



At Bailey Green we teach handwriting in a consistent, regular and structured way. From the earliest stages, children will be developing their fine motor skills when they pick up writing tools and make marks on paper. This should be encouraged, and opportunities provided for children to scribble, draw, colour and develop other early writing skills. However, it is important for children to develop good habits with writing, and pencil hold and formation are important parts of this process. In Reception, children are taught how to form letters correctly using our Phonics scheme *Essential Letters and Sounds*. Each letter is given a little saying (mnemonic) to help children remember. These mnemonics can be found in the *Phonics and Reading Scheme* section of our website.

When your child starts to write, we would encourage you to reinforce the 'tripod' grip through modelling and correction where necessary. This pencil grip gives children the most control over the movement of their writing tool. When children are beginning to form letters, we encourage children to follow set formation (generally starting at the top of the letters). Once a child can form their letters correctly, joined writing is introduced (For most children, this is at the end of Key Stage 1) Children are taught correct joins through our lessons using the *Nelson Handwriting* scheme.

Ways you can help at home with handwriting:

- pointing out letters which have a similar formation e.g. the letters **c a o d g q** all start in the same way.
- model writing key words (such as names) using correct letter formation as appropriate for the level of your child's progression.
- praising good effort in handwriting, especially if the error is a 'reasonable' attempt, before correcting any mistake.
- encouraging other development of fine motor skills, such as colouring in or drawing, as well as giving ample opportunity to write.