

Westlands Primary School



The Power of Handwriting:

Why it Matters for Your Child's Success!

At Westlands Primary School, we know that handwriting is a fundamental skill that all children need to develop. When children can write **fluently and neatly**, their brains are free to focus on their amazing ideas, not just on forming letters.

Our Aim is Automaticity: We teach handwriting so that it becomes **automatic**, like riding a bike, which allows your child to plan, compose, and enjoy their writing.

Why Neat Handwriting is Essential:

- **Boosts Ideas:** If handwriting is too difficult, it **constrains composition**, distracting your child from thinking about the story or information they want to share.
- **Increases Motivation:** Handwriting difficulties can lead to frustration. By providing strong support, we keep your child **motivated** and eager to write.
- **Ensures Success:** Fair or not, neat handwriting makes written work look high-quality and ensures that teachers can easily **understand and value their content**.



How We Teach Handwriting:

We use the structured, effective teaching approach provided by the **LetterJoin** scheme.

- **Daily and Precise:** Handwriting is taught **daily** in short, precise steps, starting within your child's first year at school.
- **Consistent Practice:** We ensure regular practice throughout primary school to build and maintain **fluency and legibility**.
- **Modelled Teaching:** Our teachers always model the correct letter formation and joins, as this helps children build a **strong mental model** of the movement patterns.
- **Building the Foundations:** In Reception, we start with foundation skills, for example, strengthening hand muscles and practicing movements, before moving onto specific letter formation and joins.

By using **LetterJoin**, we are committed to helping every pupil achieve clear, fast, and legible handwriting—a skill that will support their success across the entire curriculum.