



Handwriting

How is handwriting taught?

Here at Teagues Bridge Primary School we follow the Nelson Handwriting Scheme from EYFS to year 6. This scheme begins by teaching children to correct posture, pencil grip and pencil control before moving on to teaching lower and upper case letters until finally teaching children how to join correctly for fluency.

What is a handwriting intervention?

Some children require additional practice at certain letters in order to learn how to form them, whilst other children need additional practice at pencil control; a handwriting intervention is an additional session where they work in a small group or on a one-to-one basis to practice the skills that they are finding difficult.

There are many approaches that are used in school for this, including hand exercises, letter formation practice and a multisensory approach (for example forming letters in shaving foam). Across the school we use the Nelson Handwriting, Write from the Start and Speed Up programmes as interventions depending on the need of the child.

What happens in a session?

Each session will run for approximately 15 minutes, at least 3 times a week and take place in addition to the daily handwriting lesson in class. The children may work in a small group with an adult or on a one to one basis and they will practice the particular skills that they are struggling with.

The session will usually begin with exercises to warm up the hand muscles, the children will then practice the formation on big paper, in the air or using different materials (such as paint) before moving on to practicing writing it for themselves on paper.

How can parents/carers help at home?

Parents and carers can easily help at home by practicing letter formation (or joins depending on your child's age) with your child. In addition to this, pattern drawing and colouring help to strengthen hand muscles and develop fine motor control. Also, if you speak with your

child's class teacher, they will be able to provide additional practice materials that you can use at home and will be able to tell you what your child is working on.

Letter formation rhymes

When teaching children how to form lower case letters, we use rhymes to help them learn the direction and strokes needed for accurate formation. Below is a list of the rhymes that we use;

Letter	Phrase	Letter	Phrase	Letter	Phrase
m	Maisie, mountain, mountain	b	down the laces to the heel and around the toe	v	down a wing, up a wing
a	round the apple, down the leaf	f	down the stem and draw the leaves	y	down a horn, up a hon and under his head
s	slither down the snake	e	lift off the top and scoop out the egg	w	down, up, down, up
d	round the dinosaurs bottom, up his tall neck and down to his feet	l	down the long leg	z	zig-zag-zig
t	down the tower, across the tower	h	down the horses head, to the hooves and over his back	q	round her head, up past her earrings and down her hair
i	own the insects body and a dot for the head	r	down his back and then curl over his arm	x	down the arm and leg and repeat on the other side
n	down Nobby and over his net	j	down his body, curl and dot	u	down and under the umbrella, up to the top and draw the puddle.
p	down the pirates plait and around his face	k	down the kangaroo's body, tail and leg	c	curl around the caterpillar
g	round the girl's face, down her hair and give her a curl	o	all around the orange		