



# Messages for Parents

## PENPALS for Handwriting

6

**Our emphasis this year is on developing a personal, fast, fluent and legible handwriting style. Children are given opportunities to practise a range of ways of joining, with the expectation that they will develop a style that 'works' for them. Additionally, children continue to focus on key issues for legibility and speed as well as styles and writing tools for different purposes.**

At the end of this year there may well be a test before children begin secondary education. In England the SATs test for Y6 occurs in the Summer Term and handwriting is part of the English test. Although the formal English papers don't include a writing test, children's writing will be assessed by their teacher. Pupils will be asked to write a short piece and as part of this, their handwriting will be assessed. They should be:

- Producing legible joined handwriting.
- Maintaining legibility, fluency and speed in handwriting by choosing whether or not to join specific letters.

### Joining letter sets for Y6/P7

#### Diagonal join to ascender (e.g. *at*)

This join is used to join letters in this box . . .

*a b c d e h i k l m n p s t u*

to letters in this box.

*b f h k l t*

#### Diagonal join, no ascender (e.g. *da*)

This join is used to join letters in this box . . .

*a b c d e h i k l m n p q s t u*

to letters in this box.

*e i j m n p r u v w y*

*\* a c d g o q s*

#### Horizontal join, no ascender (e.g. *wo*)

This join is used to join letters in this box . . .

*f o r v w*

to letters in this box.

*e i j m n p r u v w y*

*\* a c d g o q s*

#### Horizontal join to ascender (e.g. *sh*)

This join is used to join letters in this box . . .

*f o r v w*

to letters in this box.

*b f h k l t*

#### Personal style

It is possible to experiment with new letter formations and joins to develop a personal style.

#### Break letters

Joins are not usually made from these letters, but you may wish to try.

*g j y*

*g j y*

Joins are not usually made to or from these letters, but you may wish to try these style variations:

*x z*

*x z*

#### Alternative letter shapes and joins

*bs ff m th va wa*

\* anticlockwise letters