

Handwriting at North Tawton Primary School

A guide for parents

At North Tawton Primary School we have adopted a cursive, or 'joined-up' style for handwriting throughout the school. We believe this raises standards in writing in the early years which will impact throughout the whole school, developing confidence, accuracy and fluency and improved presentation.

The cursive handwriting style helps:

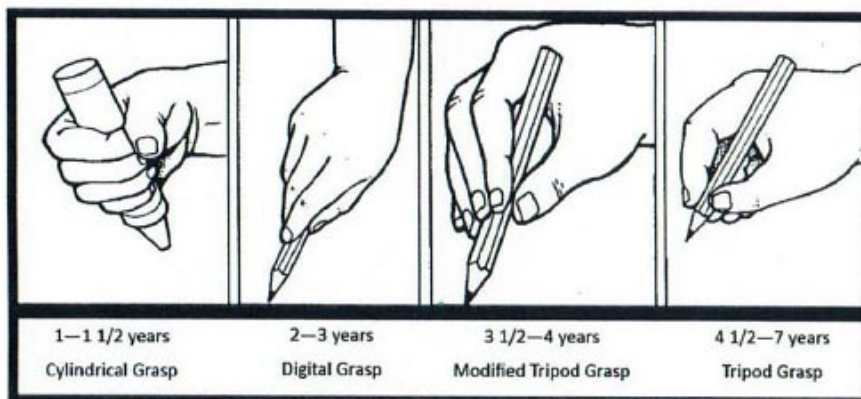
- to minimise confusion for the child as every letter starts on the line with an entry stroke and leads out with an exit stroke;
- as letters naturally flow into each other, this helps children to join their handwriting;
- form spacing between words as the child develops whole word awareness;
- to develop a child's **visual memory**;
- all children's writing skills regardless of academic ability;
- to develop skills of punctuation and grammar.

Handwriting Development

Young children develop the skills needed to write through both gross and fine motor movements. It is therefore important that our very youngest children continue to get opportunities to climb and scramble as well as having access to a range of chunky and fine mark making equipment. If you are able to take your child to a play area with climbing equipment this will be just as beneficial to their writing development as sitting down pens and paper!



Developing Small Motor Skills and an Efficient Pencil Grip Are Important Parts of Learning How to Write—and Enjoying the Process!



Good handwriting matters, beginning with a good pencil grasp!

If handwriting motions are not efficient, it interferes with the whole process.

As your child develops a better pencil grasp, the writing process becomes easier.

Our children in Reception and Key Stage One are introduced to actual letter formation through the letter and sounds programme as well as focused classroom activities. In particular, children are encouraged to write their first names correctly, using a capital letter for the first letter only.

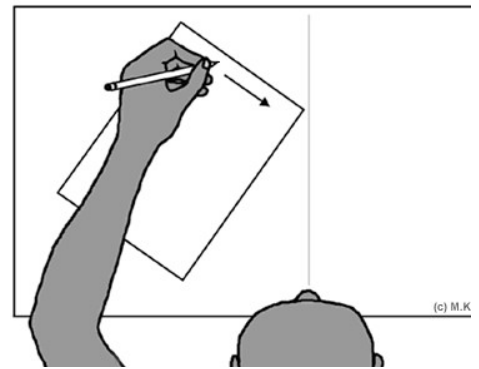
In the Beech Class and leading into Key Stage 2, children learn to write with a pencil. The most appropriate grip is the 'tripod grip' which allows both control and fluid movement. If your child finds it difficult to hold a thin pencil it may be worth investing in something chunkier or pencil grips which are designed to encourage a tripod grip.

We encourage our children to take care with presentation. When children progress in Key Stage 2, they have the chance to earn a pen licence. Cursive handwriting is taught throughout the school using letter patterns (diagraphs and trigraphs), and further up the school spelling patterns sent home weekly.

Left Handed Children

Young children may not favour one hand over the other; however, when they do settle on their right or left hand it is important to be able to support left handed children appropriately. The following guidelines may be useful:

- The child will need space to his / her left as he / she writes;
- The writing paper is to the left of the child's body midline;
- The paper is tilted up in a clockwise direction;
- The paper is supported with the right hand;
- The writing forearm is parallel with the paper edge as the child writes;
- The writing tool is held sufficiently far from its point to ensure that the child can see what he/she is writing.



Upper and lower case letters in our school cursive handwriting script

Aa Bb Cc Dd Ee Ff Gg

Hh Ii Jj Kk Ll Mm Nn

Oo Pp Qq Rr Ss Tt Uu

Vv Ww Xx Yy Zz

We hope you find this document useful. If you have any queries about your child's handwriting please speak to his / her class teacher.

Many thanks
Miss Chauhan

