

Booker Avenue Infant School



'Working together, learning together'

Handwriting Policy

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Our handwriting policy supports the guidance laid out in our phonics policy: Jolly phonics

Pencil Control

As detailed in the EYFS Framework 2021 and the Jolly Phonics program we recognise the importance of correct pencil grip and the need to form letters correctly.

We teach this from the early stages of writing. The pencil rests between the thumb and the first finger (pincer grip) the next finger prevents the pencil falling down and the last two fingers are tucked away. The children learn this as their 'froggy legs!'

Letter Formation

- The children are introduced to the formation of each letter in the following ways.
- The teacher shows the formation on the board.
- The teacher shows the formation in the air, taking care when facing the children that the letter is formed the correct way round for the children. The children watch and then imitate saying the sound. They do this several times.
- The children are given a sound sheet which includes an example of the letters, with the formation indicated by arrows and numbers. A line is provided for the children to practise on. This activity is completed at the table and correct posture is modelled and encouraged.
- The children also have the opportunity to feel the formation using the finger phonics books. This multi- sensory approach makes it easier for the children to learn.

We recognise that parents can be an invaluable help here and we send home advice on how to support and promote their child's correct pencil grip.

Capital Letters

The lower case formation is taught in the beginning as the children learn the first 42 sounds. Capital letters are then introduced.

Joined-up Writing

In Jolly Phonics the children are encouraged to use joined handwriting early on. It is recommended because not only do the children develop greater fluency in their writing but it encourages better spelling. The children feel how the letters go together by writing the word in one continuous movement, which reminds them to put the letters in the correct order. We introduce joins in this way in year 1.

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