

At New Chapter we follow the continuous cursive style of handwriting.

Why do we use this style?

- Cursive handwriting allows for children to write fluently and quickly due to the natural flow from left to right with each of the letters
- The start and finishing points for each of the letters are the same so it is easy to remember, which can be especially helpful to children with learning difficulties
- Words are written in one set of movements, without the pen being taken off the paper, helping the motor memory store spellings. This is especially important for those irregular spellings which so many children find hard to commit to memory
- The transition to joined writing is simple and occurs sooner, allowing children to concentrate on the composition of the writing, because they no longer have to think about how to form the letters

What does the style look like?



The children also have this in their school planners and an interactive document is available to support children with their home learning on e-schools.

Where should my child be?

Children in EYFS are exposed to the continuous cursive style through displays and teacher's writing. They are given many opportunities, through play, to develop their gross and fine motor skills, which gets them ready for pencil grip and writing legibly. When ready, the teacher will give children letters to practise. This is also modelled in their daily phonics. Children should be leaving EYFS knowing the initial letter formations.

In year 1, children consolidate the initial letter formations. They also, through play based activities, continue to practise their fine and gross motor skills. In the Spring Term, children will begin to be taught letter joins e.g. oy, ee, ai. Children should leave year 1 being able to form the initial letter formations, be able to join some of their letters and write correctly using capital and lower case letters.

In year 2, children continue to refine their joins and their weekly spellings are presented as joined. Children should leave year 2 being able to join most of their letters legibly and accurately

In year 3, children refine their letter joins. They make sure that their letters are accurate – including where the letters sit on the line. By the end of year 3, children should be able to join letters legibly and accurately.

In year 4 and Upper Key Stage Two, children continue to practise the continuous cursive style in handwriting lessons. Children are also encouraged to begin to write for speed whilst maintaining a neat and accurate style. Children should also be applying the style in all areas of the curriculum.

If you wish for more information, please speak to your class teacher.