

13<sup>th</sup> March 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

We have structured handwriting groups across the school using evidence-based approaches such as Handwriting Without Tears, where appropriate. These groups support pupils at different stages of development and ensure that handwriting skills remain functional, achievable, and supportive of learning.

For our younger pupils who are not yet developmentally ready for formal handwriting, we focus on foundational pre-writing skills. These sessions include activities that build body awareness, hand strength, coordination, and understanding of shapes and letter components.

We use approaches such as Mat Man from the Handwriting Without Tears programme, alongside other multisensory activities. Mat Man helps children develop early skills through play-based learning, including:

- Building body awareness and spatial understanding
- Developing early shape recognition that links to letter formation
- Practising pre-writing movements through large body actions and floor-based activities
- Strengthening fine motor skills through hands-on play
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These early activities provide the building blocks children need before formal handwriting instruction begins.

Primary pupils participate in handwriting groups (where appropriate). These are split into smaller groups to ensure targeted support, such as:

- Lowercase and consolidation group: This group focuses on developing consistent lowercase letter formation, spacing, sizing, and overall handwriting fluency. Pupils practise consolidating key handwriting skills and applying them in simple written tasks.



- Capital letters group: This group supports pupils who are still developing confidence with capital letter formation, helping them recognise and form letters correctly before progressing to more complex writing tasks.
- These groups allow staff to tailor teaching to pupils' current handwriting stage while supporting gradual progression.

In secondary, handwriting groups are more targeted and responsive to pupil needs:

- Year 7 and Year 8: Targeted handwriting support groups are offered to pupils who require additional support with handwriting skills, focusing on legibility, speed, and confidence in written work.
- Year 9: Support focuses on ensuring handwriting remains functional for everyday tasks, such as completing forms, writing short responses, or producing legible notes. Alongside this, we support pupils in developing typing and alternative recording methods, recognising that assistive technology can be an important tool for independent learning as pupils move towards later education and adulthood.

Where further support is required, additional sessions can be available on Fridays to provide more individualised practice and consolidation for pupils who would benefit from extra input.

These handwriting and pre-writing groups aim to build pupils' confidence, independence, and ability to communicate effectively in ways that support their learning now and in the future.

Kind regards,

Abi

**Abigail Davis**  
Headteacher

