



Handwriting A Parent's Guide

This leaflet is to explain why and how we teach handwriting at Murdishaw West Primary School. It also includes ideas on ways in which you can help to develop your child's handwriting.

At Murdishaw West, our aim is that pupils will be supported to develop a handwriting style which is clear, joined and fluid. Inevitably some will be neater than others, but each child can acquire a consistent and fluent style.

Although there are many opportunities to practise handwriting across the curriculum, we will also provide regular lessons for teaching and revising these skills. The frequency and length of these lessons will vary according to the age and competence of the children.

Formal handwriting skills will be taught regularly and systematically through the use of the Debbie Hepplewhite Handwriting scheme.

Good handwriting is an essential skill in the quest to spell and write fluently, confidently and competently.

For children to achieve better than expected standard in the writing assessments at the end of year 2 and year 6, their handwriting must be joined.

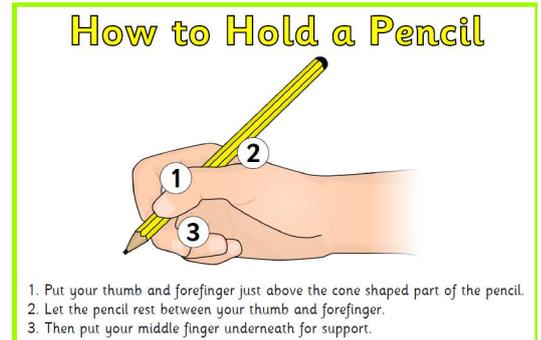
It is important that children hold their pencil correctly and ensure their posture is correct

Pencil hold

- Pencil held between finger and thumb
- Middle finger provides extra support

Posture

- Feet flat on the floor
- Head up, not resting on the desk or hand
- Paper at the correct angle
- Spare hand steadies the paper



Progression from year R - Year 6

Reception

We begin at school with letters being written separately (not joined up yet). When the child's letter formation is accurate we then introduce joins. (a flick)

Year 1

During this school year children will begin to join their writing.

Year 2

The main aim this year is for the children to become fluent and develop an automatic style.

Year 3

Children will refine their handwriting and make sure that the size and proportions of all letters and the spaces between letters and words are consistent.

Year 4/5/6

By this stage children should be secure at joining and able to use joined up writing for most of their work. Children will be experimenting with slopes and will have a more mature and comfortable style. Once children are producing neat handwriting, during year 5 or 6 they will be presented with a pen license.

How can you help your child?

- Have a small selection of handwriting materials readily available at home.

- Encourage your child to write on a line, even if they have to draw it themselves
- Encourage your child to join his/her writing in any work brought home

Let handwriting play a part in your family's daily life, for example:

- ✓ making lists and labels
 - ✓ keeping a family diary
 - ✓ leaving notes for each other in busy households
 - ✓ keeping in touch with distant friends and relatives
 - ✓ designing and making home-made notepads and greetings cards.
- Many children like to do their homework lying on the floor, but don't let them! Do your best to provide somewhere where your child can work, the end of the kitchen table is perfect!
 - Praise, praise, praise!

Letter Formation - EYFS and Beginning of Year 1

a b c d e f g h i

j k l m n o p q r

s t u v w x y z