Handwriting at Cherbourg

Why do We Teach Handwriting at Cherbourg (Intent):

Handwriting is a means of recording language on paper, using a generally understood system of symbols. It is an important life skill as a functional tool for expressing language and as part of self-image and expression of personality. Despite the increased use of computers for writing, the skill of handwriting remains important in education, employment and in everyday life.

The National Curriculum for English (2014) defines the two dimensions of the writing process as:

* ***transcription*** (spelling and handwriting)

***** ***composition*** (articulating ideas and structuring them in speech and writing)

It requires that teaching develops pupils' competence in both dimensions.

'Writing also depends on fluent, legible and, eventually, speedy handwriting.'

As a school, we recognise that children's ability to write well for the rest of their lives, depends on firm foundations of taught skills in their primary years.

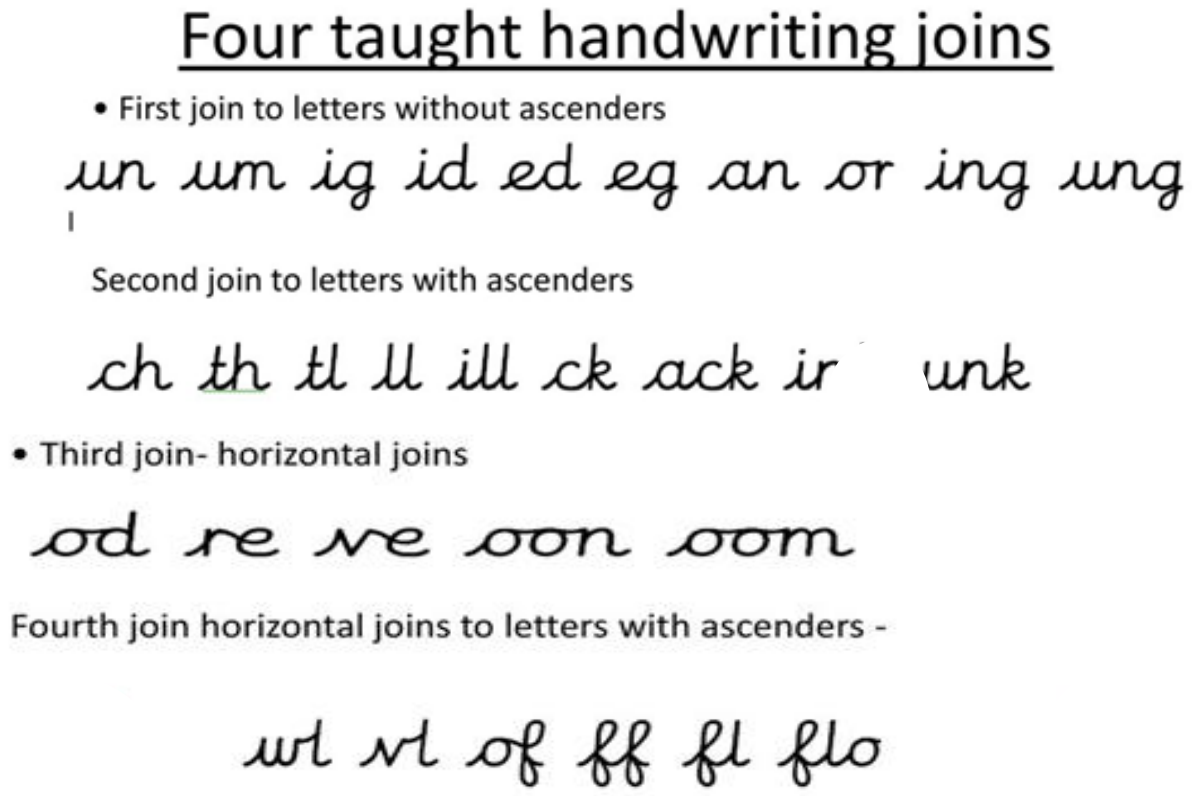
How do we teach Handwriting at Cherbourg? (Implementation):

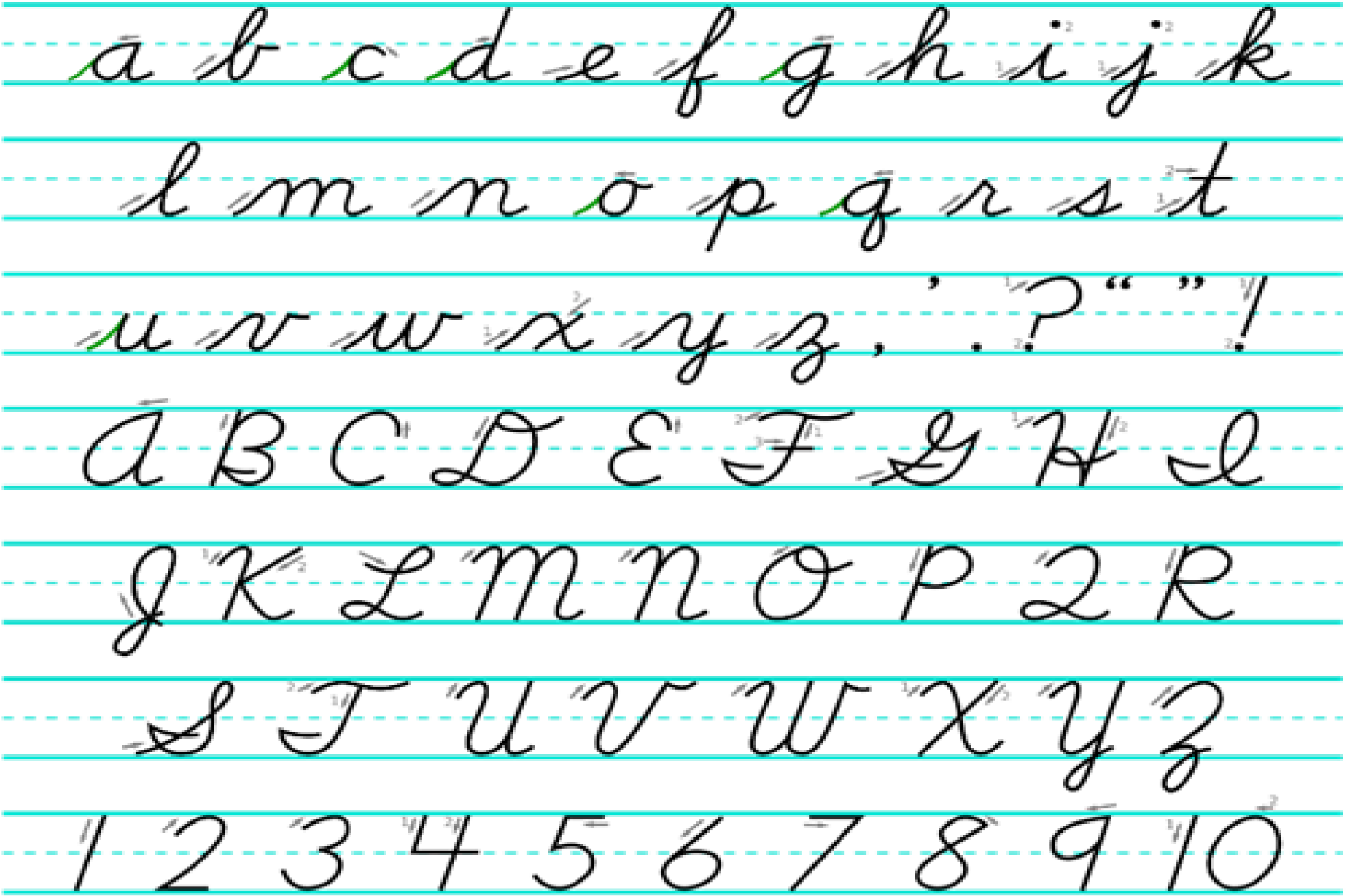
Our aims in teaching handwriting are for all children to learn and practise appropriate and effective handwriting skills at each stage of development, continually working towards mature handwriting which is:

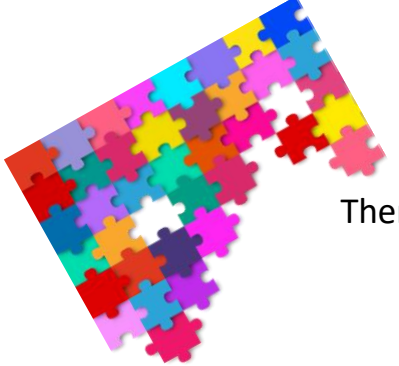
- Legible
- Presentable
- Comfortable
- Fluent
- Flexible

- Fast
- Automatic
- Sustainable

At Cherbourg Primary school, we teach ***cursive handwriting*** as research shows there are several benefits to this approach:
By making letters in one movement, children's hand develop a 'physical memory' of it, making it easier to produce the correct shape.
All letters flow from left to right, when writing in English, so it is less likely for children to reverse letters.
Cursive handwriting encourages a clear distinction between upper and lower case letters.
The continuous flow of writing ultimately improves the speed and accuracy of writing, as well has aiding accurate spelling.




a b c d e f g h i j k
l m n o p q r s t
u v w x y z , . ? " " !
A B C D E F G H I
J K L M N O P Q R
S T U V W X Y Z
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10





How you can help at home

There are lots of fantastic activities you and your child can try at home which support handwriting.

Jigsaw puzzles

Threading beads or pasta on to string, pipe cleaners, shoelaces, etc.

Playing with play dough – this could also include using the dough to make numbers and letters

Colouring activities

Building with construction kits, such as Lego or Meccano

Dot to dots



Posting shapes through holes

Pegging out washing



Cutting activities

Sorting small objects

Making the letters and words out of pipe cleaners

Tracing over numbers, letters and words





Drawing numbers and letters in a tray or plate of sand/flour/salt

Writing the letters or words in the air, also known as ‘air writing’

Using chalk or water and a paintbrush to write numbers and letters on a path or wall outside

Painting – including using the pait to form number, letters and words

Remember that if your child sees you writing then they are likely to follow and join in!











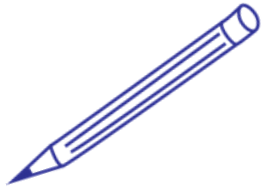
Things to remember:

All the letters start on the line.

The majority of letters finish on the line with a 'flick' ready to join the next letter.

The pencil does not leave the page until the word is finished.

't' and 'x' are crossed and the 'i' is dotted, once the word is written.



Pencil grip:

Encourage your child to hold their pencil comfortably between the thumb and forefinger with the middle finger providing support. It is important that guidance is sought from school if you are unsure as children develop a grip at different times and shouldn't be forced.

What is our Intended Impact?:

- Pupils are confident and keen to write
- Pupils can write ***fluently and legibly***
- ***Pupils can write efficiently and quickly***
- Pupils are proud of their writing