



Cherry Tree Primary School

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Learning Together, Learning for Life

Handwriting - Guide for Parents/Carers

Cherry Tree Primary School teaches a cursive handwriting style across the school. This reflects the expectations outlined in the National Curriculum of September 2014, in which the requirements for handwriting teaching in Years 1 to 6 were updated.

Early Years Foundation Stage:

The children will be supported to adopt this style right from the very beginning of their school years. They will continue to read and recognise sounds around them in different font styles, reflecting the world around them. However, when we begin to teach how to write sounds (graphemes), linked to phonics, we will start all letters with a leading in stroke **from the line**, in a pre cursive style and use the phrase "up the ramp" to start and "flick at the end".

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

Key Stage 1:

Year 1: Aim - to develop the physical skills needed for handwriting

- Pupils will learn to sit correctly at a table
- Hold a pencil comfortably and correctly
- Continue to form lower-case letters in the correct direction, starting with a leading in stroke, from the line and finishing with a flick, ready for joining.
- Form digits 0-9
- Understand which letters belong to which handwriting family (i.e. letters that are formed in similar ways) and to practise them (appendix 1)

Year 2: Aim - to establish good handwriting habits

- Form lower-case letters of the correct size relative to one another
- Start using some of the diagonal and horizontal strokes required to join letters
- Write capital letters and digits of the correct size and orientation
- Use spacing between words that reflects the size of the letters

Lower Key Stage 2:

Years 3 to 4: Aim - joined handwriting should now be the norm; pupils should now be able to use it fast enough to keep pace with what they want to say.

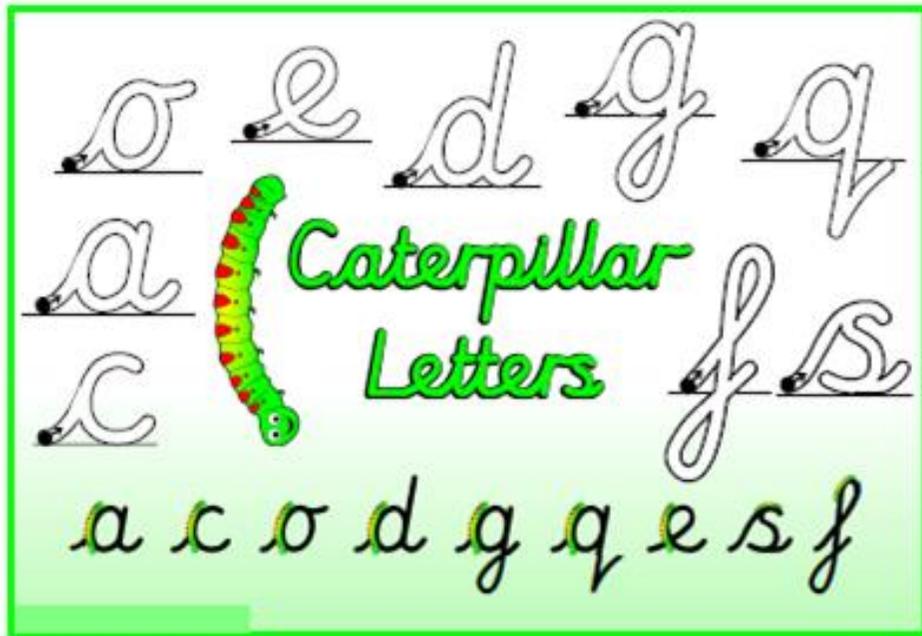
- To use the diagonal and horizontal strokes that are needed to join letters
- To increase the legibility, consistency and quality of their handwriting

Upper Key Stage 2:

Years 5 and 6: Aim - to use a clear and fluent style, to write at speed and show awareness of when different handwriting styles may be needed

- Write legibly, fluently with increasing speed by:
 - Choosing which shape of a letter to use when given choices and deciding, as part of their personal style, whether or not to join specific letters
 - Choosing the writing implement that is best suited for a task (e.g. quick notes, letters etc)





Caterpillar Letters

a c o d g q e s f

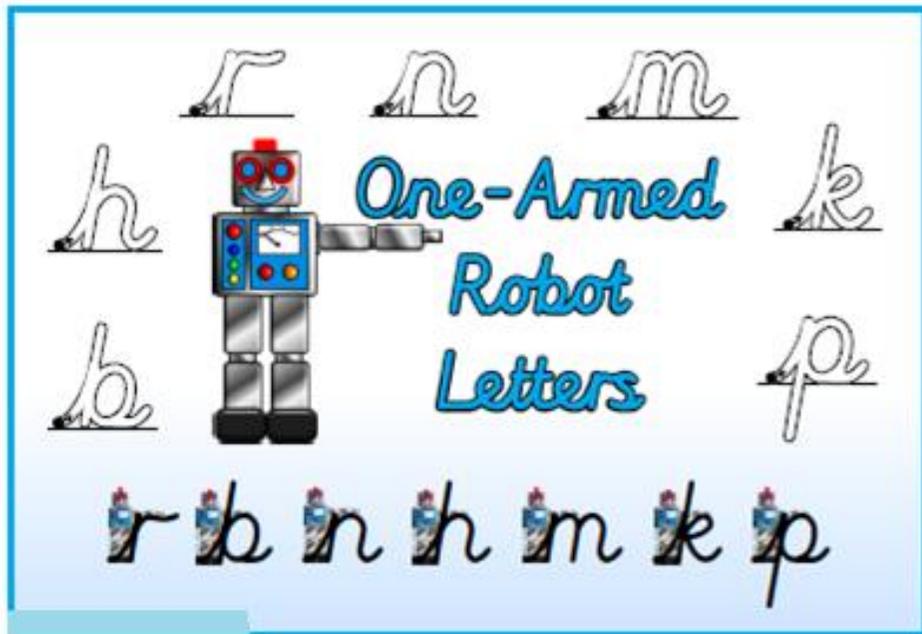
This block features a green border and a green background. At the top, there are seven cursive letters: a, c, o, d, g, q, and e, each with a small black dot indicating the starting point and a curved arrow showing the direction of the stroke. In the center, there is a colorful caterpillar illustration. Below the caterpillar, the text 'Caterpillar Letters' is written in a green, cursive font. At the bottom, the letters 'a c o d g q e s f' are written in a black cursive font, with small yellow arrows pointing to the starting points of each letter.



Ladder Letters

i t u j y

This block features an orange border and an orange background. At the top, there are five cursive letters: i, u, t, j, and y, each with a starting dot and a stroke direction arrow. In the center, there is a ladder illustration. Below the ladder, the text 'Ladder Letters' is written in an orange, cursive font. At the bottom, the letters 'i t u j y' are written in a black cursive font, with small yellow arrows pointing to the starting points of each letter.



One-Armed Robot Letters

r b n h m k p

This block features a blue border and a light blue background. At the top, there are five cursive letters: r, b, n, h, and m, each with a starting dot and a stroke direction arrow. In the center, there is a blue robot illustration with one arm. Below the robot, the text 'One-Armed Robot Letters' is written in a blue, cursive font. At the bottom, the letters 'r b n h m k p' are written in a black cursive font, with small blue robot icons placed at the starting points of each letter.



Zigzag Monster Letters

x w z

This block features a red border and a light red background. At the top, there are three cursive letters: x, w, and z, each with a starting dot and a stroke direction arrow. In the center, there is a red monster illustration. Below the monster, the text 'Zigzag Monster Letters' is written in a red, cursive font. At the bottom, the letters 'x w z' are written in a black cursive font, with small red monster icons placed at the starting points of each letter.