

"Writing is an extreme privilege but it's also a gift. It's a gift to yourself and it's a gift of giving a story to someone."

Amy Tan

Intent

At St Thomas a Becket, we are committed to providing all pupils with the skills to develop a fluent, legible, and ultimately, speedy joined-up handwriting style. Our handwriting curriculum is built on the belief that clear, well-presented writing is a fundamental skill that underpins success across the entire curriculum. Using the Letter-join scheme from EYFS to Year 6, we aim to make the process of handwriting an automatic one, freeing children's creative and mental energy to focus on the content and composition of their writing.

Implementation

Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS/Y1)

In the earliest years, the focus is on developing the foundational gross and fine motor skills essential for future handwriting. The youngest pupils are taught short handwriting lessons on a daily basis using Letter-join's multi-sensory approach and interactive resources, including:

- Gross motor activities: Physical exercises and "air-writing" large shapes to develop arm and shoulder strength.
- Fine motor activities: Using mark-making materials in different media, including sensory trays, paint, and interactive tablets, with Letter-join's pre-cursive patterns.
- Letter formation: Introduction to correct letter shapes and families using Letter-join's animated demonstrations.
- Becoming familiar with letter shapes, their sounds, formation and vocabulary
- Correct sitting position and pencil grip for handwriting.

Building on the EYFS foundations, we transition into more formal handwriting instruction for those children who are ready. They will be focusing on:

- Using Letter-join's "Print to Cursive" pathway, pupils learn how to correctly form letters, including capital letters and numbers.
- Developing the correct pencil grip and sitting position for writing.

- strengthening handwriting, learning and practice
- numerals, capitals and printed letters; where and when to use, learning and practice
- KS1 SPaG exercises.

Key Stage 1/2 (Years 2 to 3)

The year 2's and 3's are taught short handwriting lessons on a daily basis, which will include the following:

- A revisit of key elements from the year 1 module
- cursive letters and words, letter families, high frequency words, joining practice, sequencing sentences and dictation exercises
- further dictation exercises, more high frequency words, 2, 5 and 10 times table facts and SPaG practice
- more dictation and number writing practice
- Year 3/4 HFW list spelling practice

Key Stage 2 (Years 4 to 6)

The year 4's, 5's and 6's are taught short handwriting lessons on a daily basis, which will include the following:

- A revisit of key elements from the year 2 module
- cursive letters and words, letter families, high frequency words, joining practice, sequencing sentences and dictation exercises
- further dictation exercises, more high frequency words, All 12 X 12 table facts and SPaG practice
- KS2 (Y3-6) HFW list spelling practice

Impact: Our desired outcomes

By following the Letter-join scheme, we intend for our pupils to:

- Achieve automaticity in handwriting, so they can concentrate on the creative process of writing rather than the physical act.
- Develop a neat, consistent, and legible joined-up handwriting style by the end of their primary education.
- Enjoy learning and developing their handwriting, fostering a sense of pride in their presentation.
- Confidently apply their handwriting skills across all subjects and understand the importance of neatness for clear communication.
- Feel empowered by their ability to present high-quality, readable written work throughout their time at our school.

Curriculum overview:

	Skylarks	Choughs	Kestrels
Term 1	EYFS – Module 1 Print	Year 1- Module 2 Print to cursive • Warm ups • Letter families • Capital letters • Numbers and symbols	Year 2 Module 3 Cursive • Letter families • Joins • Specific letters (f, k, b, d, w, s, z)
Term 2	EYFS – Module 1 Print	Year 2 – Module 3 Starting cursive	Year 4 – module 5 Cursive
Term 3	Year 1 – Module 2 Print to cursive	Year 2 – Module 3 Starting cursive	Year 4 – module 5 Cursive
Term 4	Year 1 – Module 2 Print to cursive	Year 2 – Module 3 Starting Cursive	Year 5 – module 6 cursive
Term 5	Year 1 – Module 2 Print to cursive	Year 3 - Module 4 Cursive	Year 5 – module 6 cursive
Term 6	Year 1 – Module 2 Print to cursive	Year 3 - Module 4 Cursive	Year 6 – module 7 cursive

Knowledge and skills

	N/R/1 class	2/3 class	4/5/6 class
Knowledge and skills	• Recognise and form all printed, lowercase letters of the alphabet • Sit on a chair correctly • Hold a pencil correctly using the tripod pencil grip • Correctly write capital letters • Correctly form numbers 0-9 • Correctly form Maths symbols • Correctly form simple punctuation • Begin to recognise pre-cursive patterns and cursive letters	• Form cursive letters • Recognise letter families and similar cursive patterns within them • Form correct letter joins between letters • Be developing their fluency and speed of writing using the cursive letters and joins	• Form all letters accurately and of a relative size to one another using the cursive style • Join letters together to form a word using cursive style • Write with fluency and speed • Consistently use legible handwriting using the cursive style