

Handwriting

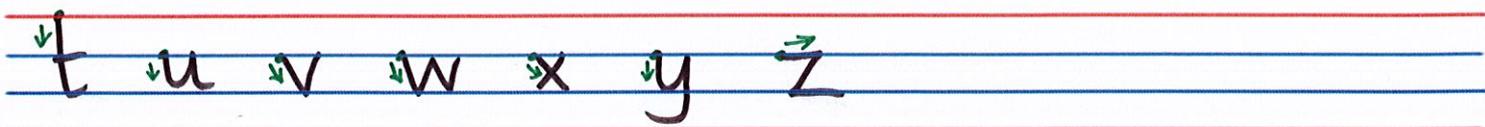
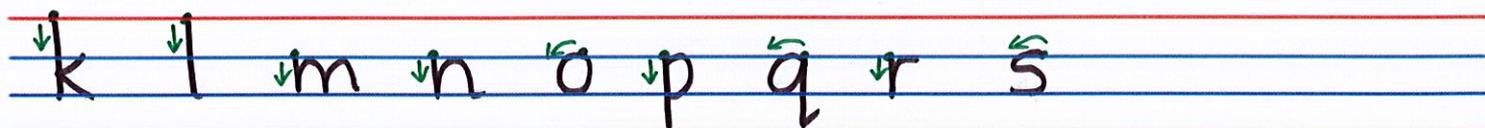
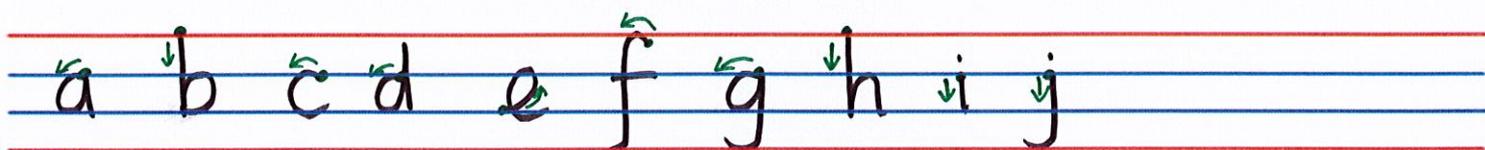
Developing correctly formed, fluent handwriting is a vital skill that we want all children to achieve.

Children begin with forming printed letters individually.

When they can form all individual letters correctly, children move on to joining letters together. Our aim is for most children to be writing in correctly formed, joined cursive script by the end of Year 2. Some children will however be printing letters or producing handwriting with some joins correctly formed and others missing.

SUPPORTING YOUR CHILD AT HOME

- ⇒ When your child does any handwriting practice, ensure that s/he is holding the pen/pencil with correct grip and forms letters in the correct way (rather than simply producing letters that LOOK correct) - this is vital for when children begin to join letters.
- ⇒ Make handwriting interesting! Use felt pens, glitter pens, a finger in paint/sand/shaving foam, paintbrush and water on concrete...



LETTER FORMATION

Children need form the letters in the correct way, not simply letters that look correct.

LONG LADDER letters

Start at the top and begin with a vertical movement downwards.

i l j t u y

CURLY CATERPILLAR letters

Start at the top of the circular part with an anti-clockwise movement (e forms slightly differently.)

c o a g q e d

ONE ARMED ROBOT letters

Start at the top with a vertical downward movement, then move back up the vertical line and over at the midline.

r n m h b p k

ZIG ZAG letters

Begin at the top with a straight diagonal line from top right to bottom left (z is slightly different.)

v x w z

s and f

f and s both start in a similar anti-clockwise movement to Curly Caterpillar, but are slightly different.

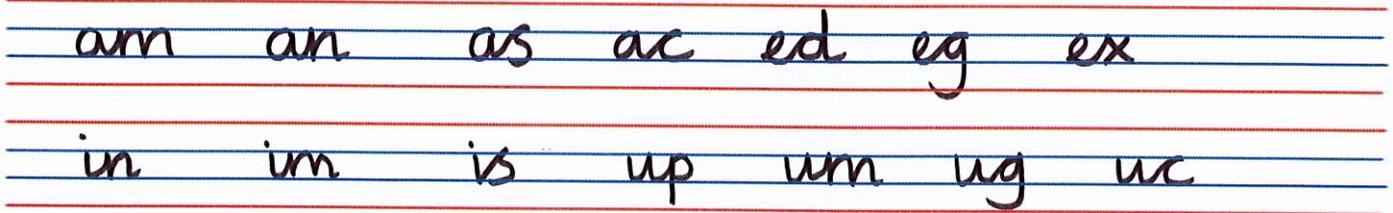
s f

JOINING

Joining is taught in 4 phases, as below. Children will not start joining until they can form all individual letters correctly.

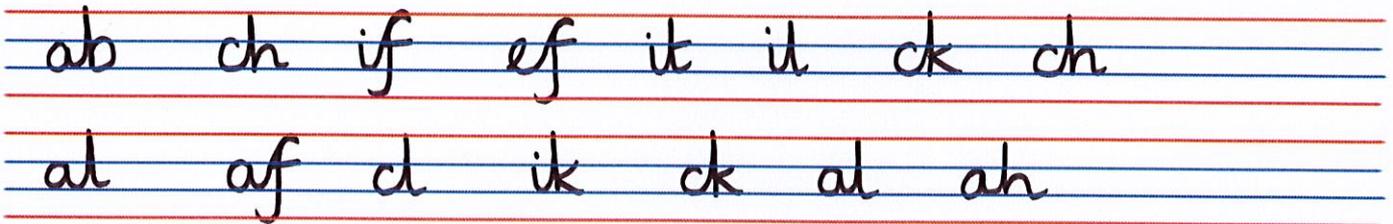
The 1st join

Diagonal joins from letters that finish on the baseline, to short letters (or that start short e.g. d)



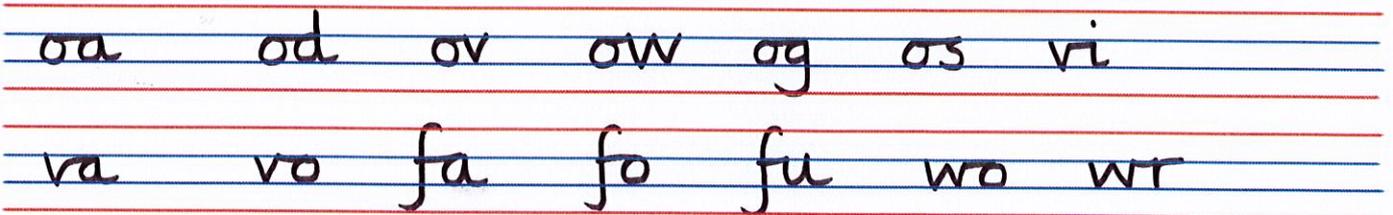
The 2nd join

Diagonal joins from letters that finish on the baseline, to tall letters (to the midline of the letter.)



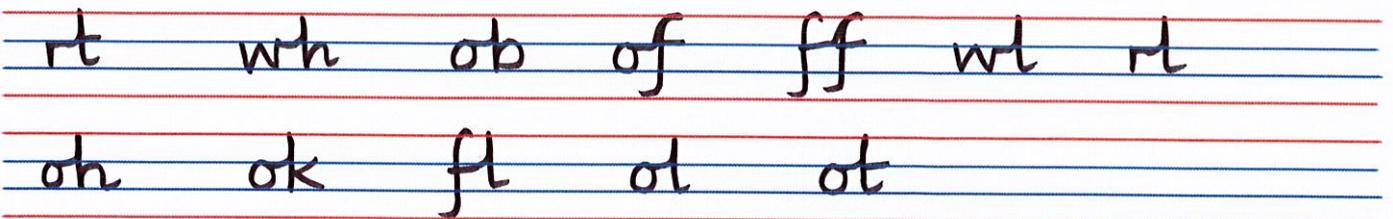
The 3rd join

Horizontal joins from letters that finish on the midline, to short letters (or that start short e.g. d.)



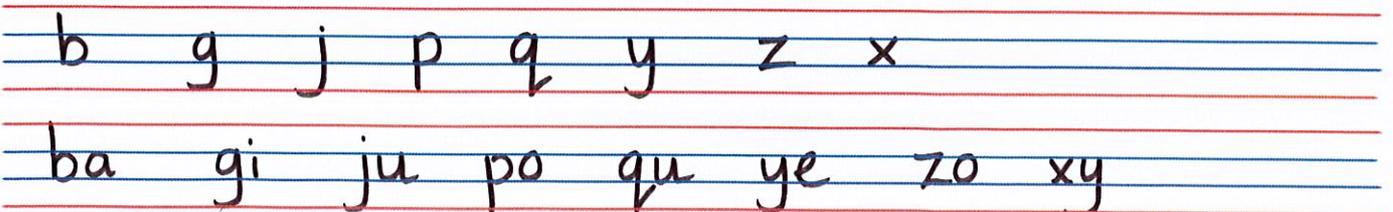
The 4th Join

Horizontal joins from letters that finish on the midline to tall letters. (Join at the midline and move up vertically.)



Break Letters

Break letters never join to the next letter. A small space is left before beginning the next letter.



Examples of joining in practice:

The cat sat on the mat.

A big fish swam in the sea.

Today is Monday.

It is fun to run in the sun.

I read books every day.

Throw the ball as far as you can.

You can write with a pen or a pencil.

When is it time to go home?

I like eating bananas and grapes.

They were playing hide and seek.

How do you make your writing so neat?

I love to play with my friends.

Please start to tidy up now.

The quick brown fox jumps over the
lazy dog.