiser, whiteboard, or writing in a child's book







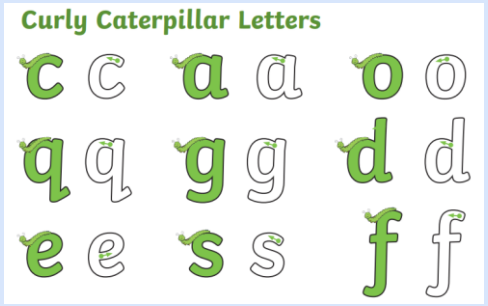


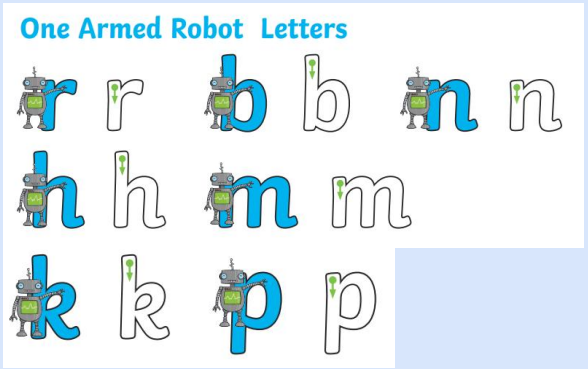
Handwriting Prompts

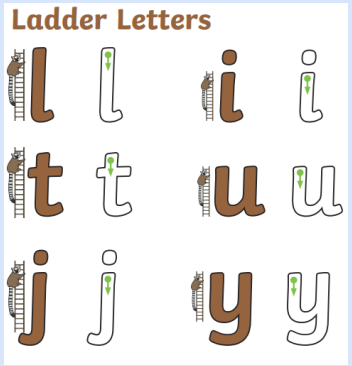
Prompts to help the children remember letter formation:

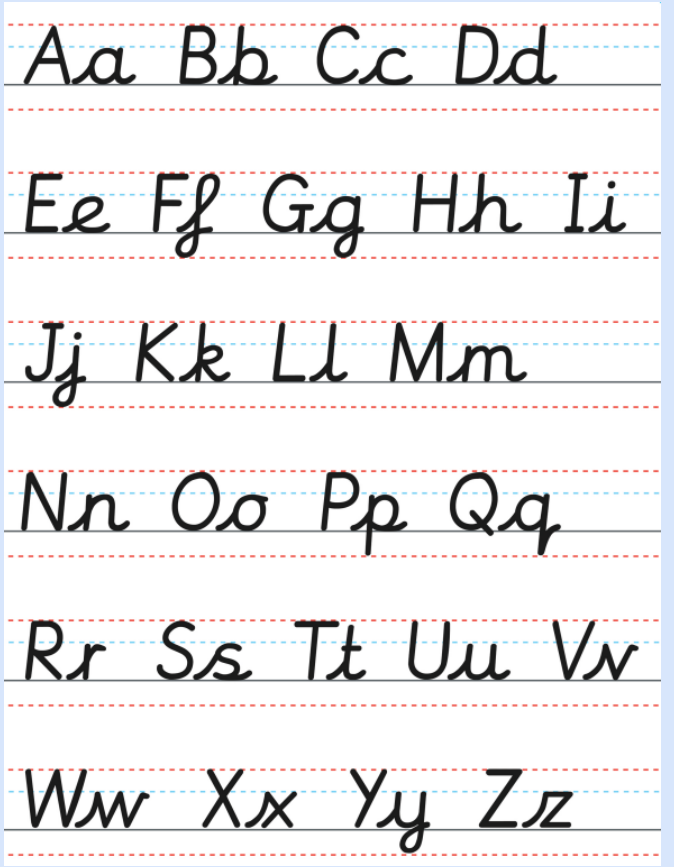
1. c, a, d, g, o, q, e, s, f
2. r, n, h, m, b, k, p
3. l, i, t, u, j, y
4. v, w, x, z









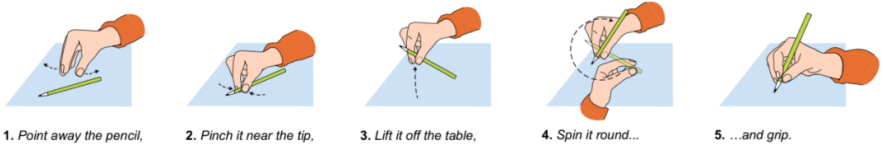


Handwriting Support

Ideas to support the children:

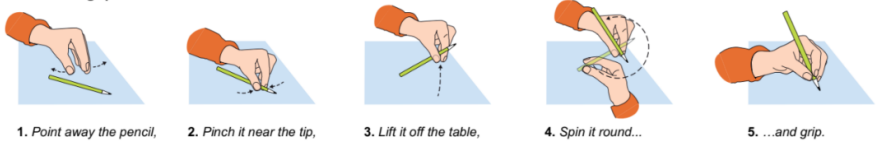
How to hold a pencil correctly for handwriting:

Right handed grip



1. *Point away the pencil,* 2. *Pinch it near the tip,* 3. *Lift it off the table,* 4. *Spin it round...* 5. *...and grip.*

Left handed grip



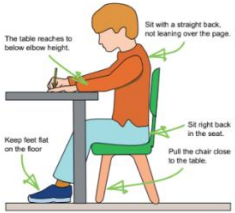
1. *Point away the pencil,* 2. *Pinch it near the tip,* 3. *Lift it off the table,* 4. *Spin it round...* 5. *...and grip.*

Action	Description
Quack, Quack Fingers	Start your warm up by making a beak with your thumb and first finger on both hands. Make them quack twice, then do the same with your other fingers.
Roly-Poly Pencil	Lay your pencil flat across your fingers. Use your thumb to roll it backwards and forwards. Now try it with your other hand.
Crawling Caterpillar	Hold your pencil ready to write. Move the pencil through your three fingers to the top like a crawling caterpillar. When you get to the top, make your caterpillar crawl back down again!
Helicopter Twirls	Hold your pencil in the middle with your three correct fingers. Make a twirling helicopter by moving your fingers one at a time from one side of the pencil to the other.

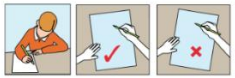
Action	Description
Finger Stretches	Put the tips of your fingers together and straighten your fingers by pushing your fingertips against each other. Repeat 5 times.
Play the Piano	Touch the table with one finger at a time from each hand like you are playing the piano. Start slowly and get faster.
Fishing Hooks	Put your elbows on the table, keep your hands apart, squeeze your fingers together and point them to the sky. Keep your knuckles straight and make a hook with your fingers. Hold, then straighten five times.
Fireworks	Make a fist with both hands and hold them tight. Then let your fingers go like exploding fireworks! Repeat five times.
Take a Bow	Put your elbows on the table, keep your hands apart, squeeze your fingers together and point them to the sky. Bend your knuckles but keep your fingers straight so your fingers bow to each other. Repeat 5 times.

Right handed children

How to sit correctly to be comfortable for handwriting.

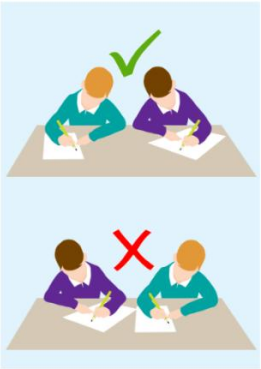


How to hold and position the paper.



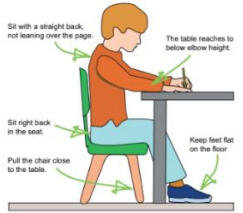
Sitting position

Sit left-handed children to the left of their partner so they have plenty of room to write.

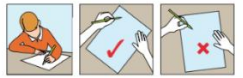


Left handed children

How to sit correctly to be comfortable for handwriting.

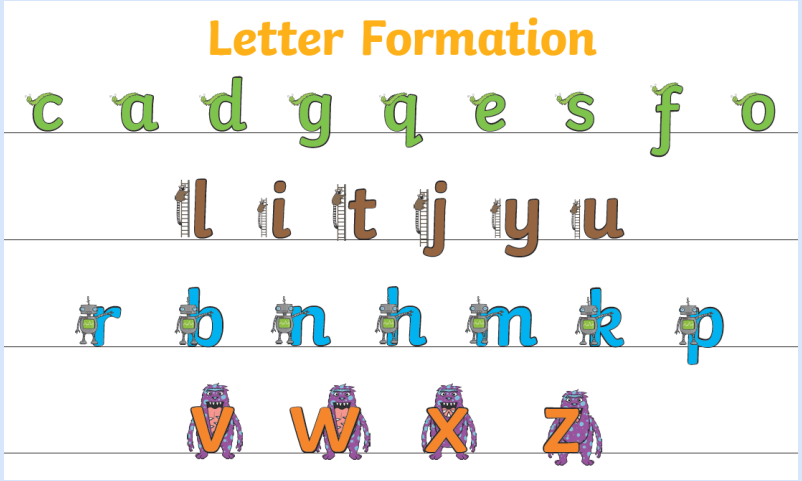


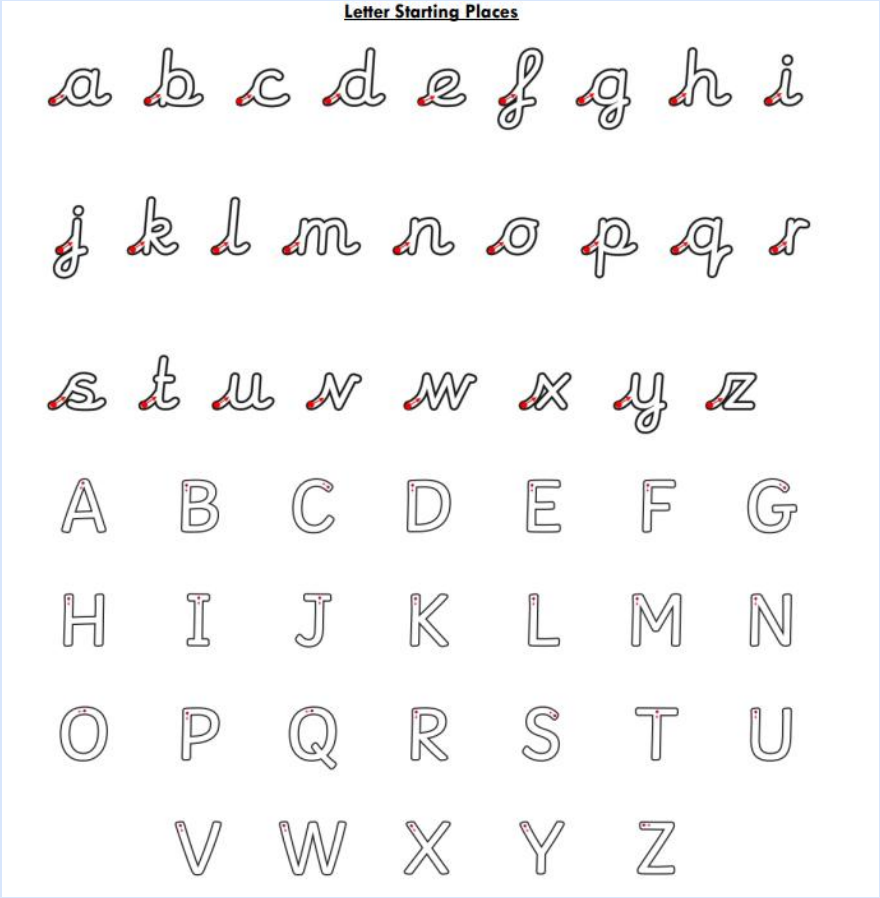
How to hold and position the paper.



Handwriting Support

Ideas to support the children:





Handwriting Support

Ideas to support the children:

- Tracing patterns
- Tracing letters
- Pencil grips
- Highlighted lines in exercise books

