



Messages for Parents

PENPALS for Handwriting

2

During this school year, your child will learn all of the basic handwriting joins. However, if your child isn't confident forming all their letters yet, they should concentrate on this before they worry about joining. Your child will gradually be introduced to more pairs of letters that are joined in the same way. At first, they are only asked to copy joins that they have seen before, but gradually they are encouraged to explore and experiment joining more and more letters with the joins they know. This should be encouraged if they begin to naturally explore - there's no point in holding them back. For example, the movement for the join *wh* (i.e. horizontal join to ascender) is exactly the same as for joining *sh, st, ot, ob* and so on - so your child may naturally begin to discover this.

Once a join has been introduced between pairs of letters (e.g. *wh*), your child will always be expected to copy the model showing those joined letter pairs whenever they write those letters. In this way, they will gradually be introduced to the idea of joining more than one pair of letters within a word.

In the final term of Year 2, your child will be introduced to other pairs of letters that are joined using the same joining strokes, if they have not already begun to identify and use them.

In this year your child may well sit a test or check. In England the SATS test for Y2 occurs in the Summer Term and handwriting is part of the English test. Although the formal English papers don't include a writing test, children's writing will be assessed by their teacher. Pupils will be asked to write a short piece and their teacher will look at their handwriting as part of this. They need to show legible writing including:

- Forming lower-case letters correctly, using some of the diagonal and horizontal strokes needed to join letters.
- Writing capital letters of the correct size and relationship to lower-case letters.
- Spacing their words correctly.
- To be awarded 'working towards' or 'working at expected' standards, pupils do not need to demonstrate joined up handwriting.
- To be awarded 'working at greater depth' at the end of key stage 1, pupils must demonstrate joined up handwriting, using the diagonal and horizontal strokes needed to join letters in most of their writing.

Join	Letters in this box	To letters in this box	Joins taught
Diagonal join to ascender	<i>a c e i l t</i>	<i>h k l t</i>	<i>ch, th, ck, al, el, at, il, ill, ok, ot, ob, ol</i>
Diagonal join, no ascender	<i>a c d e i k l n t u</i>	<i>e i n r y</i>	<i>ai, ay, ir, er, ie, ue, ee, le, ar, ur, in, ui, ey, aw, an, ip</i>
		<i>a c d g s</i> (anticlockwise letters)	<i>ea, ig, dg, ng, ed, cc, eg, ic, ad, ug, dd, ag, as, es, os, ns, ds, is, ls, ts, ks</i>
Horizontal join, no ascender	<i>o v w</i>	<i>e i n p r u v w y</i>	<i>ow, ou, oe, ve, or, oi, oy, on, op, ov</i>
		<i>a c d g o s</i> (anticlockwise letters)	<i>oo, oa, wa, wo, oc, og, od, va, vo</i>
Horizontal join, to ascender	<i>o w</i>	<i>h</i>	<i>wh, sh</i>

Break letters

These letters do not join: *g j x y z*

We do not join from these letters yet: *b f p q s r*