

Handwriting and Presentation Guide for Parents

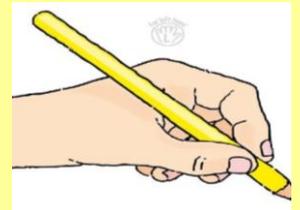
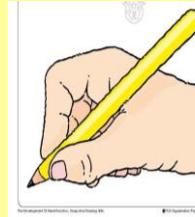
Improving our handwriting and presentation is a key focus for us at the moment. At Snarestone, our aim is that pupils will be supported to develop a handwriting style that is clear, joined and fluid. Inevitably some will be neater than others, but each child can acquire a consistent and fluent Style. We teach children to write using continuous cursive script, which is this font.

Although there are many opportunities to practice handwriting across the curriculum, we 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 are taught regularly and systematically through the use of the TES Handwriting scheme.

Practice and 'play' writing are an important part of handwriting development, especially in the early years where children practice letter formation in a number of exciting ways: in sand, using paint, in the air, on the interactive whiteboard, as well as on paper with a pencil! There are also lots of opportunities for linking handwriting with early phonics and spelling work.

Children are taught to hold their pencil correctly and ensure their posture is correct:

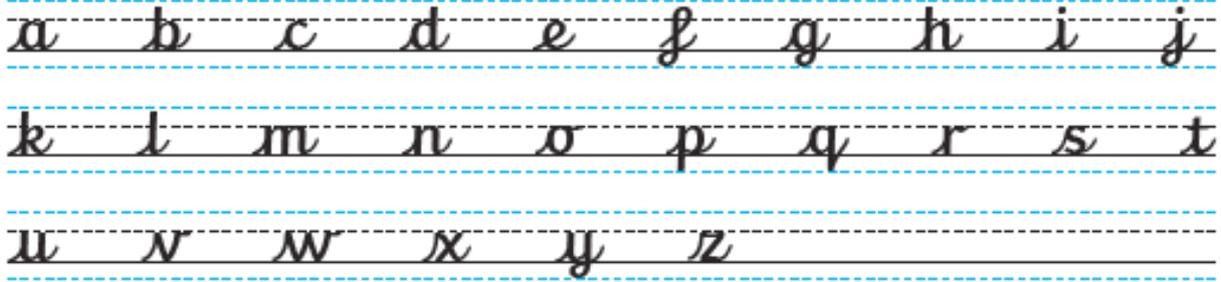
- ✓ Pencil held between finger and thumb;
- ✓ Middle finger provides extra support;
- ✓ Feet flat on the floor;
- ✓ Head up, not resting on the desk or hand;
- ✓ Paper at the correct angle;
- ✓ Spare hand steadies the paper.



Here are some things that you can do at home to develop gross and fine motor skills in preparation for the first stage of handwriting:

- ✓ Play with a ball: kick, catch, throw, bounce etc.;
- ✓ Play with hoops, Frisbees and stilts;
- ✓ Encourage play on large climbing frames in parks;
- ✓ Encourage sport and dance-type activities;
- ✓ Play with large-scale building kits;
- ✓ Enjoy finger rhymes;
- ✓ Encourage your child to make things and model-make (cutting, sticking, moulding, cooking, sewing, threading etc.), using a range of materials such a play dough and plasticine;
- ✓ Encourage your child to experiment with a range of tools and equipment (pens, pencils, crayons, felt tips, scissors, hole punches, tweezers etc.);
- ✓ Share jigsaws and board games;
- ✓ Provide opportunities for painting, colouring and 'making marks' on different sizes of paper.

This is how each letter looks using continuous cursive:



We introduce letters as part of families. You will notice that every letter begins and ends at the baseline, and this is introduced from Reception:

 <p>The Ladder Family Continuous Cursive</p>	<p>l i u t y j</p>
<p>The Curly Caterpillar Family Continuous Cursive</p> 	<p>c a d e s g f q o</p>
 <p>The One-Armed Robot Family Continuous Cursive</p>	<p>n m h b k p r</p>
<p>The Zigzag Monster Family Continuous Cursive</p> 	<p>z N W X</p>

We hope that you have found this guide useful and it would be great if you could encourage your child to write using this style when completing homework. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to speak with the class teacher or Mr Jewitt.