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Handwriting Expectations

Dear Parents/Carers,

Handwriting is an important element of our curriculum. Teaching children to form their letters and numbers correctly and then join when writing supports them in developing their fluency in writing and muscle memory which in turn supports spelling.

At school we encourage all children to apply their handwriting skills across all subjects in the curriculum not just in their English lessons or handwriting sessions.

When your child is writing outside of school it would be useful to support and encourage them to be thinking of their handwriting and presentation.

The expectations for each year group are as follows:

Year 1: Pupils can mostly form numbers, upper-case and lower-case letters in the correct direction starting and finishing in the right place. They can leave finger spaces in between words.

Year 2: Pupils can form capital letters and digits of the correct size, orientation and relationship to one another and to lower-case letters. They can leave finger spaces that reflect the size of the letters and begin to use diagonal and horizontal strokes needed to join letters in most writing.

Year 3: Pupils can use the diagonal and horizontal strokes that are needed to join letters and understand which letters, when adjacent to one another, are best left unjoined.

Year 4: Pupils increase the legibility, consistency and quality of their handwriting.

Year 5: Pupils write legibly, fluently and with increasing speed by choosing which shape of a letter to use when given choices and deciding whether or not to join specific letters and choosing the writing implement that is best suited for a task.

Yours sincerely,

Ayse Thomas
Deputy Headteacher