



2.10.20

Dear Parent / Carer,

Handwriting

This term we have introduced a new handwriting scheme called “Letter-join”. We know that from a very early age 'good writers' **develop** fluent **handwriting** so that it becomes automatic. Once they have mastered the skill, they rarely need to expend much mental energy on their **handwriting**, so they can concentrate on tailoring their content for an audience, selecting appropriate vocabulary, and more.

Early Years

The focus for the Early Years children in the Autumn and Spring term will be on strengthening muscles in the hand and developing a strong core to help support mark making. In our daily phonics lessons children will rehearse non-cursive letter formation after watching the teacher model how to form each letter correctly. There will be activities in the classroom and garden to promote physical development and improve stamina and strength ready for writing. When the children demonstrate they are ready the Reception teachers will introduce the children to pre- cursive patterns and shapes in class. You will be able to access Letter-join at home to support your child to access the pre-cursive patterns and shapes.

Year 1 and Year 2

Handwriting will be taught 3 times a week across Year 1 and Year 2. Year 1 and 2 will both begin by focusing on the pre-cursive patterns and shapes in class, and when this is embedded they will move on to letters and words.

Children will then begin to be introduced to forming the letters of the alphabet in a progressive manner, starting with ‘long ladder letters’ and building up to more complex letter shapes, and moving on to words. Handwriting lessons will also reinforce their GPS (Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling) learning and their formation of capital letters, punctuation marks and numbers.

The Letter-join scheme allows children to practise their handwriting skills at home. Please see the next page for details on how to log in to Letter-join at home on a desktop PC, laptop or tablet. You can explore the Letter-join resources on the website but also see tasks set by class teachers that will link to what the children have been practising in school.

The Letter-join website will allow children to practise tracing patterns, shapes, letters and words on a touch screen, but you can also print worksheets and resources at home as well. When you log in, look out for a home learning task set by your class teacher which will pop up as you log in.



1st October 2020

Handwriting practise:

Can you practise the "Circles and Spirals" and "Lines and Diagonals" patterns at home?

These home learning tasks will change every 2 weeks. We would like the children to practise at home a minimum of 3 times per week but practising as often as possible will really support your child's development of skills.

Our focus is improving the children's motor skills, pencil grip and letter formation. We are not expecting children to be writing in a cursive script in their independent writing until they are ready to do so.

We know the children will enjoy Letter-join at school and the opportunity to practise their skills at home as well.

Yours sincerely,
Eleanor Dayton
English Coordinator

Letter-join Home log-in

Our school is now part of the Letter-join handwriting scheme and our pupils can log in to the Letter-join website on iPads and tablets as well as desktop and laptop computers at home. There you will find the same, easy-to-use handwriting resources that we use at school.



PC DESKTOP AND LAPTOP LOG-IN

Log in at www.letterjoin.co.uk and use the Desktop log-in option with these details:

User name: **jk4404**

Password: **home**

PC Browsers:

Letter-join will work on the following browsers on PCs/Macs:

- Google Chrome
- Firefox
- Safari

Do not use Internet Explorer.

IPAD AND TABLET LOG-IN

Go to www.letterjoin.co.uk and use the Tablet log-in option with these details:

User name: **jk4404**

Swipe code
(starting at top left):



Tablet/iPad Browsers:

Letter-join will run on the following tablets:

- iPads running iOS7 and above through the Safari browser.
- Windows 8 tablets (8 inch and bigger) using the built-in browser.
- Android tablets (8 inch and bigger) using Google Chrome, Firefox or Opera.

Choose your class name or click 'Free Play'

Free Play	1H	2S
RF	1K	2T
RJ	1W	2P
RD	1C	
RY	2D	

Don't see your class? Ask your school to set your Class Name

Choose a Classroom

Once logged-in, choose your child's classroom and you can use Letter-join's resources and fun activities to reinforce the handwriting we teach at school. You can trace over the letters and words and play the games on your tablet.

We are limited to the number of users who can log in to this account, so please do not share these log-in details.