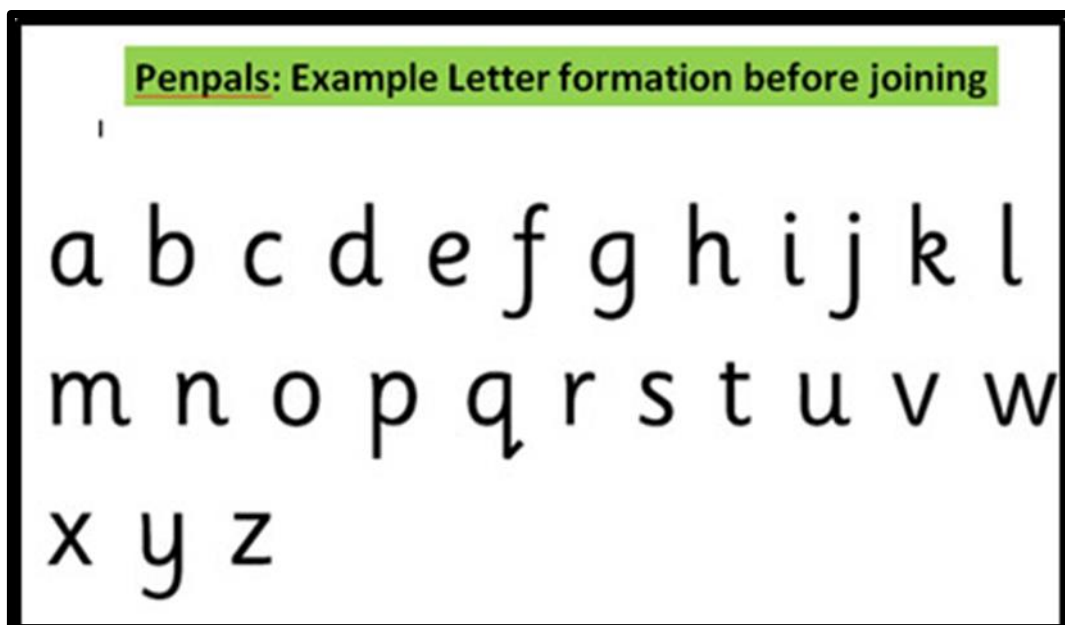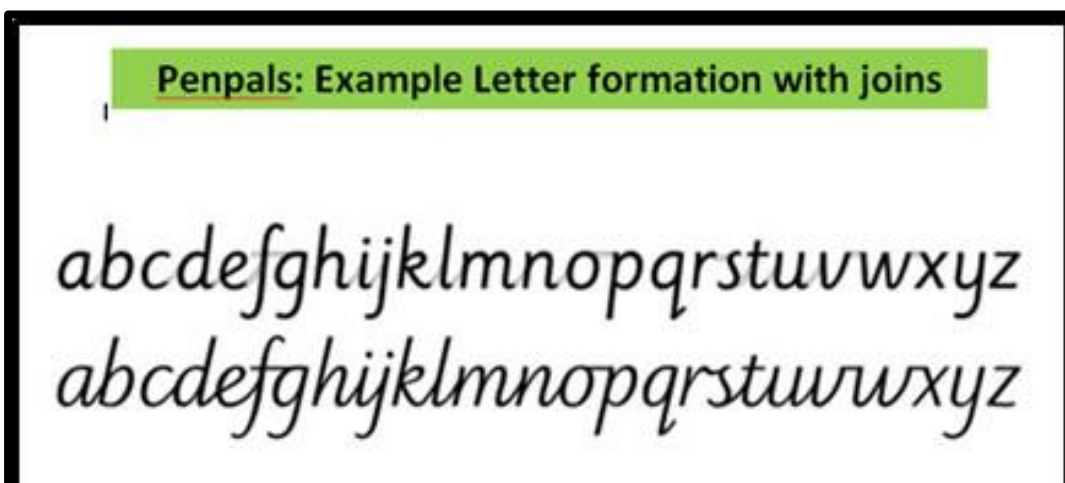# Handwriting in Year 2

By Year Two the majority of children will:

- write legibly, using upper and lower-case letters appropriately and correct spacing within and between words
- form ascenders and descenders consistently and correctly
- practise writing at speed
- form and use the four basic handwriting joins

Formation of letters in Reception, Year One and Two

Penpals: Example Letter formation before joining

abcdefghijkl
mnopqrstuvw
xyz

Formation of letters end of Year Two and above:

Penpals: Example Letter formation with joins

abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz
abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz

How can you help at home?

Fine Motor Control is the term used to describe smaller movements, usually of the hand and fingers (or of the feet and toes). Activities to help include:

Folding paper
Cutting out shapes from paper and card
Fitting things into frames like geometric shapes
Model making
Building and stacking bricks
Screw toys and wood working tools
Pegboards
Modelling with malleable materials like Playdoh, plasticene and clay
Drawing in sand and sand and water play in general, including sieving, pouring and picking up toys using tools e.g. fishing rods and cranes
Sewing and weaving
Peeling fruit
Develop the pincer movement by using tweezers to pick up sequins, beads and feathers, sprinkling glitter, sand and salt
Scribbling and drawing with chalk, dry wipe pens, felt tip pens and paints on small, large boards and easels and on small and large paper
Playing with tactile and magnetic letters
Puzzles
Tracing
Colouring within guidelines and pictures
Pattern work
Painting with the tips of fingers
Threading
Separating beads into colours.

Hand gym/miming activities to relax fingers and hands before handwriting:

Washing
Wringing, rubbing, shaking and folding clothes
Brushing hair
Stroking a cat
Playing a musical instrument
Playing with snow, bubbles, feathers, balloons

Make handwriting a **fun, varied and multi-sensory:**

Write letters in the air, on back or on hands (first backs then palms)
Orally describe letter shapes and joins
Use a variety of writing materials including chalk, felt pens, crayons etc.