

## Teaching joins in handwriting

Following on from handwriting assessments, the children who had established secure lower case 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 writing 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' or 'f' are included). The 't' should be crossed and dots 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.

an do be

2. Horizontal joins to letters without ascenders.

on we xu

3. Diagonal joins to letters with ascenders.

st yl gh

4. Horizontal joins to letters with ascenders.

od vr rb

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 types 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. Now that your child has been taught the joins we would expect them to use joined handwriting at all times within their writing.

*Chestnut Lane Staff*