

Teaching joins in handwriting

Following on from the handwriting assessments we carried out at the end of the Spring term, the children who had established secure letter formation have been learning the 4 sets of joins required for fluent, joined handwriting.

Pupils will progress from joining two letters, to small words, then longer words and eventually sentences. The key step to remember is that the pencil should not be removed from the page until they have completed the whole word (unless the letters 'x', 'f' or 't' are included). Dots should be added to 'i' and 'j' after the word is completed.

The 4 sets for joining are demonstrated below:

1. Diagonal joins to letters without ascenders.
2. Horizontal joins to letters without ascenders.
3. Diagonal joins to letters with ascenders.
4. Horizontal joins to letters with ascenders.

It is important to establish the correct formation of joins, just like it is for single letter formation. Therefore it is essential the children learn the type of joins carefully before attempting to join all of their handwriting. If practising at home please take some time to watch your child, to ensure they do not develop habits that may need correcting in the future.