Kindness Teamwork Curiosity

At Bushfield Road Infant School, our Handwriting curriculum is designed to develop fluent, legible, and confident writers through a systematic approach to letter formation, presentation, and handwriting fluency. Using a non-pre-cursive manuscript style, pupils are taught through carefully sequenced letter families that mirror the terminology introduced through the Little Wandle programme in Reception, ensuring consistency and continuity as children progress through the school. Handwriting lessons are structured around the progression from letters, to words, to sentences, enabling pupils to apply their developing skills in meaningful contexts.

Our curriculum intent reflects and promotes our core values:

- **Kindness:** We encourage pupils to take pride in their work and support one another in developing their handwriting. Children are taught to celebrate progress, offer positive feedback, and respect the different stages of learning that all pupils experience as they develop confidence and proficiency in handwriting.
- **Teamwork:** Handwriting lessons provide opportunities for pupils to learn alongside their peers, observe good models, and engage in shared discussions about presentation and letter formation. Through collaborative learning and teacher guidance, pupils develop a collective understanding of high standards and support one another in achieving them.
- **Curiosity:** We foster a growth mindset by encouraging pupils to explore how handwriting develops over time and how consistent practice leads to improvement. Pupils are encouraged to reflect on their own progress, evaluate their presentation, and take an active interest in improving the quality and fluency of their written work.

Through our curriculum, pupils develop secure letter formation, appropriate letter sizing, accurate orientation, clear spacing, and increasing fluency. Little Wandle letter families are taught explicitly and revisited regularly, enabling children to build automaticity and confidence in their handwriting. As pupils progress through Key Stage 1, they apply their skills within words, sentences, and extended pieces of writing, developing stamina and pride in presentation across all subjects. Our intent is to prepare pupils not only to become fluent and confident writers but also to develop the perseverance, self-discipline, and attention to detail needed to succeed throughout their education while embodying Kindness, Teamwork, and Curiosity in their learning and personal development.

Curly Caterpillars

Letters: c, o, a, d, g, q, s, e, f

All the letters in this family begin with a curved, anti-clockwise movement. Children are taught to start by going round the Curly Caterpillar before completing the remainder of each letter.

Long Ladders

Letters: l, i, t, u, j, y

All the letters in this family begin with a straight downward stroke. Children start at the top and travel down the Long Ladder before moving in a different direction to complete the letter.

One-Armed Robots

Letters: r, b, n, h, m, k, p

The letters in this family all begin with a downward stroke before returning upwards and curving over, like a robot raising its arm. Note: the curled form of k is used.

Zig Zag Monsters

Letters: v, w, x, z

The letters in this family are formed using diagonal and straight strokes that move back and forth.

Capital Letters

Capital letters are taught explicitly in Year 1 and revisited throughout Year 2. Children learn the correct formation of all capital letters and apply them accurately in their writing.

Lesson format example:

- On the Little Wandle website (on the handwriting section in the resources folder), show the 'Ready to Write' video.
- Using your visualiser, model the letters/word that the children are going to be practising.
- When modelling letters, ensure that Little Wandle letter formation rhymes are used.
- Before and when children go to their tables, remind the children about:
- Correct sitting position: feet flat, knees at 90 degrees, back supported by the chair.
- Encourage children with their non-writing hand to hold and steady their book/paper.

Throughout Key Stage 1, the Little Wandle letter-family terminology of Curly Caterpillars, Long Ladders, One-Armed Robots and Zig Zag Monsters is used consistently to build upon prior learning from Reception.

Year One

Autumn Term One – Curly Caterpillars:

Week	Focus	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1	c,o	c c c c c + cat, can	o o o o o + on, not	cot, cop, cod	cat can	The cat is on top.
2	a,d	a a a a a + ant, and	d d d d d + dog, dig	dad, add	a dog	Dad had a dog.
3	g,q	g g g g g + gap, got	q q q q q + quit, quick	goat, quick	quick goat	The goat is quick.
4	c,o,a,d	c/o + cat, cod	a/d + dad, add	cat, dad, cod	a big dog	The dog had a red tag.
5	g,q	g/q + gap, got	g/q + quick, quit	goat, quit, quick	quick goat	The quick goat can run.
6	whole family	mixed letters + cat, dog	mixed letters + goat, quick	cat,dog,goat	the quick goat	The quick goat is on a log.
7	assessment	family review	family review	word review	sentence review	Assessment

Autumn Term Two – Long Ladders:

Week	Focus	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1	l,i	l + log, lip	i + in, it	lit, lid	in a log	The lid is on.
2	t,j	t + top, tap	j + jam, jet	tip, jam	fast jet	The jet is fast.
3	u,y	u + up, sun	y + yes, yet	yum, yet	yes you	Yes, I can.
4	l,i,t,j	review letters + lit, tip	review + jet,jam	lit,jam,tip	a red jet	The jet is red.
5	u,y	review + up, sun	review + yes,yet	yum, yes	yes we can	Yes, we can run.
6	whole family	mixed words	mixed words	ladder family words	phrase	The puppy is up.
7	assessment	review	review	review	review	Assessment

Spring Term One – One-Armed Robots:

Week	Focus	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1	r,n	rat/run	net/nest	ran/net	red nest	The rat ran.
2	m,p	man/map	pen/pin	map/pin	man map	The man has a map.
3	h,b,k	hat/hen	bat/bug	kit/bat	big hat	The bat is big.
4	r,n,m	review	review	words	phrase	sentence
5	p,h,b,k	review	review	words	phrase	sentence
6	whole family	mixed	mixed	words	phrase	sentence

Spring Term Two – Curly Caterpillars and Zig Zag Monsters:

Week	Focus	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1	s,e	sun/sit	egg/end	set/send	sit set	The sun is hot.
2	f	fan/fit	frog/fun	fit/fan	fun fan	The fan is on.

3	z,v	zip/zap	van/vet	zip/van	red van	The van is red.
4	w,x	web/win	box/fox	wax/box	a big box	The box is big.
5	review	mixed	mixed	words	phrase	sentence
6	review	mixed	mixed	words	phrase	sentence

Summer Term One – Digraphs & Trigraphs:

Week	Focus	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1	ch,sh	chip/chat	shop/ship	chip/shop	big ship	The ship is big.
2	th,ng	thin/that	ring/sing	thing/ring	a ring	The ring is gold.
3	ai,ee	rain/wait	feet/seed	rain/seed	see rain	It will rain.
4	oa,igh	boat/goat	light/night	boat/light	bright light	The light is bright.
5	air,ear	chair/fair	hear/fear	fair/hear	a fair day	I can hear.
6	ure,tch,dge	pure/cure	catch/match	bridge/badge	catch a ball	The bridge is long.

Summer Term Two – Capital Letters:

Week	Focus	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1	A, B, C, D	A B C D	Ant, Ben	Cat, Dog	Ben and Dog	Ben and Dog can run.
2	E, F, G, H	E F G H	Egg, Fish	Goat, Hat	A big Hat	The Goat has a Hat.
3	I, J, K, L	I J K L	Ink, Jam	King, Lion	A King and Lion	The King saw a Lion.
4	M, N, O, P	M N O P	Moon, Nest	Owl, Pig	A Pig and Owl	The Owl sat by the Pig.

5	Q, R, S, T	Q R S T	Queen, Rat	Sun, Tree	A tall Tree	The Rat sat by the Tree.
6	U, V, W, X, Y, Z	U V W X Y Z	Umbrella, Van	Wind, Yak, Zebra	A Zebra in a Van	The Zebra rode in the Van.

Year Two

Autumn Term One – Curly Caterpillars, Long Ladders, One-Armed Robots and Zig Zag Monsters Revision & Common Exception Words:

Week	Focus	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1	c,o,a,d,g,q	c o + door	a d + floor	g q + poor	the poor boy	The poor boy opened the door.
2	l,i,t,j,u,y	l i + because	t j + find	u y + kind	be kind	Be kind because it helps others.
3	r,n,m,p,h,b,k	r n + mind	m p + behind	h b k + child	behind a child	The child stood behind the fence.
4	s,e,f	s e + children	f + wild	children, climb	wild children	The children climb the hill.
5	z,v,w,x	z v + most	w x + only	most, both	both children	Both children can help.
6	all families	old, cold	gold, hold	told, old	cold gold	I was told about the gold.
7	assessment	review	review	review	review	Assessment

Autumn Term Two – Applying Curly Caterpillars, Long Ladders, One-Armed Robots and Zig Zag Monsters in Common Exception Words:

Week	Focus	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1	c,o,a,d,g,q	everybody	even	any	everybody can	Everybody can join in.
2	l,i,t,j,u,y	door	floor	poor	poor child	The poor child sat by the door.
3	r,n,m,p,h,b,k	because	find	kind	be kind	Be kind to everybody.
4	s,e,f	mind	behind	child	behind me	The child stood behind me.
5	z,v,w,x	children	wild	climb	climb high	The children climb high.
6	all families	most	only	both	both can	Both children can help.
7	assessment	review	review	review	review	Assessment

Spring Term One – Common Exception Words:

Week	Focus	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday

1	a,d,e,k	great	break	steak	great steak	The meal was great.
2	b,e,f	pretty	beautiful	after	beautiful flower	The flower is beautiful.
3	f,l,t	fast	last	past	past the gate	We ran past the gate.
4	f,c,g	father	class	grass	green grass	The grass is green.
5	p,l,t	pass	plant	path	down the path	We walked down the path.
6	b,h,m	bath	hour	move	move quickly	We will move soon.

Spring Term Two – Ascenders, Descenders & Sizing:

Week	Focus	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1	Ascenders	l t practice	h b practice	k words	tall letters	Tall letters reach the top line.
2	Descenders	g j practice	p q practice	y words	hanging letters	Descenders drop below the line.
3	Relative size	a c e o s	word practice	sentence practice	neat sizing	Letters are the correct size.
4	Consistency	mixed family words	mixed family words	phrases	sentences	Consistent handwriting throughout.
5	Spacing	spacing words	spacing sentences	editing	phrase practice	Words are clearly spaced.
6	Assessment	review	review	review	review	Assessment

Summer Term One – Fluency & Presentation:

Week	Focus	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1	Curly Caterpillars	c,o words	a,d words	g,q words	phrase	sentence
2	Long Ladders	l,i words	t,j words	u,y words	phrase	sentence
3	One-Armed Robots	r,n words	m,p words	h,b,k words	phrase	sentence
4	Curly Caterpillars	s,e words	f words	word practice	phrase	sentence
5	Zig Zag Monsters	z,v words	w,x words	word practice	phrase	sentence
6	Assessment	review	review	review	review	Assessment

Summer Term Two – Capital Letters:

Week	Focus	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1	A-D	A B C D	Andy, Ben	Cameron, Dave	Camilla and Dug	Ben and Dug can run.
2	E-H	E F G H	Egg, Fish	Goat, Harry	Harry saw a hat	Goats are cheeky!
3	I-L	I J K L	Ink, Jam	King, Larry	The King saw Larry	The King saw a lion.
4	M-P	M N O P	Moon, Nest	Owl, Pig	Pigs like to eat	Nests are in trees
5	Q-T	Q R S T	Queen, Rat	Sun, Tree	A tall Queen	The Queen saw a rat
6	U-Z	U V W X Y Z	Umbrella, Van	Wind, Yak, Zebra	Zebras look pretty	Umbrellas can be big