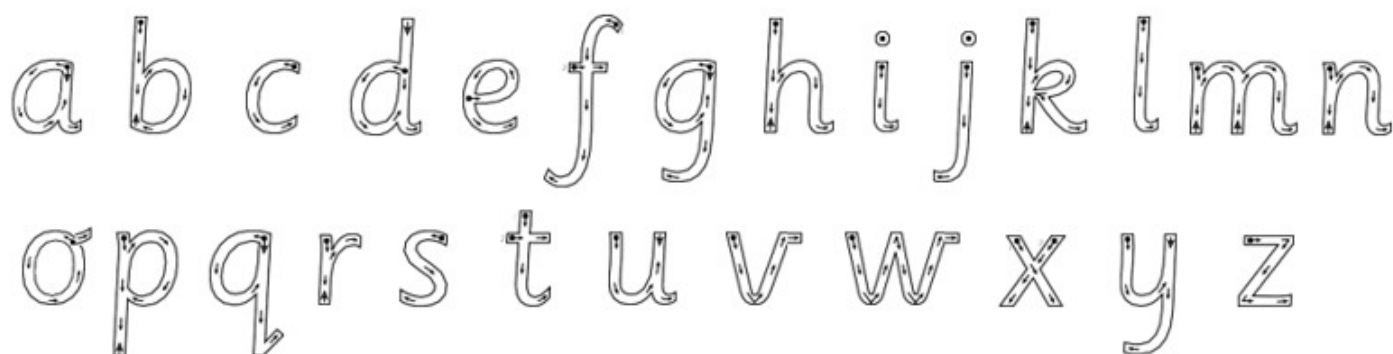


During this year, correct letter formation should become an automatic habit. Don't encourage your child to write too small or too quickly. Trying to enforce small handwriting too soon can lead to a very cramped style, which is then difficult to make fluent.

As a reminder, correct letter formation for lower-case letters is as follows. The arrows show the direction of your child's pencil.



Capital letters are formed as follows:



Letter families

Your child will still be thinking about the four letter families (similar letter shapes grouped together to help children form letters consistently).

Long-legged giraffe

l i t u j y ll L I T U J Y

One-armed robot

r b n h m k p R B N H M K P

Curly caterpillar

c a d o s g q e f ff ss C A D O S G Q E F Z

Zig-zag monster

v w x zz Z V W X

Letter combinations

ck qu ai igh oo ee oa ow ch wh



Joins

These four joins are introduced at the end of the year, so if your child is keen to start joining, then these are a good place to start.

Diagonal join to ascender

ch

Diagonal join, no ascender

ai

Horizontal join to ascender

wh

Horizontal join, no ascender

ow



Starting in the Spring term, your child will learn all of the basic handwriting joins. However, if your child isn't confident forming all their letters yet, they should concentrate on this before they worry about joining. Your child will gradually be introduced to more pairs of letters that are joined in the same way. At first, they are only asked to copy joins that they have seen before, but gradually they are encouraged to explore and experiment joining more and more letters with the joins they know.

This should be encouraged if they begin to naturally explore – there's no point in holding them back.

For example, the movement for the join *wh* (i.e. horizontal join to ascender) is exactly the same as for joining *oh*, *ol*, *ot*, *ob* and so on – so your child may naturally begin to discover this.

Once a join has been introduced between pairs of letters (e.g. *wh*), your child will always be expected to copy the model showing those joined letter pairs whenever they write those letters. In this way, they will gradually be introduced to the idea of joining more than one pair of letters within a word.

In the final term of Year 2, your child will be introduced to other pairs of letters that are joined using the same joining strokes, if they have not already begun to identify and use them.

By the end of Year 2, children need to show legible writing, including:

- Forming lower-case letters correctly, using some of the diagonal and horizontal strokes needed to join letters.
- Writing capital letters of the correct size and relationship to lower-case letters.
- Spacing their words correctly.

Please note that to be awarded 'working towards' or 'working at expected' standards, pupils do not need to demonstrate joined up handwriting. To be awarded 'working at greater depth' at the end of key stage 1, pupils must demonstrate joined up handwriting, using the diagonal and horizontal strokes needed to join some letters in most of their writing.

Join	Letters in this box	To letters in this box	Joins taught
Diagonal join to ascender	a c e i l t	h k l t	ch, th, ck, al, el, at, il, ill, ok, ot, ob, ol
Diagonal join, no ascender	a c d e i k l n m t u	e i n r y m	ai, ay, ir, er, ie, ue, ee, le, ar, ur, in, ui, ey, aw, an, ip
		a c d g s <small>(anticlockwise letters)</small>	ea, iq, dq, nq, ed, cc, eq, ic, ad, uq, dd, aq, as, es, os, ns, ds, is, ls, ts, ks
Horizontal join, no ascender	o v w	e i n p r u v w y	ow, ou, oe, ve, or, oi, oy, om, op, ov
		a c d g o s <small>(anticlockwise letters)</small>	oo, oa, wa, wo, oc, og, od, va, vo
Horizontal join, to ascender	o w	h	wh, oh

Break letters

These letters do not join: g j x y z b p q s

We do not join from these letters yet: f r

*o joins to x : ox