



"Choose the Right Path"

St James' C of E Infant and Nursery School

Handwriting Expectations

Professor Jane Medwell is a leading academic in the field of handwriting. She states that, 'Handwriting is vital, it helps children learn in a way that typing doesn't. In the early years, the process of forming letters helps children master phonic awareness, while later in primary school, it's important for note-taking, and helps information enter the brain far more effectively than copying and pasting on the computer.'

Children who write by hand are better connected to their work and more engaged in learning. There's also a clear link between a child's handwriting and the quality of the content of their written work.

This is what expected by the end of each year group at our school.

By the end of Reception

Can hold a pencil in a tripod grip
Can form most letters in the alphabet
Can usually write all letters the same size
Can form, all letters correctly on the line, above the line and below the line (ascenders and descenders)
Write own sentence, neatly and correctly.

By the end of Year 1

Can write all letters accurately, starting and finishing in the right place.
Form upper and lower-case letters correctly
Sit writing on the line
Write ascenders showing clearly above small case letters and descenders below the line
Maintain neat, well formed handwriting for a paragraph or more

By the end of Year 2

Start to join all handwriting using the Nelson scheme
Maintain accurate formation of letters
Maintain neat, regular handwriting for up to a side of A4 or more.

**all children expected to use the school's Incredible Handwriting prompts which show perfect grip, bottom back chair, tummy near table, 6 feet on the floor and hold your paper. These should be displayed in each class.*

**read alongside national curriculum requirements for KS1 and Development Matters for Reception*