



- Russell Lower School teaches cursive writing from the very beginning of school
- Switch on handwriting 2019 is the plan we follow – see booklet for guidance (these are the pages that are being referenced below)
- Capital letters MUST be taught at the same time as the lower case letters

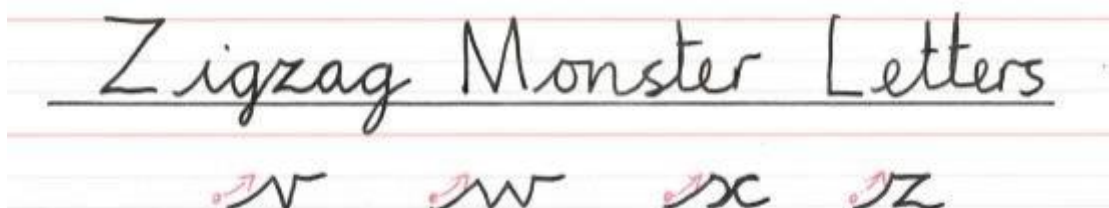
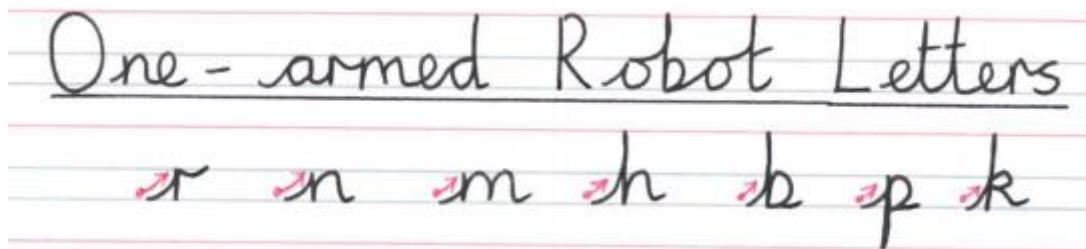
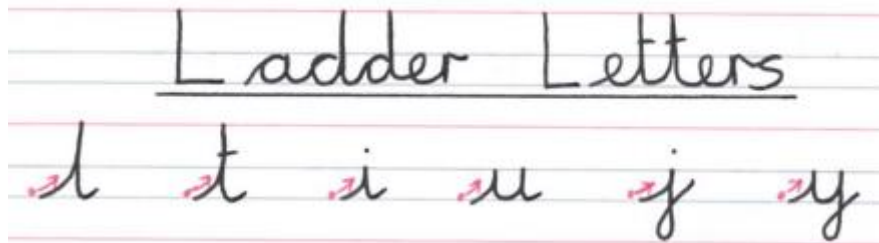
### **Handwriting Progression**

The alphabet can be divided into four families of similarly formed letters:

1. Ladder letters
2. One-armed Robot letters
3. Curly caterpillar letters
4. Zigzag letters

It is useful to teach children how to form these letters in their families as they are initially formed in the same way.

It is helpful to teach children continuous cursive formation of individual letters as early as possible to aid the joining of letters in words later on.



## Joining Letters

- Most letters join from the bottom of the letter. Practise these joins separately and in individual words that are familiar to the child. **(See page 15.)**
- However, there are four letters which join to the next letter by a horizontal "washing line" join, and this is where many joining issues occur, as children still want to join from the bottom of the letter. Special attention needs to be paid to joining onwards from these letters. Practise these joins separately and in individual words that are familiar to the child. **(See pages 15 and 16.)**
- The other anomaly is e, and it is helpful to teach children how it joins on differently to the other letters. Practise these joins separately and in individual words that are familiar to the child. **(See page 16.)**
- X is very difficult to join comfortably, rarely used in the English language, and the National Curriculum allows us to advise children that they may choose not to join certain letters. Of course, most letters must be joined.

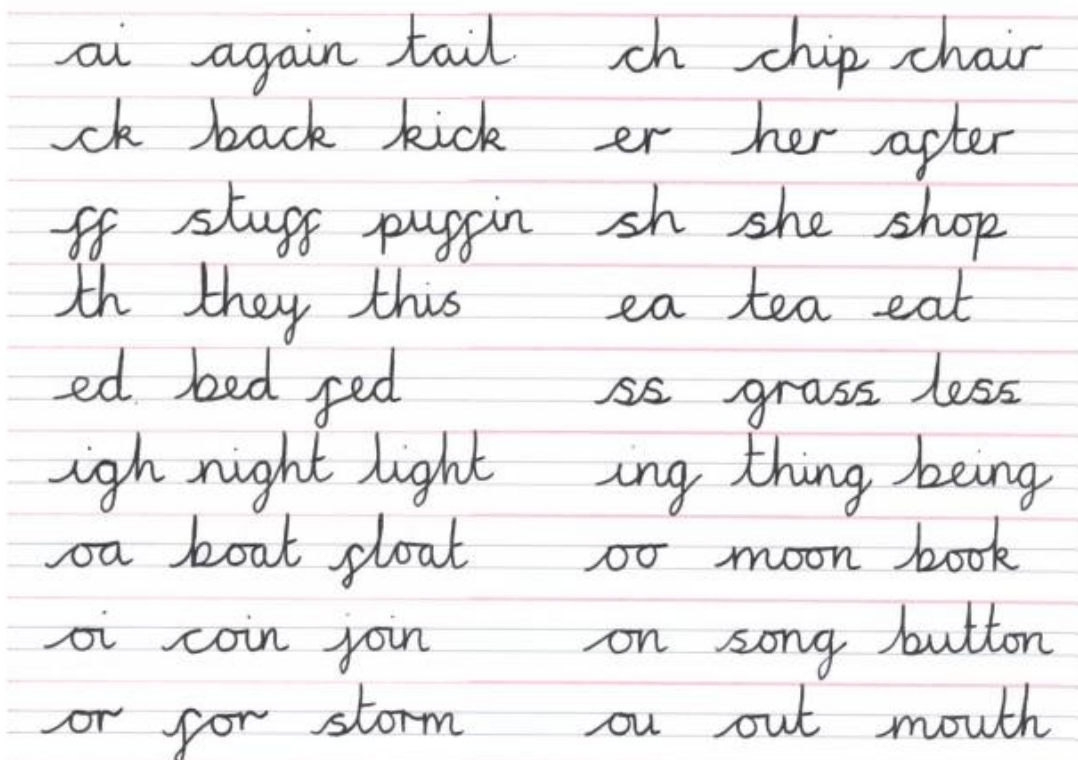
## Capital Letters

- Capital letters do **NOT** join to other letters.
- They are all the same height, and sit on the line.
- They are formed starting at the top and working downwards.
- Many letters require the child to take their pencil off the page to complete letter formation.
- **LEFT** handers may form E, F, H, I, J, T differently (R to L instead of L to R) when forming the horizontal strokes.

## Sessions on Joining Letters

As with individual letter formation, talk through the formation and joining of letters into common digraphs, trigraphs and words. Suggestions of joins and words to practise are detailed below.

### Letters that join from the bottom



**Letters that join from the top:**



ow snow cow oy boy enjoy  
wh what when why white

va van vase wa was want

vi video wi will with

vo voice vote wo work word

ra ran rat

ro road room

ri rip rice

ru run rule

rw narrow correct

**Letters that join from the top to e**

When o, r, v and w join to e, the child must dip slightly as they lead out to create a "slightly saggy washing line" without it touching the ground.

oe toe shoe

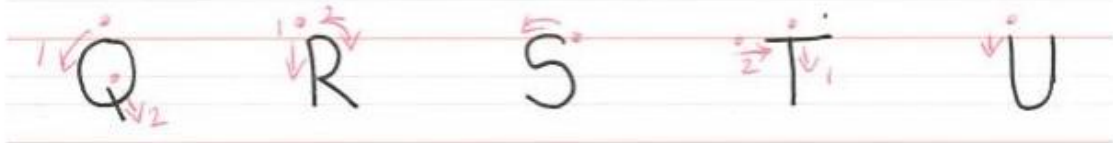
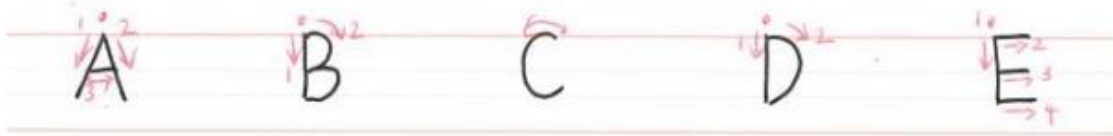
re are really

ve have give

we wet week

## Formation of Capital Letters

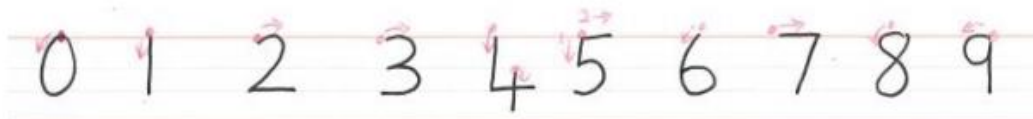
All capital letters are the **same height** and formation always **starts at the top**.





## Formation of Numbers

All numbers are the **same height** and formation **starts at the top**.



Start at the top, go round the clock backwards.

Straight down from the top.

Curl to the right, down and to the left, straight out to the right.

Curl to the right, curl to the right.

Straight down and across to the right. Then cross the bottom part.

Down first, curl to the right. Then put the "hat" on the top, from left to right.

Start at the top, curl gently round to the left, then up and left to close.

Straight across, then diagonally down to the left.

Start at the top, make an "S", then loop back crossing in the middle and closing at the top.

Start at the top like, curl round to the left, close and straight down.



## Summer 1

Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5	Week 6	Week 7
Mm	Hh	Bb	Kk	Qu qu	Consolidation	Consolidation
am, mat, ram, me, man, met, come, meet, aim, much, moss, dim, mud, tram, smart, mend	hat, hot, his, hen, hug, hand, hill, hiss, hit, him, hunt, hound, crash, thrush	bat, bed, boil, bin, boss, burnt, bug, bring, band, bench, bang, boat, been, bay, boot, bib, dab, blurb	kid, kiss, kit, king, kick, kept, skunk, sick, think, drink, sank, stork	quit, quick, quack, liquid, quiz, queen  The queen quit the quiz quickly.		
•	• Write name using name card.					
	Handwriting patterns Zig zags eeeeeeeeeeeeeee lululululu ssssssssss uuuuuuuuuuuu cccccccccccc  llllllllll					

## Summer 2

Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5	Week 6
f, ff	v, w	j	y	x	z, zz
fan, fit, fog, puffing, cuff, puff, off, fin  Fred frog falls off the flower. He flips floating flies with his frog friend Fay.	van, visit, vet, win, with wing, wok, wet, wigwam, west, wait, went,  The vet did a visit in his van. I went into my wigwam to wait for Will.	jog, jet, jig, jump, jumper, job, just,	yam, yum, yet, yuck, yesterday, yell Billy the yellow yak yelled  "Yippee, yum, yum I love yams."	fox, fix, box, mix, wax, six, explain  Six foxes in a box.	zip, zig zag, zoo, jazz, buzzing, Buzz, zooming  Zak zoomed to the zoo and saw a zippy zebra.
•	• Write name using name card.				
	Handwriting patterns Zig zags eeeeeeeeeeeeeee lululululu ssssssssss uuuuuuuuuuuu cccccccccccc  llllllllll				

### Summary of letters for each term

Term	Letters
Autumn 1	Baseline, cvc pictures, patterns, name
Autumn 2	Cc, Aa, Dd, Gg
Spring 1	Oo, Ss, Ii, Ll, Tt
Spring 2	Ee, Uu, Pp, Rr, Nn
Summer 1	Mm, Hh, Bb, Kk, Qu qu
Summer 2	Ff, ff, Vv, Ww, Jj, Yy, Xx, Zz, zz

## HANDWRITING IN YEAR 1

Pupils are taught to:

- sit correctly at a table, holding a pencil comfortably and correctly
- begin to form lower-case letters in the correct direction, starting and finishing in the right place
- form capital letters
- form digits 0-9
- understand which letters belong to which handwriting 'families' (ie letters that are formed in similar ways) and to practise these

### YEAR 1 HANDWRITING LONG TERM PLAN 2020-2021

#### Autumn 1

Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5	Week 6
<b>Ladder Letters</b> Ll and Tt	<b>Ladder letters</b> li and Jj	<b>Ladder letters</b> Uu and Yy	<b>One armed robot letters</b> Nn, Mm	<b>One armed robot letters</b> Hh, Bb and Kk	<b>One armed robot letters</b> Rr and Pp

#### Autumn 2

Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5	Week 6	Week 7
<b>Curly caterpillar letters</b> Cc Aa Oo Dd	<b>Curly caterpillar letters</b> Gg Qq	<b>Curly caterpillar letters</b> Ee Ss Ff	<b>Zigzag Monster letters</b> Vv Ww	<b>Zigzag Monster letters</b> Zz Xx	<b>Letters with ascenders</b> Bb, Dd, Hh,	<b>Letters with ascenders</b> Ll, Tt, Kk

#### Spring 1

Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5	Week 6
<b>Letters with descenders</b> Gg, Jj	<b>Letters with descenders</b> Qq, Yy	<b>Letters with descenders</b> Pp	<b>Diagonal joins to letters without ascenders</b> E.g. ai, ar	<b>Diagonal Joins to letters Without ascenders</b> E.g. i.e. un, co	<b>Horizontal joins without ascenders</b> E.g. 'ee' 'ir'

#### Spring 2

Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5
<b>Horizontal joins to letters without ascenders</b> E.g. ou and vi	<b>Horizontal joins to letters without ascenders</b> E.g. wi, or	<b>diagonal joins to letters with ascenders</b> E.g ab, ul	<b>Diagonal joins to letters with ascenders</b> E.g it, el, ck, al	<b>Horizontal joins to letters with ascenders</b> E.g ol, wh, ot, of



## Summer 1

Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5	Week 6	Week 7
<b>Horizontal joins to letters with ascenders</b> E.g rh, od	<b>Mixed joins 1</b> E.g es, oo	<b>Mixed joins 2</b> E.g. ok, ek	<b>Mixed joins 3</b> E.g. gi, et	<b>Mixed joins 4</b> E.g. ow, ob	<b>Common Exception words for Year 1 (1)</b> the a do to today of said says	<b>Common Exception words for Year 1 (2)</b> are were was is his has I you

## Summer 2

Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5	Week 6	Week 7
<b>Common Exception words for Year 1 (3)</b> your they be he me she we no	<b>Common Exception words for Year 1 (4)</b> go so by my here there where love	<b>Common Exception words for Year 1 (5)</b> come some one once ask friend school put	<b>Common Exception words for Year 1 (6)</b> push pull full house our Russell Lower Ampthill	<b>Consolidation</b>	<b>Consolidation</b>	<b>Consolidation</b>

## HANDWRITING IN YEAR 2

Once children enter Year 2, handwriting sessions are all focused on whole words and practising any joins causing difficulty:

- Diagonal joins to letters without ascenders
- Horizontal joins to letters without ascenders
- diagonal joins to letters with ascenders
- Diagonal joins to letters with ascenders
- Mixed join

Teaching will focus on developing **speed and consistency**, especially in size and direction.

- Developing speed and consistency takes time and practice
- Writing short rhymes, riddles, jokes etc. offers the opportunity to develop speed and consistency effectively
- Children should be expected to write cursively across the curriculum, and build up pace by being given targets to improve upon each time

Across the year children are taught to:

- form lower-case letters of the correct size relative to one another
- start using some of the diagonal and horizontal strokes needed to join letters and understand which letters, when adjacent to one another, are best left unjoined
- write capital letters and digits of the correct size, orientation and relationship to one another and to lower-case letters
- use spacing between words that reflects the size of the letters

## **HANDWRITING IN KS2**

Within key stage 2 children develop the use of joined handwriting throughout their independent writing.

Teaching will focus on increasing the fluency with which pupils are able to write down what they want to say. Which, in turn, will support their composition and spelling.

Across year's 3 and 4 children are taught to:

- use the diagonal and horizontal strokes that are needed to join letters and understand which letters, when adjacent to one another, are best left unjoined
- increase the legibility, consistency and quality of their handwriting. For example, by ensuring that the downstrokes of letters are parallel and equidistant, and that lines of writing are spaced sufficiently so that the ascenders and descenders of letters do not touch.