

## **Letter Join**

Handwriting and presentation remain a key focus for Paganel Primary School. To support our progress in this area, we have decided to adopt Letter Join which will form the basis of our approach to handwriting.

Letter Join is a continuous cursive handwriting style (pencil remains on the page until the word is complete) that aims to make handwriting an automatic process that does not interfere with creative and mental thinking. There is evidence to support the idea that this approach, as well as improving handwriting and presentation, is also effective in supporting the development of spelling and is considered to be dyslexic friendly.

Handwriting is a cross-curriculum task and will be taken into consideration during all lessons. However, formal teaching of handwriting is to be carried out regularly and systematically to ensure Key Stage targets are met.

## **EYFS**

The entry and exit flicks that are associated with the cursive handwriting style and the Letter-Join print font are not introduced in EYFS where the focus remains on the development of fine and gross motor skills to support the accurate formation of letters. However, in EYFS, handwriting is practised daily through activities that encourage:

- Movements to enhance gross motor skills such as air-writing, pattern making, dancing.
- Exercises to develop fine motor skills such as making marks on paper, whiteboards, blackboards, sand trays, iPads and tablets.
- Letter learning to familiarise letter shapes, formation and vocabulary.

This is supported by RWI handwriting rhymes and phrases.

## **Years 1-3**

The entry and exit flicks of the cursive style (Letter-Join print font) are introduced in Year 1, Term 3 in readiness for Year 2.

In Years 1-3 handwriting will continue to be taught with 2-3 regular weekly lessons of around 10 minutes covering:

- Gross and fine motor skills exercises.
- Cursive handwriting reinforcement, learning and practice.
- Numerals, capitals and printed letters: where and when to use, learning and practice.

In Years 4-6 more advanced handwriting techniques will be taught during 2-3 weekly lessons of around 10 minutes, including teaching:

- Cursive handwriting re-enforcement.
- Form-filling/labelling using printed and capital letters.
- Dictation exercises to teach the need for quick notes and speedy handwriting writing