



Hughenden Primary School

Working Together, Empowering Lives, Enriching Minds

Wednesday 29th March 2017

Dear Parents,

We would like to bring to your attention a workbook that you might be interested in buying to help support your child with their handwriting. Neat and legible handwriting is an important skill and needs lots of practice. These books are in line with the teaching in your child's classroom. The books are £5.99 each and if you would like to order a book through the school, please fill in the form below. The deadline for ordering a book is Friday 21st April 2017.

Here are ten points to help you support handwriting at home:

1. Cursive handwriting is, put simply, joined-up writing. At Hughenden Primary School we teach children to print letters first (i.e. write them separately, without joins) and then move onto cursive. Each letter is written with a lead-out (exit) stroke or flick, which paves the way for learning to join them later.
2. When learning cursive handwriting, children are not taught letters in alphabetical order, but in groups according to their formation: for example, 'a', 'c', 'e' and 'o' are taught together because they're all based on an anticlockwise circle.
3. The 2014 curriculum says that children should learn to form all their lower case and capital letters plus digits 0 to 9 by the end of Year 1. Once the children can form their letters correctly, they are then taught how to join letters. Throughout Key Stage 2, children need to keep up the quality of their handwriting, and concentrate on increasing their fluency.
4. Cursive handwriting has a number of advantages. It generally has a nicer style, and does seem to help children speed up their writing. Children who write quickly generally get more words on the paper and produce better quality content. Cursive writing also helps with spelling as you develop a muscle memory of the movements of each word.
5. Good posture is important for cursive writing. We encourage children to sit with their feet flat on the floor, their back straight (no heads on the table) and relaxed shoulders.
6. Lined paper can help your child achieve uniformity in their handwriting, but plain paper is also good for practising cursive.
7. Don't stick to practising on paper. Get children to practise specific joins in other mediums, such as tracing them in the air, in sand with a stick or on another person's back with their finger. You could also try chalks on the patio, shaving foam on a tray or water and big paintbrushes outdoors.
8. Keep an eye on your child's pen grip. We encourage the tripod grip as it promotes stability and freedom of movement.
9. Practising patterns of joined up letters (such as a string of connected 'c's) helps children master cursive. The more your child practises patterning, the sooner they'll establish the neuro-motor pathways that make them automatic.
10. You can also encourage your child to do other non-writing activities to improve their fine motor control, such as colouring, dot-to-dot puzzles, threading beads/pasta.

Purchase of Handwriting Book

I would like to buy a Handwriting Book from the school and I attach a cheque for £5.99. Please make cheques payable to Hughenden Primary School.

My child is _____ in Year _____.

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