

Handwriting at Claycots

Claycots Primary School





Handwriting team

Miss Thorpe is our
Handwriting Lead at
Britwell Campus



Mrs Gillani is our
Handwriting Lead at
Townhall Campus





The vision for Handwriting

The overarching aim for English in the national curriculum is to promote high standards of language and literacy by equipping pupils with a strong command of the spoken and written language, and to develop their love of literature through widespread reading for enjoyment.

With this in mind, we aim to ensure that all pupils:

- write clearly, accurately and coherently, adapting their language and style in and for a range of contexts, purposes and audiences.
- develop competence in transcription (handwriting and spelling).
- can write in fluent, legible and eventually speedy handwriting.



Subject Intent

It is paramount that children are rigorously taught correct letter formation from the very beginning of their time in school. During the foundation stage at Claycots Primary School, the children are taught to sit properly in order to have the correct posture for writing, hold a pencil in the correct position and develop a legible handwriting style. In KS1, we use a handwriting scheme which takes a holistic view of teaching handwriting, developing both a child's Key Strengths (Gross & Fine Motor Skills) and Key Abilities (Knowledge). It is a systematic, differentiated and progressive approach which supports children of all ability levels.

Teachers are expected to role model the school's handwriting style when marking children's work, writing on the board and on displays around the school.



Subject Implementation

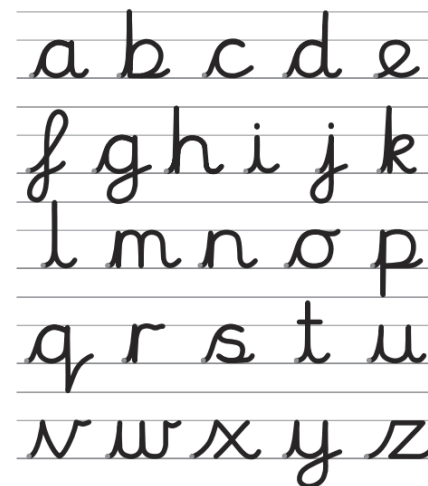
Handwriting is a cross curricular task which is taken into consideration in all lessons.

Handwriting sessions take place 4 times a week.

All teaching staff are encouraged to model the printed (EYFS) or cursive style of at Claycots Primary School in all their handwriting, whether on whiteboards, displays or in pupils' books.

Parents/Carers are made aware of our agreed handwriting style and encouraged to practise this with their children at home using Letter-join home access details.

The cursive script agreed at Claycots Primary School is shown here.





Subject overview

EYFS Module 1	<p>70 lessons for pre-cursive patterns and continuous cursive, lower case letters. It starts with Getting Ready for Handwriting: warm-up exercises, sitting position and tripod pencil grip.</p> <p>The first module is divided into three sections covering:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1) Pre-cursive patterns - 20 lessons2) Easy letters and words - 25 lessons3) Harder letters and words - 25 lessons
Year 1 Module 2	<p>80 lessons for teaching fine and gross motor skills, how to sit correctly for handwriting using the tripod grip, the different letter families and how to write capital letters, printed letters, and numbers and symbols alongside cursive handwriting using Letter-join's on-line and printed resources.</p> <p>It is divided into three sections covering:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1) Warm-ups, Letter families and Capital letters - 40 lessons2) Printed letters - 25 lessons3) Numbers and symbols - 15 lessons
Year 2 Module 3	<p>90 lessons to improve letter formation and orientation of letters through regular practice and to support spelling, grammar and punctuation.</p> <p>The three sections in this module cover:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1) Letter families, high frequency words, joining practice, sequencing sentences and dictation exercises - 36 lessons.2) Further dictation exercises, more high frequency words, 2, 5 and 10 times table facts and SPaG practice – 36 lessons.3) More dictation and number writing practice – 18 lessons.
Year 3 Module 4	<p>Module 4 has 60 lessons presented in sets of two lessons per week which can be taught over a school year. It is targeted at Year 3 children in lower KS2 where pupils should be using joined handwriting throughout their independent writing.</p> <p>It is designed to improve the legibility, consistency and quality of the children's handwriting through a variety of resources which link handwriting to other areas of the curriculum.</p> <p>The worksheets for this module cover a variety of curriculum topics: Dictation, double letters, number vocabulary, palindromes, tongue twisters, MFL, onomatopoeia, simile, WOW words and spellings</p>



Subject overview

Year 4 Module 5	<p>Module 5 has 60 lessons presented in sets of two lessons per week which can be taught over a school year. It focuses on using handwriting practice to support other subjects in the curriculum and, at the same time, builds on fluency and consistency.</p> <p>This module aims to promote meaningful links with other subjects such as English, maths, science, geography, French and Spanish. Making such links enables children to apply the skills they are learning in context and also provides depth to the curriculum.</p> <p>Learners will continue to build on producing fluent, consistent and legible handwriting through the regular practice offered in this module's lessons.</p>
Year 5 Module 6	<p>Module 6 has 60 lessons presented in sets of two lessons per week which can be taught over a school year. Lessons will continue to build on combining fluent handwriting with other subjects across the curriculum.</p> <p>In this module your learners will have plenty of opportunity to develop the stamina and skills to write at length, with accurate spelling and punctuation. With Letter-join's wide range of resources they will be able to work towards producing consistently neat and well-presented handwriting in all curriculum subjects.</p> <p>By the end of this module, children should be producing cursive writing automatically, enabling them to focus on the content of their work rather than the process of writing.</p>
Year 6 Module 7	<p>Module 7 contains 60 handwriting lessons presented in sets of two lessons per week which can be taught over a school year. Learners will be presented with a range of tasks where they have to decide on an appropriate style of handwriting.</p> <p>Promoting speedy, fluent writing continues to be a strong feature in Module 7. Challenging dictation exercises will refine pupils' revising and checking skills as well as boosting their handwriting speed, stamina and fluency. A range of curriculum-based worksheets will give pupils the opportunity to practise writing at length.</p> <p>By the end of this module, children should be able to adapt their handwriting for a range of tasks and purposes and to create different effects. They should be clear about what standard of handwriting is appropriate for a particular task, for example, quick notes, a final handwritten version, an un-joined style or capital letters. All of these writing styles are covered in this module.</p>



Subject progression map

Early Years

- enhancing gross motor skills such as air-writing, pattern-making and physical activities
- exercises to develop fine motor skills such as mark-making on paper, whiteboards, sensory trays, iPads, tablets, etc.
- becoming familiar with letter shapes, their sounds, formation and vocabulary
- correct sitting position and pencil grip for handwriting

Key Stage 1: Years 1 and 2

- continuing with gross and fine motor skills exercises
- strengthening cursive handwriting, learning and practice
- numerals, capitals and printed letters; where and when to use, learning and practice

Lower Key Stage 2: Years 3 and 4

- improving the legibility, consistency and quality of the children's handwriting
- building on producing fluent, consistent and legible handwriting

Upper Key Stage 2: Years 5 and 6

- reinforcing cursive handwriting across the curriculum
- form-filling/labelling using printed and capital letters
- dictation exercises promoting quick note-taking and speedy handwriting writing skills



How we measure progress

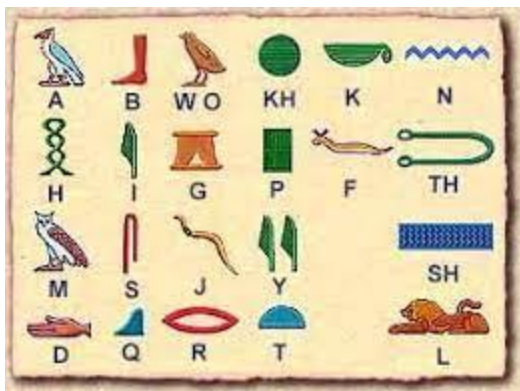
At Claycots, we measure handwriting through a variety of different methods. These include:

- 1. Pupil voice-** can our children articulate what handwriting is, it's purpose and how it helps them? We measure progress by the children's oracy on this matter. We are looking for an improvement in their opinions and reflections during termly pupil voice recordings; especially as our new handwriting scheme is embedded across the school.
- 2. Handwriting tracking-** we capture a selection of WTS, EXS and GDS children- we have taken a 'snapshot' of handwriting across each year group and track the same child at regular intervals throughout the year to see if there has been an improvement in their handwriting over time.
- 3. Book looks-** we hold termly handwriting book looks and English books looks (with a focus purely on handwriting) to see if what they learn in handwriting lessons is replicated in their English books. We measure progress by seeing how rapid an improvement there is in the children's handwriting ability.
- 4. Transition handover-** from year to year, the Year Leaders will handover what 'Letter Join' module the year group are working on so that there is a gradual and sequential handwriting progression. We will measure progress at the end of each academic year and carefully measure whether the year group are ready to progress, or will consolidate further. Since the Letter Join handwriting scheme is new this academic year, there will be a record that Year Leaders fill out to pass on to the new Year Leader of the year group progress during the academic year.

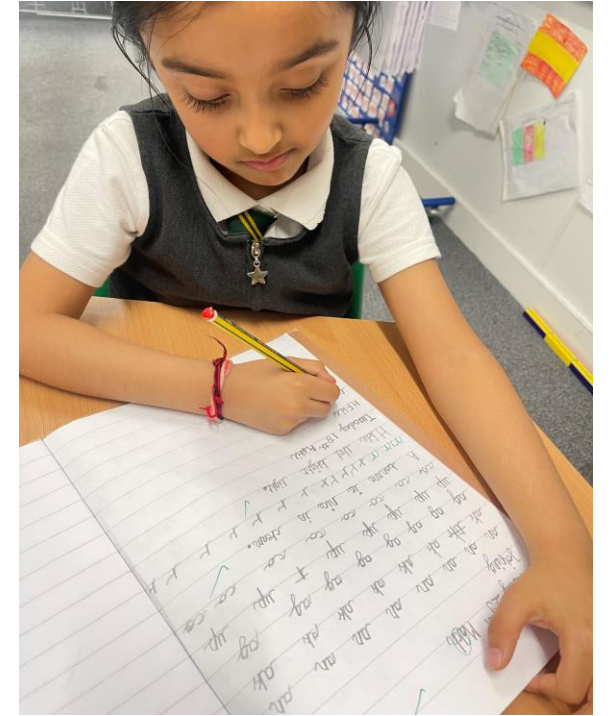
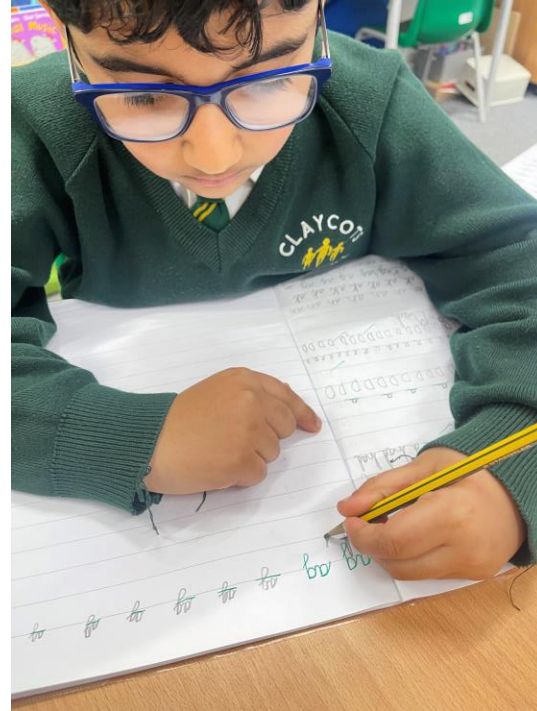
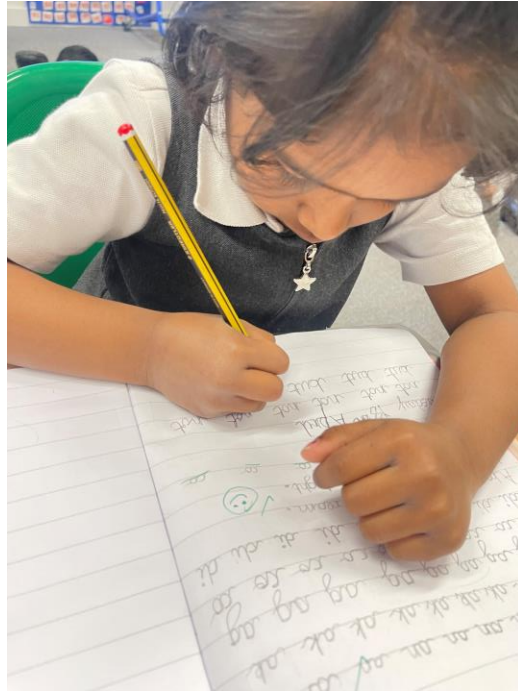
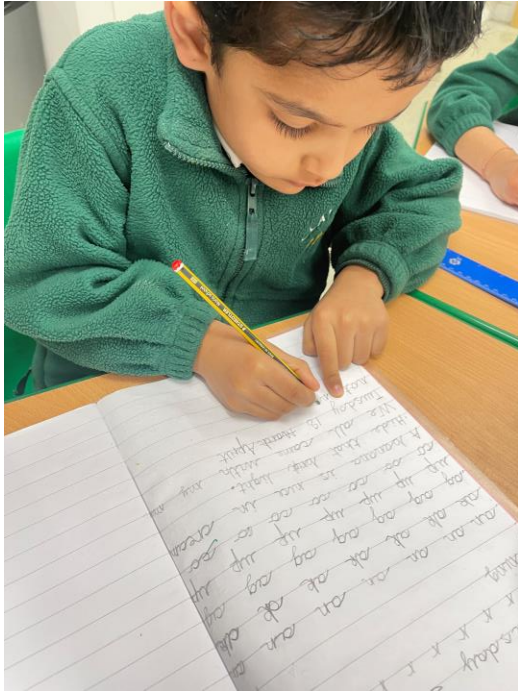
Visits and experiences

At Claycots, we celebrate handwriting by offering the children the following experiences:

1. We celebrate 'National Handwriting Day' which is held in the 3rd week of January every year. As our handwriting scheme develops, we aim to make National Handwriting Day a big celebration in the academic year, holding a Key Stage competition.
2. We are considering ways to make cross curricular links with handwriting and other subjects. We aim to link history and handwriting by looking at some civilizations across history and how the written word has developed over time.



Examples of learning





Pupil voice

Do you enjoy handwriting at school?

Yes, I like it because when I do my handwriting, it looks pretty so I feel proud of myself.

Year 6 child, Britwell campus

What is handwriting?

Handwriting is where you make the words smaller and neater.

Year 2 child, Britwell campus.

Why do you think teaching handwriting is important?

It is important because our writing needs to be very neat.

Year 1 child, Town Hall Campus

Why do you think teaching handwriting is important?

It is important because it can help you during exams when your handwriting needs to be legible and neat.

Year 6 child, Town Hall campus

Do you enjoy handwriting at school?
Yes, handwriting is easy because our teacher shows us how to do it.

Year 3 child, Town Hall campus

Do you enjoy handwriting at school?

Yes, I enjoy handwriting because it helps me improve my learning...I learn from my mistakes. Handwriting is important because when I grow I might want to become an author and have someone read my work.

Year 5 child, Britwell campus