



THE TYNINGS SCHOOL

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Thursday 8th December

Dear parents and carers,

As parents in EYFS will know, we have been trialing the use of 'pre-cursive' writing in Reception. As a result of an overwhelmingly positive first few terms, we have made the decision as a school to move to using cursive handwriting in all year groups. This will start from the first day back with a launch assembly for the children (and teachers!) on Wednesday 4th January. From then on, cursive handwriting will be the chosen approach to handwriting in every year group.

What is cursive handwriting?

There are two types of cursive handwriting; pre-cursive (which is learnt in EYFS), where all letters are learnt with a lead-in and lead-out stroke and are not yet joined, and joined-cursive, where all letters are joined at the letter at the beginning shows a lead-in stroke and the letter at the end shows a lead-out stroke. There are 3 main rules to remember for joined-cursive writing:

1. Capital letters are not joined
2. All letters start from the line
2. Don't pick up your pencil until the whole word is written

Below is an example of the lead-in and lead-out strokes for each letter:

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

What are the benefits of cursive handwriting?

From spending a significant of time researching this topic and from discussion with other local schools who have introduced cursive writing, I have chosen to outline just some of the key benefits of moving to cursive handwriting:



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- It is in fact easier to learn; it requires 3 movements: under curve, over curve and up and down. Print handwriting necessitates more complex strokes such as straight lines and perfect circles.
- It prevents reversal and confusion of letters; similar looking letters like b/d, f/t and q/p require a big difference in the letter formation in cursive handwriting so makes the letters easier to differentiate.
- It develops 'muscle-memory' for letter formation and develops a handwriting style that supports legibility, consistency and joining. From Year 2 onwards, the National Curriculum expectation is that all children are fluent joiners; this handwriting style will help support this and will provide a scaffold for our older children who are not yet joining.
- It supports left-handed children; cursive handwriting teaches children to write from bottom up and therefore encourages the child to turn the paper clockwise, causing greater comfort in writing style and avoiding a 'hook' position that can induce cramp and discomfort.

In addition, we will still be using 'Dyslexi' font with individual children where necessary.

If you have any unanswered questions, or would like support and guidance on how to support your child's handwriting at home, please come along to our 'An Introduction to Cursive Handwriting' workshop on Thursday 5th January at 2.30pm in the hall and see how it is done!

Many thanks,

Mrs Louisa Brown (English Coordinator)



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