

Supporting your child at home with handwriting

Key Stage One

Year One and Year Two



Give your child lots of
praise and
encouragement.





With e-mail and telephones, it is easy to think that handwriting is now out-dated, but by no means is this true! The need to be able to write well, and quickly, is greater today than it ever was. Accurate handwriting not only enables a child to write fluently, but it also supports their cognitive development, helping them retain new knowledge in their long term memory. Therefore it is important that during KS1 your child develops a secure, fluent handwriting style. This information booklet looks at ways in which you can help support the improvement of your child's handwriting.

We are very lucky to have such a wonderful group of parents' at St Agnes, and we know you are always looking for ways to support your child at home. This guide has been put together to give you an idea of activities that will consolidate the learning taking place in school and help develop your child's fluency in handwriting. Little and often is the best approach to practising any skill at home, keeping things as fun as possible with lots of praise.

At the end of this guide there are some websites that will direct you to other activities and information which you may find useful.

If you would like any additional information or support please feel free to speak to your child's class teacher.

These statements show what is expected of children, in handwriting, by the end of Y1 and Y2.

EQUIPMENT YOU MAY NEED

The great news is you don't need much to get started!

The basics include:

- a small selection of writing materials readily available around the house, e.g. soft pencils (B Grade) and pens
- some sheets of A4 paper (plain or lined).

The more exciting the range of materials the better! You can get cheap pizza shaped post it notes, sparkly note pads and notebooks that match every movie currently at the cinema. All of which will enthuse your child and motivate them to write.

Year One: Handwriting

Pupils will be taught to:

- sit correctly at a table, holding a pencil comfortably and correctly
- begin to form lower-case letters in the correct direction, starting and finishing in the right place
- form capital letters
- form digits 0-9
- understand which letters belong to which handwriting 'families' (i.e. letters that are formed in similar ways) and to practise these.

Year Two: Handwriting

Pupils will be taught to:

- form lower-case letters of the correct size relative to one another
- start using some of the diagonal and horizontal strokes needed to join letters and understand which letters, when adjacent to one another, are best left unjoined
- write capital letters and digits of the correct size, orientation and relationship to one another and to lower case letters
- use spacing between words that reflects the size of the letters.

Let handwriting play a part in your family's daily life...

Make lists (e.g. shopping lists) and labels



Keep in touch with friends and relatives with letters and postcards



Design and make home-made notes and greetings cards

Keep a family diary



Leave notes for each other

Display your child's work - if you haven't got a noticeboard, you could use the fridge door. After being on display, favourite pieces could be pasted into a scrap book to build up a unique record of progress and achievement. This encourages your child to present their work in the best possible way!

Posture and Pencil Grip

Encourage your child to sit properly when he is writing. They will get the best results if they are in a good light. Try to encourage them to:

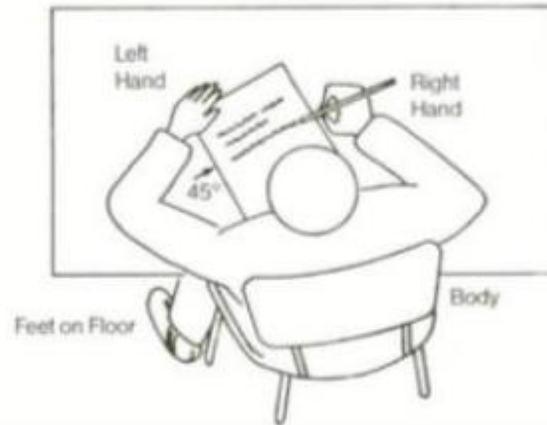
Sit upright
on a chair

Sit at a
comfortable
height

Keep a
straight
back

Keep their head
high enough to
see the pencil
point forming the
letters

Keep both
feet flat on
the floor



Many children like to do their homework lying on the floor, but don't let them! They can't develop good handwriting that way and they can't present their work in a way that does them justice.



We begin at school with letters being written separately (not joined up yet) although you'll see that all our letters have the flicks on them so children are ready later.

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ

abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz

u v w x y z

Letter families

For teaching letter formation

Letter family 1

Down and off in another direction.

l i t j u y

Letter family 2

Down and retrace upwards

m n r b p h k

Letter family 3

Anticlockwise round

c a d o q g e f s

Letter family 4

Zig-zag letters

v w x z

