



creating
caring
curious
courageous
learners

Several small, colorful butterflies (red, blue, yellow) are scattered around the text, adding a decorative touch.



Handwriting Policy

Why teach handwriting?

- We have been teaching handwriting almost every day for the last three years
- Skill of handwriting still important
- It is a basic skill
- Needs to be automatic so it doesn't hinder children's ability to write.



Cursive writing

- At St. Mary's we have chosen to teach the children a cursive style of handwriting from Reception.
- Cursive script is formed without taking the pencil off the paper and each word is formed in one flowing movement.



Cursive script....

- Helps prevent reversals and confusion of letters
- Enhances spelling ability through the movement of the hand, developing a physical memory of letters and words.
- Develops visual, spacial and co-ordination skills through fluent movement



Cursive script...

- Improves reading skills through the reading of whole words as opposed to just one letter at a time
- Encourages children to use spaces accurately in their writing
- Enables children to write more quickly.



Cursive script and dyslexia

‘Typically when children first learn to write they are taught to print their letters then they move on to joined up writing at a later stage. For children with dyslexia, learning two styles of handwriting can add an extra layer of difficulty and cause confusion. It is therefore more helpful if a young child can learn to use a single system of handwriting right from the start.’ BDA



Technicalities of handwriting

Correct posture:

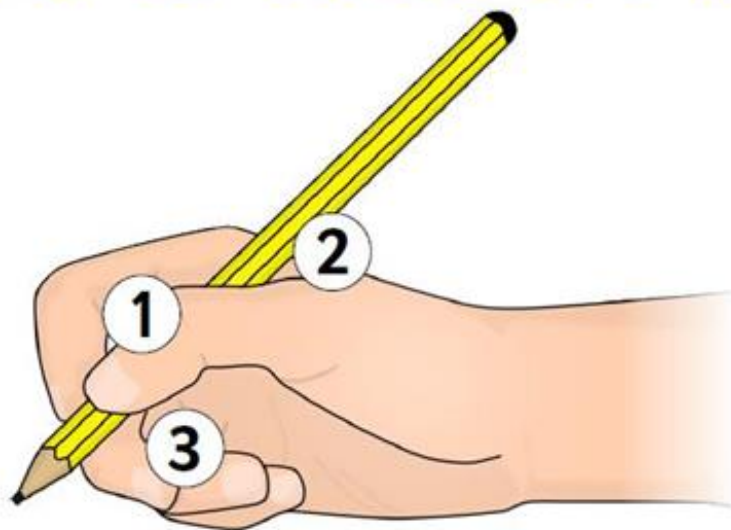
Both feet firmly on the ground, one hand for the pen, the other to hold the paper not to support the head! Elbow of writing hand at the edge of the table, chair tucked in to support a straight back.



Good grip

The pencil should be held between the index finger and thumb and should merely rest on the middle finger at one end and balance on the curve at the other.

How to Hold a Pencil



1. Put your thumb and forefinger just above the cone shaped part of the pencil.
2. Let the pencil rest between your thumb and forefinger.
3. Then put your middle finger underneath for support.



Position of the paper

The page should be slightly tilted.

Right handers go uphill

Left handers go down hill.

Have a go!

