

Update on Handwriting at Princess Frederica

Dear parents and carers,

As you are aware, a new cursive handwriting script is now being used across the school. This flyer aims to give you more information about why we have chosen to do this, and provide you with further details about the new script.

Rational

The 2014 National Curriculum placed an increased emphasis on handwriting, with neat, joined and legible handwriting becoming a requisite for being judged to be writing at the expected standard for their age range at the end of key stage 2. Despite our increasingly digitalised world, the ability to write legibly by hand is still an essential skill. For example, most formal assessments that pupils undertake in the UK education system are still handwritten. More importantly, “in general, children who feel good about their handwriting are far more motivated to write. Those who have a negative self-image of themselves as a writer and are resistant to writing usually have poor handwriting they are unhappy with. Students who have illegible handwriting often suffer from frustration, lowered self-esteem and decreased motivation.” (Cornhill and Case-Smith, 1996). In addition, writing experts have also shown that handwriting is a crucial foundation for writing success. In addition, the [‘Writer Effect’](#) reveals that unless handwriting is fluent and automatic, it interferes with the act of skilled writing. Handwriting effort can take up too much mental bandwidth. As a result, spelling slips, punctuation goes awry, and meaning making is compromised. Put simply, the better your handwriting – and the more automatic – the more you can focus your mental energy on picking the right words, playing with sentence structures, and much more. If you'd like to read more about why handwriting matters, please take a look at the following two blogs: <https://www.theconfidentteacher.com/2021/01/should-we-worry-about-handwriting/> <https://learningspy.co.uk/writing/handwriting-matters/>

Research also indicates that a cursive script, where all letters join, supports children who find spelling more difficult. This is the reason we have chosen this particular style of handwriting.

Pen Licences

We will no longer be awarding pen licences in KS2 because we want all our practices at Princess Frederica to be inclusive. Some children find handwriting particularly challenging no matter how hard they try. At our school, we want all children to succeed and be awarded for their efforts. For this academic year (because some children in Year 4 had already been given pen licences prior to this new policy) all Year 4 children will write in pen. However, as of the next academic year (2023 - 2024), children will not start writing in pen until Year 5 & 6. No more pen licences will be given; children will simply begin writing in pen at the start of Year 5. For further information about why we do not believe in pen licences any longer, please read:

<https://www.tes.com/magazine/archive/why-we-should-get-rid-pen-licences>

Thursday 22nd September DC

U: To write a letter to persuade

Superstar learner		☆
I can start my letter with Dear _____		✓
I can use a capital letter at the beginning of my sentence and a full stop at the end of my sentence.		✓
I can use finger spaces between my words.		✓
I can use different ways to start my sentences.		✓
Challenge: I can write longer sentences using because		✓
Independent ✓	Some support	Fully supported

Dear Pop,

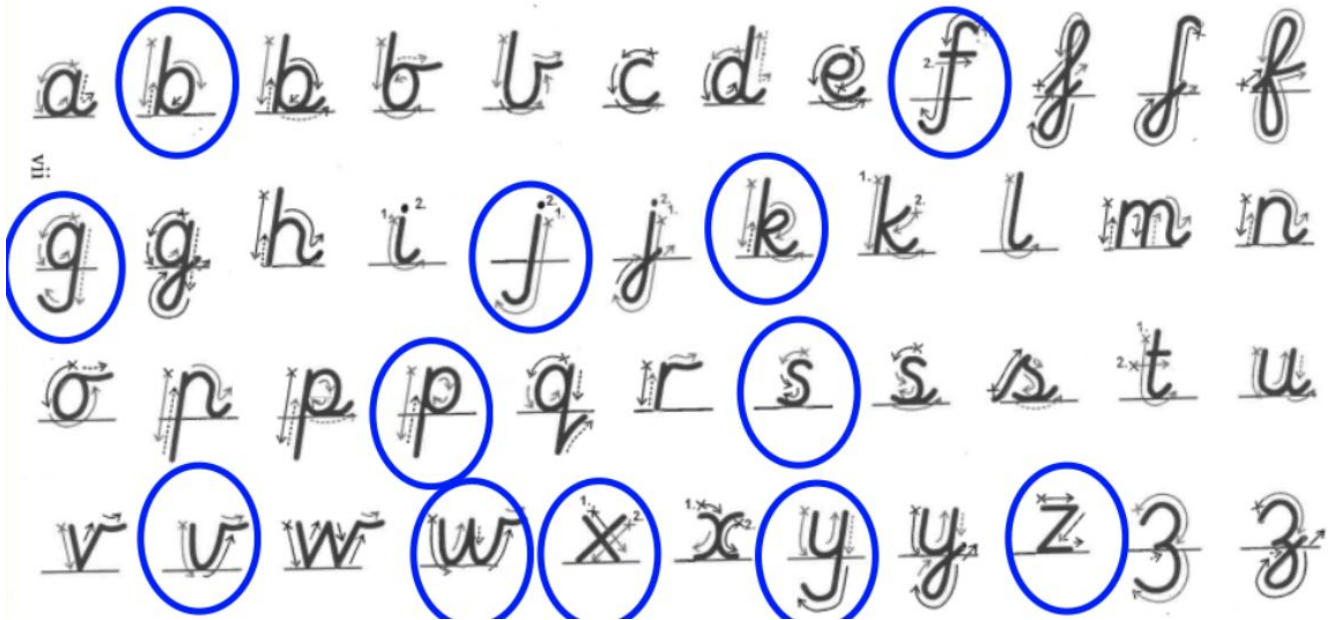
I think that dark is magical because there is going to be fireworks tonight.

I think that dark is brilliant. You shouldn't be scared of the dark because the dark is exciting. Fireworks are exciting and brilliant. They crackle, fizz and pop.

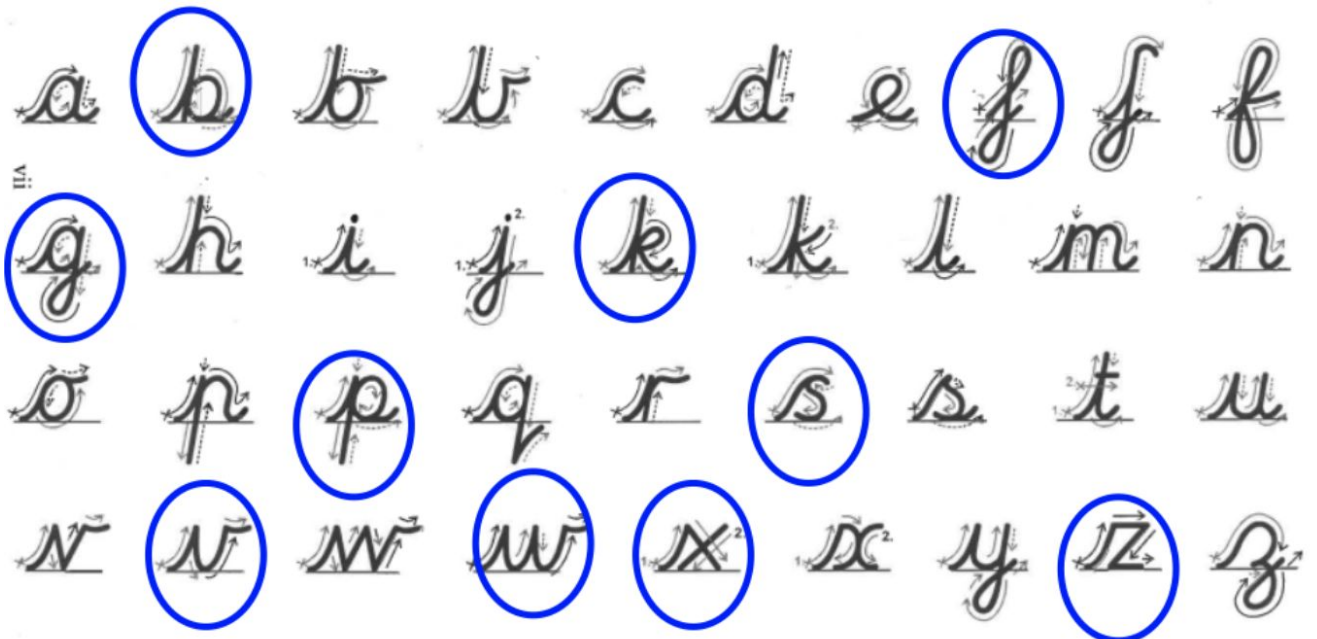
From the little boy

Our New Cursive Script: children will be taught to form letters as per the alphabets below. Where there is more than one possibility, children will be taught to form the letters that are circled in blue. Most children will begin joining in the second half of Y2 once all letters are correctly formed and orientated. By the time children are in Y6, they will be shown the various letter possibilities to support development of their own style.

EYFS - KS1 (pre-joining)

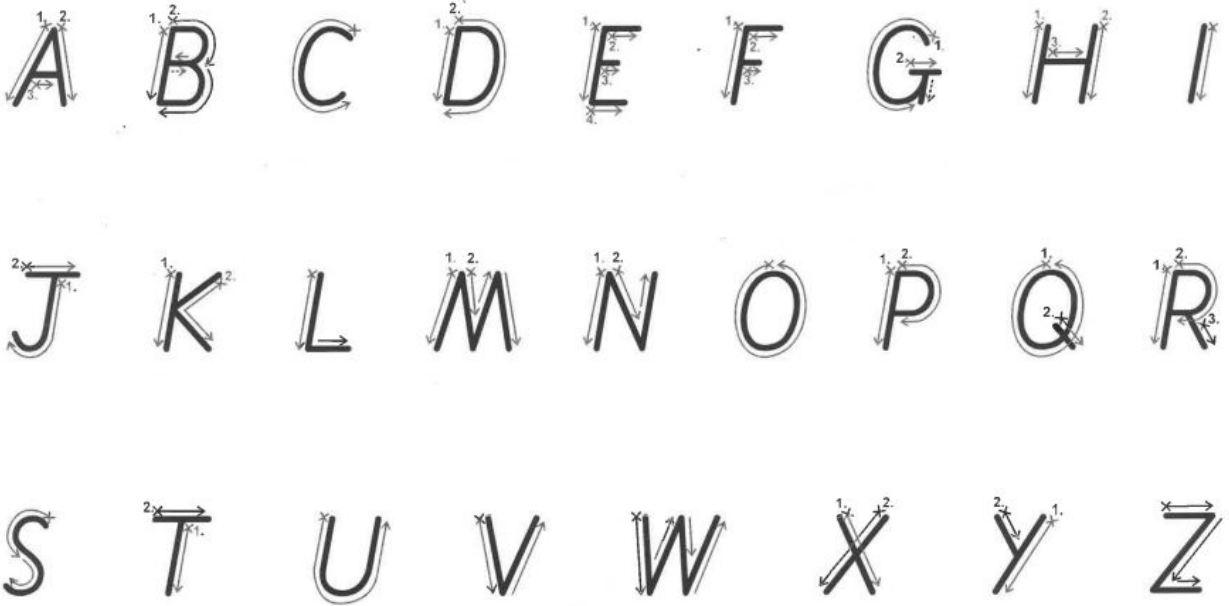


KS1 - KS2 (once joining: Y2 onwards)



The Alphabet

The diagrams below show how the upper case or capital letters are formed. The grey lines show the path of the pen. A cross indicates where each stroke of the pen should start. The separate strokes are numbered and should be completed in the correct order.



Dear Mrs Bayview

I am really sorry that I gave you the wrong parcel. It all started when baby Liam's first tooth was coming through and my parents asked me to deliver the mail. I was boiling so I decided to go in the river because it was cold. Suddenly, I slipped on a slippery rock and I fell in the river. The mail bag got wet because it went in with me. When I looked at the soaking wet parcels I noticed that they were smudged. I felt so ashamed of myself. I'll never forgive what I did. After this I didn't know which one went to which house except the ruby red labled one because it was Granie's. Then I did a silly thing. I ran as fast as I could and threw them to any house. I am so sorry!
Love Katie Mog

Tim Jarvis teetered nervously on the edge of the curb - his cold blue fingers clenched together in the icy air. Huge black carriages swayed past, splattering splattering filthy slushy mud onto his face and tattered clothes. Finally, Tim saw his chance and made a dash for it through the chaotic traffic. He soon got to the other side of the road and found the meat pudding shop. He saw skinny boy dogs and skeletal boys loitering around the shop. The meat pudding shop sign was creaking and the glow of the sign kept on flickering, but Tim didn't mind and pushed into the shop. The rich smell of gravy entered into Tim's nostrils. Ms Hodder was sweeping the soggy floor to make sure everything was clean.