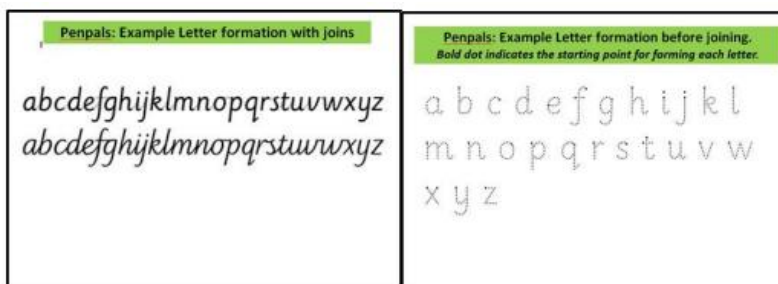


Handwriting

Dear Parents and Carers,

Back in December's Ofsted inspection, we were given only two areas for development. One was to continue our work in improving pupil attendance and the other was to further strengthen the teaching of early handwriting skills. In response to this, we have been placing even greater emphasis on ensuring that all of our children are forming and positioning letters correctly. At Friars, we follow the PenPals scheme for handwriting. PenPals is a structured and progressive programme that is designed to help children develop correct letter formation, handwriting fluency, and a comfortable, efficient style of writing appropriate to their age and stage.

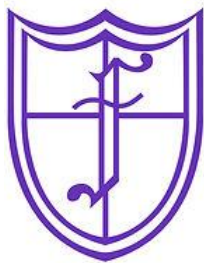


We encourage you to support your child at home by taking an interest in their handwriting, praising their efforts, and providing opportunities for writing in fun and meaningful ways. Consistent practice—both at school and at home—can make a real difference in your child's progress.



We are celebrating handwriting successes and would love to see any examples of writing the children have completed at home that they are proud of - they may even come home with one of our 'Handwriting Awards'!





Alongside our use of PenPals, we also use phrases from our Little Wandle phonics programme. We use the following phrases when we explain to the children how to write letters:

Little Wandle Formation Phrases

- a – Around the astronaut's helmet and down into space
- b - Down the bear's back, up and round its tummy
- c – Curl around the cat
- d – Round the duck's body, up to its head and down to its feet
- e – Around the elephant's eye and curl down its trunk
- f – Down the flamingo's neck, all the way to its foot, then across its wings
- g – Round the goat's face and curl under its chin
- h – Down, up and over the helicopter
- i – Down the iguana and dot the leaf
- j – Down the jellyfish and dot its head
- k – *Down the kite, up, around the kite and off to the sky* (adapted to match our handwriting policy)
- l – Down the lollipop stick
- m – Down, up and over the mouse's ears
- n – Down, up and over the net
- o – All around the Octopus
- p – Down the penguin's back, up and around its head
- q – Round the Queen's face, down her robe and a flick at the end
- r – From the cloud to the ground and over the rainbow
- s – Down the snake from head to tail
- t – Down the tiger and across its neck
- u – Down and around the umbrella, and back to the ground
- v – Down to the bottom of the volcano and back up to the top
- w – From the top of the waves to the bottom, up the wave, down the wave, then up again
- x – Start at the top then across to the bottom of the box. Start at the top then across to the bottom of the box
- y – Down, around the yo-yo and curl round the string
- z – Zip across, zag down and across the zebra

Thank you for your continued support.

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