

Curriculum Overview – Handwriting (Penpals) – 2025 - 2026



AUTUMN 1							AUTUMN 2					
	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5	Week 6	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5	Week 6
Nursery	Developing gross motor skills - Whole-body responses to the language of movement - Large movements with equipment - Large movements with malleable materials - Body responses to music											
Reception	Dots	Straight lines and crosses	Circles	Waves	Loops and bridges	Joined straight lines	Angled patterns	Eights	Spirals	Left-to-right orientation	Mix of patterns	Review of patterns
Year 1	Practising long-legged giraffe letters	Writing words with -ll	Introducing capitals for long-legged giraffe letters	Practising capitals for long-legged giraffe letters	Practising one-armed robot letters	Practising long-legged giraffe and one-armed robot letters	Introducing capitals for one-armed robot letters	Practising capitals for one-armed robot letters	Practising curly caterpillar letters	Writing words with double -ss and double -ff	Introducing capitals for curly caterpillar letters	Practising capitals for curly caterpillar letters
Year 2	Practising diagonal join to ascender: ch th	Practising diagonal join, no ascender: ai ay	Practising diagonal join, no ascender: er ir	Practising horizontal join to ascender: wh oh	Practising horizontal join, no ascender: ow ou	Introducing diagonal join to e: ie ue	Introducing horizontal join to e: oe ve	Introducing ee	Practising diagonal join no ascender le	Writing numbers 1-100	Review diagonal joins	Review horizontal joins
Year 3	Practising joining through a word in stages: no ascenders or descenders	Practising joining through a word in stages: parallel ascenders	Introducing joining from s to ascender: sh sl st sk	Introducing joining from s, no ascender: sw se si se	Introducing joining from s, no ascender: sm sn sp su	Introducing joining from s to an anticlockwise letter: sa sc sd so sq	Introducing joining from r to an ascender: rb rh rk rl rt	Introducing joining from r, no ascender: ri ru rm rp	Introducing joining from r to anticlockwise letter: ra rd rg ro	Introducing joining from r to e: are ere ure ore ire	Introducing break letters: g j y f b p x z	Review
Year 4	Introducing diagonal join from p and b to ascender: ph pl bl	Introducing diagonal join from b no ascender: bu bi be	Introducing diagonal join from p no ascender: pi pe pu	Introducing diagonal join from b to anticlockwise letter: ba bo bs	Introducing diagonal join from p to anticlockwise letter: pa po ps	Reviewing parallel ascenders and descenders: bb pp	Break letters x z	Spacing in common exception words	Consistent size of letters	Relative size of capitals	Speed and fluency	Review
Year 5	Introduce sloped writing in letter families	Practising sloped writing: diagonal join to ascender th sh nb nd st	Practising sloped writing: diagonal join no ascender ai ay kn er ie en	Practising sloped writing@ diagonal join to anti-clockwise letter: ac sc bo da ea ho	Practising sloped writing: horizontal join to ascender wh wl oh ol of ob	Practising sloped writing: horizontal join no ascender oi oy ou op ve	Practising sloped writing: horizontal join no anti-clockwise letter oo oa wa wo va vo	Practising sloped writing: joining from r: ra re ri ro ru	Practising sloped writing: joining from s: sh sus c sl sw sp	End of term check	Review	Review
Year 6	Style for speed: crossbar join from t: th ti tr ta tt	Style for speed: looping from g: gl gi gr ga gg	Style for speed: looping from j: je jo	Style for speed: looping from y: ye yo	Style for speed: looping from f	Style for speed: different joins to s	Style for speed: looping from b	Style for speed: joining from v w x z	Handwriting for different purposes: abbreviations	Spacing between words	Review	Review



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SPRING 1							SPRING 2					
	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5	Week 6	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5	Week 6
Nursery	Developing fine motor skills - Hand and finger play - Making and modelling - Messy play - Links to art - Using one-handed tools and equipment - Hand responses to music											
Reception	Introducing long-legged giraffe letters: l	Practising long-legged giraffe letters: l, i	Practising long-legged giraffe letters: u, t	Practising long-legged giraffe letters: j, y	Practising all long-legged giraffe letters: l, i, u, t, j, y	Introducing one-armed robot letters: r	Practising one-armed robot letters: b, n	Practising one-armed robot letters: h, m	Practising one-armed robot letters: k, p	Practising all one-armed robot letters: r b, n, h, m, k, p	Practising all long-legged giraffe and one-armed robot letters	Reviewing all long-legged giraffe and one-armed robot letters
Year 1	Practising long-legged giraffe letters, one armed robot letters and curly caterpillar letters	Practising zig zag monster letters	Writing words with double zz	Introducing capitals for zigzag monster letters	Mixing all the letter families	Practising all the capital letters	Practising all numbers 0 – 9	Writing words with ck and qu	Practising long vowel sounds ay igh oo	Practising vowels with adjacent letters ee oa oo	End of term check	Review
Year 2	Introducing diagonal join to anticlockwise letters: ea	Practising diagonal join to anti clockwise letters: igh	Practising diagonal join to anti-clockwise letters: dg ng	Introducing horizontal join to anti-clockwise letters: oo oa	Practising horizontal join to anti-clockwise letters: wo wa	Introducing mixed joins for three letters: air, ear	Practising mixed joins for three letters: oor our	Practising mixed joins for three letters: ing	Size and spacing	End of term check	Review	Review
Year 3	Introducing joining to f: if ef af of	Introducing joining from f to ascender: fl ft	Introducing from f no ascender: fe fi fu	Introducing from f no ascender: fr fy	Introducing joining from f to anti-clockwise letter: fo fa	Introducing ff	Introducing rr	Introducing ss	Introducing qu	Revising parallel ascenders and descenders	End of term check	Review
Year 4	Revising parallel ascenders	Revising parallel ascenders and break letters	Relative sizes of letters	Proportion of letters	Spacing between letters	Spacing between words	Writing at speed	Writing at speed	Improving fluency	Improving fluency	Speed and fluency	End of term check
Year 5	Practising sloped writing: proportion – joining from f to ascender fl ft	Practising sloped writing: size – joining from f, no ascender: fa fe fi	Practising sloped writing: size – joining from f, no ascender: fo fu	Different styles for different purposes: writing a paragraph	Practising sloped writing: speed ff	Practising sloped writing: speed and legibility rr	Practising sloped writing: size, proportion and spacing: ss	Practising sloped writing: building speed: qu	Different styles for different purposes: decorative alphabets	Different styles for different purposes	End of term check	Review
Year 6	Improving handwriting: importance of consistent sizing	Improving handwriting: importance of proportion	Improving handwriting: importance of spacing	Improving handwriting: importance of consistent sizing of parallel ascenders and descenders	Improving handwriting: importance of closed and open letters	Improving handwriting: pen breaks in longer words	Handwriting for different purposes: annotations	Handwriting for different purposes	Choice of handwriting tools	End of term check	Review	Review

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SUMMER 1								SUMMER 2				
	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5	Week 6	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5	Week 6
Nursery	Developing pattern - Pattern-making - Investigating dots - Investigating straight lines and crosses - Investigating circles - Investigating curves, loops and waves - Investigating joined straight lines and angled patterns - Investigating eights and spirals											
Reception	Introducing curly caterpillar letters: c	Practising curly caterpillar letters: a, d	Practising curly caterpillar letters: o, s	Practising curly caterpillar letters: g, q	Practising curly caterpillar letters: e, f	Practising all curly caterpillar letters: c a d o s g q e f	Practising all curly caterpillar, long legged giraffe and one-armed robot letters	Introducing zig-zag monster letters: z	Practising zig-zag monster letters: v w x	Practising all zig-zag monster letters: z v w x	Practising all curly caterpillar and zig-zag monster letters	Reviewing all curly caterpillar and zig-zag monster letters
Year 1	Numbers 10-20: spacing	Numbers 10-20: spacing	Practising c h unjoined	Introducing diagonal join to ascender: ch	Practising a i unjoined	Introducing diagonal join, no ascender: ai	Practising w h unjoined	Introducing horizontal join to ascender: wh	Practising o w unjoined	Introducing horizontal join, no ascender: ow	Capitals	Review
Year 2	Building on diagonal join to ascender: ck al el	Building on diagonal join to ascender: at il ill	Building on diagonal join no ascender: ui ey aw	Building on diagonal join no ascender: ur an ip	Building on horizontal join to ascender: ok ot ob of	Building on horizontal join no ascender: oi oy on op ov	Building on diagonal join to anti-clockwise letter: ed cc eg ic	Building on diagonal join to anti-clockwise letter: ad ug dd ag	Building on horizontal join to anti-clockwise letter: o cog od va vo	Introducing joins to s: as es is os ws	Introducing joins to s: ns ds ls ts ks	Practising joining of ed and ing
Year 3	Revising joins: letter spacing	Revising joins: spacing between words	Revising joins: consistency of size	Revising joins: fluency	Revising joins: parallel ascenders	Revising joins: parallel ascenders and descenders	Revising horizontal join from r to anti-clockwise letter: rs	Revising break letters	Revising capitals	Revising capitals	End of term check	Review
Year 4	Consistency of size	Proportion	Spacing between letters and words	Size, proportion and spacing	Fluency: writing longer words	Speed and fluency	Revising break letters	Print alphabet: presentation	Print alphabet: presentation	Capital letters: presentation	Capital letters: presentation	Review
Year 5	Sloped writing: proportion, joining p and b to ascenders: ph pl bl	Handwriting for different purposes: joining from b no ascender: bu bi	Handwriting for different purposes: joining from p no ascender: pe pi pu pr	Practising sloped writing: parallel downstrokes pp bb	Practising sloped writing: all double letters	Practising sloped writing: all double letters	Practising sloped writing for speed: tial cial	Practising sloped writing for fluency	Personal style	Handwriting for different purposes: print alphabet	Capitals	Review
Year 6	Handwriting for different purposes: fast- joined and print letters	Handwriting for different purposes: note taking	Handwriting for different purposes: neat writing	Handwriting for different purposes: print letters for personal details	Different styles of writing	Handwriting for different purposes: presentation	Handwriting for different purposes: decorated capitals	Handwriting for different purposes: layout	Handwriting for different purposes: handwriting patterns	Review	Review	Review