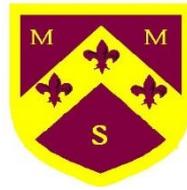


Maids Moreton C.E. School



Handwriting Guide for Parents

At Maids Moreton CE School we have adopted a cursive, or 'joined-up' style for handwriting throughout the school. We believe this raises standards in writing in the early years which will impact throughout the whole school, developing confidence, accuracy and fluency as well as improved presentation.

The cursive handwriting style helps:

- to minimise confusion for the child as every letter starts on the line with an entry stroke and leads out with an exit stroke
- children to join their handwriting as letters naturally flow into each other
- form spacing between words as the child develops whole word awareness
- to develop a child's visual memory for spelling
- to enhance all children's writing skills regardless of academic ability
- to develop skills of punctuation and grammar

Handwriting Development

Young children develop the skills needed to write through both gross and fine motor movements. It is therefore important that our very youngest children continue to gain opportunities to climb and use large physical equipment such as balls and bicycles as well as having access to resources that enhance their fine motor skills such as threading beads, sticking and glueing, and using paintbrushes as well as accessing a range of chunky and fine mark making equipment. These activities are just as beneficial to their writing development as sitting down with pencils and paper.

Our Reception class are introduced to actual letter formation through the letter and sounds programme as well as focused classroom activities. In particular, children are encouraged to write their first names correctly, using a capital letter for the first letter only.

In Reception, children learn to write with a pencil. The most appropriate grip is the 'tripod grip' which allows both control and fluid movement. If your child finds it difficult to hold a thin pencil it may be worth investing in something chunkier or pencil grips which are designed to encourage a tripod grip. We encourage our children to take care with presentation.

Left Handed Children

Young children may not favour one hand over the other. However, when they do settle on their right or left hand it is important to be able to support left handed children appropriately. The following guidelines may be useful:

- The child will need space to his / her left as he/ she writes;
- The writing paper needs to be to the left of the child's body midline;
- The paper is tilted up in a clockwise direction;
- The paper is supported with the right hand;
- The writing forearm is parallel with the paper edge as the child writes;
- The writing tool is held sufficiently far from its point to ensure that the child can see what he/she is writing.

When formal handwriting teaching begins the letters are taught in groups according to the shapes of the letters. The second guide on this page shows the correct letter formation using the cursive script. We hope you will find it useful.