

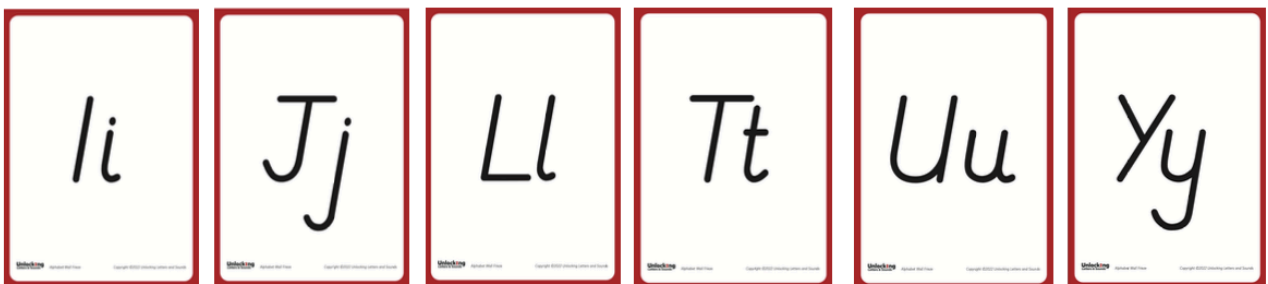
Handwriting

Handwriting is a skill which needs to be taught explicitly. Successful practice in handwriting is based on consistency and continuity across the whole school community. Since handwriting is essentially a movement skill, correct modelling of the agreed style by all school adults is vital. Consistency in the attitudes displayed, the methods employed and the models provided is the key to effective learning.

To allow consistency across the school, each class uses the same formation of letters introduced through our Unlocking Letters and Sounds phonics scheme. We have agreed our own terminology for the formation of these letters using working from our previous scheme, Scholastic Handwriting.

Letters are grouped as follows:

Straight down shapes



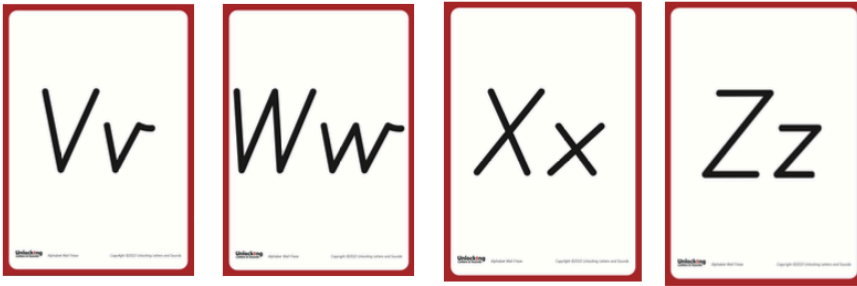
Down, up and over shapes



Up, backwards and around shapes



Zooming shapes



Opportunities to develop fine motor skills are provided by teachers and within continuous provision in Ruby and Sapphire Class and through interventions further up the school where needed.

Discrete handwriting sessions are taught every day in the first week of each half term and twice a week after that. Pupils are encouraged to sit correctly to enable neat handwriting. When children are ready, they are taught how to join letters with a series of key joins:

Diagonal joins – these joins are when you take your pen from the end of a letter diagonally up to the next letter. They can be formed with end-low or end-high letters.

Drop-on joins – these joins are when you join to an Up, backwards and around shape, dropping your pen onto the 1 o'clock position. They can be formed with end-low or end-high letters.

Horizontal joins – these joins are when you go straight across to the next letter. They are only formed with end-high letters.