



Expect the Best

**New Road Primary and Nursery School
& Park Lane Primary and Nursery School**

**Whole School Agreed Approach to Teaching Handwriting
Shared with teachers and teaching assistants June 2022**

Handwriting

Introduction

Here at New Road and Park Lane Primary and Nursery Schools we are very proud of our pupils handwriting and support our pupils to develop a cursive/joined up handwriting style. In Reception and years one and two we use Read Write Inc to systematically develop letter formation. When pupils have mastered basic letter formation, we introduce the use of cursive (joined up) handwriting using the letter join scheme.

Pens and Pencils

In nursery, children use chunky, triangular pencils and Reception use Staedtler Norris HB pencils once their fine motor skills have been established. In KS1 and KS2 children use a pencil until their handwriting is of a consistent size with consistent joins shown over a number of pieces. If children are unable to hold a pencil using a tripod grip then they will be given a Stabilo Easygraph pencil to aid with their pencil grip.

Handwriting Lessons in EYFS and Year One

In Nursery, children are taught how to hold a pencil in a tripod grip using the 'Nip and Flip' technique. (See appendix 1) When children begin to learn how to write their name, the Read Write Inc patters (See appendix 2) are used to teach correct letter formation.

In Reception and KS1, handwriting is taught as part of daily Read Write Inc sessions using the RWI letter patter with reference being made to the size of letters, ascenders/descenders and all letters sitting on the line. For example round the apple and down the leaf the letter 'a' or Maisie, Maisie mountain, mountain. Throughout all RWI lessons, correct handwriting is modelled and discussed with pupils.

Staff use a variety of Read Write Inc (RWI) teaching techniques to facilitate the teaching of handwriting i.e. My turn, your turn – MTYT, magic finger (air writing letter) magnet eyes.

In addition to this there are two formal handwriting lessons each week. For reception children, these will begin in Spring term. We teach the children through two simple steps:

- Step One: Children practise correct letter formation using RWI patter and visuals.
- Step Two: Children learn where to place the letters correctly on the line.

In these steps, children are taught these letters in the following order:

- 'Around letters': c, a, o, d, g, q
- 'Down letters': l, t, b, p, k, h, i, j, m, n, r, u, y
- 'Curly letters': e, f, s
- 'Zig-zag letters': v, q, z, x

We will teach this 'The New Road/Park Lane way' by teaching 2/3 new sounds and remembering 2/3 sounds each lesson. Once children have worked through each sound twice, we will then introduce capital letters alongside the lowercase.

In handwriting lessons (2 lessons per week lasting 15 minutes) children will write in their handwriting booklets (see appendix 3). In Reception and Year One these are made using the Read Write Inc 'sun, boat and water' template so as to provide a visual reference for children when writing letters. Small letters are referred to as 'boat letters', letters written below the line are called 'water letters' and tall letters are referred to as 'sun letters.' In year two onwards, children write in handwriting books.

When handwriting children will sit with their bottom at the back of the chair, sitting up straight with their feet flat on the floor. They will use a tripod grip when writing and will write on lined paper. Books will be positioned slanted to the left/right depending on whether the child is left or right-handed (See appendix 4).

Handwriting Lessons in Year Two onwards

Year two children will begin the year by recapping all capital and lowercase letters using the same format as in Year One. When children are secure with letter formation, they will be introduced to cursive handwriting and the letter join scheme. This is taught through daily phonics and two formal handwriting sessions each week.

In Year three children will start the year by continuing with RWI **letter patter but adding in off we go, for example off we go, round the apple and down the leaf.** This will secure understanding from previous key stage and begin to introduce cursive writing where each of the letters start on the line. Once each letter has been taught (**4 letters per lesson, 8 letters per week**) and secured by October half term at the latest they will become fully immersed in the letter join scheme.

In Year three and Year four, children will be fully immersed into the 'Letter Join' and the cursive script through the Letter Join scheme. Each morning for 10 minutes in handwriting books, children will have opportunity to practise their letter formation and there will be two formal handwriting lessons of 15 minutes weekly. Years five and six continue with daily handwriting practise at the start of each day for 10 minutes in handwriting books, with teacher guidance to ensure handwriting remains of a high standard (See appendix 5 for correct formation of cursive letters).

Children who have not mastered RWI letter formation by the end of Year 2 will continue using RWI and letter patter activities in small groups, until they are ready for cursive script.

If a child is experiencing significant difficulties with their handwriting or is not able to meet the expectations in that year group, then the teacher will refer to the expectations at the previous stage and provide them with support. This can be decided at any point in the year and the support could be in the form of small group sessions or teacher support during morning practise i.e. the teacher could provide clear models that meet the needs of that child.

We aim for our pupils to develop a neat, legible, speedy handwriting style using continuous cursive letters and also help children to see and remember spelling patterns. By the end of Year 6 pupils will understand the importance of neat presentation and the need for different letterforms (cursive, printed or capital letters) to help communicate meaning clearly.

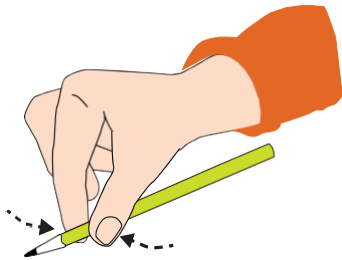
Our teachers are expected to reflect their classes handwriting style for example marking, comments, modelled writing.

Appendix 1

THE TRIPOD PENCIL GRIP

Both right and left handed children should be encouraged to use the tripod grip which allows the pen/pencil to be held securely whilst allowing controlled movements of the pen/pencil nib.

1

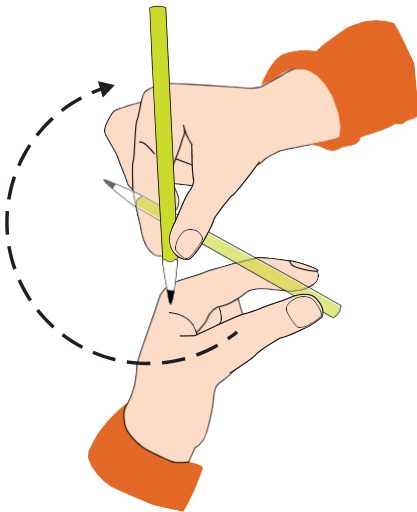


1) Grip the pencil with your index finger and thumb with the nib pointing away.

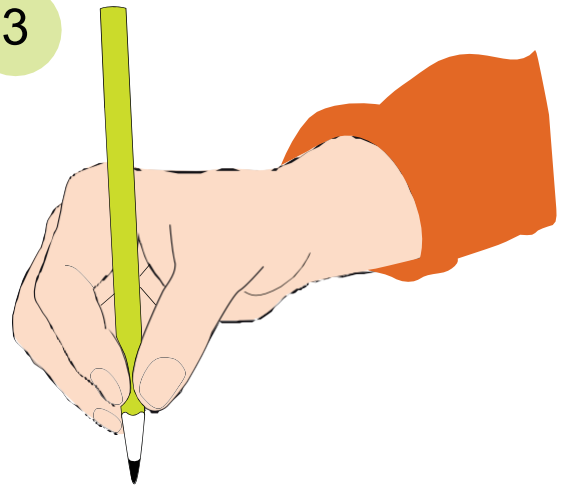
2) With your free hand, spin the pencil from underneath.

3) Use your middle finger to support the underside of the pencil.

2



3



Appendix 2

<p>a</p>  <p>Around the apple and down the leaf.</p>	<p>b</p>  <p>Down the laces to the heel and around the toe.</p>	<p>c</p>  <p>Curl around the caterpillar.</p>	<p>d</p>  <p>Around the dinosaurs bottom, up his tall neck & down to his toes.</p>	<p>e</p>  <p>Lift off the top and scoop out the egg.</p>	<p>f</p>  <p>Down the stem and draw the leaves.</p>
<p>g</p>  <p>Around the girls face, down her hair and give her a curl.</p>	<p>h</p>  <p>Down the head, to his hooves and over his back.</p>	<p>i</p>  <p>Down the body and dot for the head.</p>	<p>j</p>  <p>Down his body, curl, dot for his head.</p>	<p>k</p>  <p>Down the kangaroo's body tail and leg.</p>	<p>l</p>  <p>Down the long leg.</p>
<p>m</p>  <p>Down Maisie, mountain, mountain.</p>	<p>n</p>  <p>Down Nobby and over his net.</p>	<p>o</p>  <p>All around the orange.</p>	<p>p</p>  <p>Down the pirates plait and around his face.</p>	<p>qu</p>  <p>Round her head, up past her earring, down her hair, and flick.</p>	<p>r</p>  <p>Down the robots back and curl over his arm.</p>
<p>s</p>  <p>Slither down the snake.</p>	<p>t</p>  <p>Down the tower, across the tower.</p>	<p>u</p>  <p>Down and under, up to the top and draw the puddle.</p>	<p>v</p>  <p>Down a wing, up a wing.</p>	<p>w</p>  <p>Down, up, down, up.</p>	<p>x</p>  <p>Down the arm and leg, repeat the other side.</p>
<p>y</p>  <p>Down a horn, up a horn and under head.</p>	<p>z</p>  <p>Zig-zag-zig.</p>				

Appendix 3

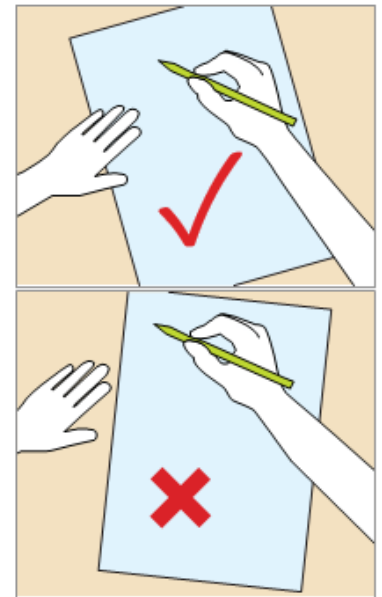
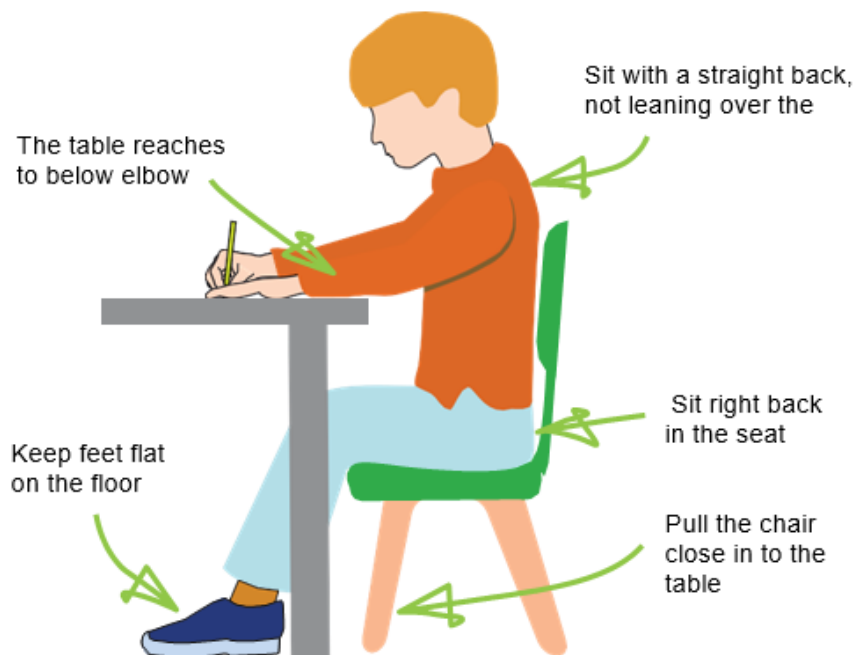


Appendix 4

Correct posture and pencil grip for handwriting

Pupils should be taught to sit correctly at a table, holding a pencil comfortably and correctly.

SITTING POSITION



Paper position for right-handed children

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