

Handwriting at St Lawrences C of E Primary School

At St Lawrences we take pride in our work and high standards of presentation. We want our children to master the skills of transcription to allow them to become fluent, creative writers. This is why from Reception to Year 6, we follow the Penpals handwriting programme.

Children learn handwriting in five simple steps:

- Physical preparation for handwriting
- Securing correct letter formation
- Beginning to create joins between letters
- Securing joins and practicing speed and fluency
- Developing a personal style.



Children use Penpals workbooks to practise on a weekly basis, when handwriting is taught discretely, through purposeful practical lessons. We strive to demonstrate high standards of handwriting throughout each day and across the curriculum

How can you support your child's handwriting development at home?

As well as practising letter formation, it is important for children's handwriting that they develop their **gross motor** and **fine motor** skills.

Gross motor activities improve postural control and muscle strength and are beneficial when developing handwriting skills.

Activities you can try at home:

- Hanging activities – do the monkey bars or do chins ups
- Climbing activities – climb ladders and ropes
- Pushing and pulling activities – pull heavy trolleys/ bags, push a child on a swing or play tug of war.
- Animal activities- do the crab (get into a table position and try to walk sideways like a crab) or the snake (lie on your tummy and pull yourself along with your hands).
- Arm activities- have a wheelbarrow race, do wall push ups or go for a crawl
- Yoga activities
- Throwing and catching balls

Fine motor skills involve the coordination of small muscles and movements of the hands, fingers, and eyes. Developing these skills enable children to hold their pencil and manipulate it effectively.

Activities to try at home:

- Threading with string, pipe cleaners and straws
- Rolling and squashing play-doh
- Squeezing pipettes
- Cutting shapes and lines
- Dotting with cotton buds
- Pinching with pegs and tweezers