**Handwriting in Hedgehog Class**

As adults we are far more familiar with a keyboard or a touchscreen than we are with a pen in the modern age. Handwriting in primary school remains a vital skill for children to learn.

Handwriting contributes to good reading because it activates visual perception of letters. Good handwriting also involves complex motor and cognitive skills. A child that masters handwriting will find future school life much easier.

In Hedgehog class letter formation is taught and practiced every day, initially concentrating on individual letters, ensuring that they are started in the correct direction. The children work on the '**curly c**’ letters first – imagine starting at 1 o’clock, then move anti-clockwise. Letters include – **a, c, d, f, g, o, q, s.**

Next ‘**straight**’ letters that start at the top and travel down – **b, h, i, j, k, l, m, n, p, r, t, u, v, w, x, y.**

Finally, '**side to side'**/ 'left to right'- letters **z & e**

As the individual letters are being mastered, they are joined to make simple words, then the children practice their 'Tricky' words whilst practicing letter formation.  The children practice upper- and lower-case letters, as well as ensuring ascenders and descenders sit correctly on the line.



Eventually the children practice whole sentences, with increasing fluency and accuracy of letter formation.