



## CHARMOUTH PRIMARY SCHOOL

Lower Sea Lane, Charmouth, Dorset DT6 6LR  
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Dear Parents

### Handwriting

As you will be aware from the last newsletter, we are raising the profile of good presentation in children's work across the curriculum. One of the ways that this is being done is by encouraging good handwriting skills so that children can develop a fluent handwriting style as they progress through the school. Obviously there will be a progression of skills that are dependent on age/development and it would be advisable to check with your child's class teacher what stage your child is at so that continuity between home and school can be achieved.

An example of the script can be found below.

*abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz*

As you will see, each letter has a lead-in/entry stroke so that every lower case letter starts on the line. However, it is vitally important that the children understand how each letter is formed and which direction they take their pencil to form the letters accurately. (**These fonts do not join up.** They are intended for the early 'separate letters' stage of learning to write.) For example, the letter h is written by using the entry stroke but the letter needs to be written from the top of the ascender (tall part of the letter) to the bottom of the letter before going up and over to complete the letter.

There are several letters that are known as 'break' letters. These do not join any letter in front of them. These letters are:  
g, j, and y

The letters that have descenders (the part of the letter that hangs below the line) do not have loops. These letters are:  
f, g, j and y



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The following grid outlines the progression of skills in each year group. The teacher will take into consideration the dexterity of each child and make individual assessments about each child's handwriting development.

Reception	Teacher modelling of letter formation Letter formation through exploratory play – sand, paint, body movements
Year One	Teacher modelling of letter formation Letter formation through exploratory play – sand, paint, body movements  Practice letters between lines Join letters when appropriate
Year Two	Teacher modelling of letter formation Practise letters between lines Practice writing words linked to spelling Join letters
Year Three	Teacher modelling of letter formation Join letters
Year Four	Teacher modelling of letter formation Practice sentences – spellings linked to spelling
Year Five	Teacher modelling of letter formation Fluent cursive handwriting
Year Six	Teacher modelling of letter formation Fluent, cursive handwriting

I hope you will find this information helpful in supporting your child in his/her handwriting. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact your child's class teacher.

Yours sincerely

Gillian Morris