

# Year 5 Handwriting: A Step-by-Step Guide for Parents

This step-by-step explanation to handwriting can help you support your child's learning at home. Each subject is broken down into manageable chunks, providing you with a simple guide to follow when exploring writing, letter formation and pencil control together, either as part of homework or if you decide to give your child some extra support. Handwriting is a skill that develops at different rates for different children and there are plenty of fun activities you can do to support your child. Some children are still practising and perfecting their joining and improving the fluency of their writing in year 5, whereas others are working more on the broad layout and presentation of their work and are developing their own writing style. Whatever the case, there's a step for your child!

**Within this area of the website**, you will find a selection of resources intended to help your child learn about each step of this guide. Each step also contains a keyword or phrase that you can use to search the Twinkl site for more resources and activities, designed to support your child in achieving that stage. Simply type the keyword or phrase into the search bar and press enter to explore together.

Fine motor warm ups



Click here



We hope you find the information on our website and resources useful. The contents of this resource are for general, informational purposes only. This guide is intended to offer parents general guidance on what subject areas tend to be covered in their child's year group and where they could support their children at home. However, please be aware that every child is different and information can quickly become out of date. There are some subject areas that we have intentionally not covered due to the nature of how they are taught or because a trained professional needs to teach these areas. We try to ensure that the information in our resources is correct but every school teaches the national curriculum in its own way. If you would like further guidance or are unsure in any way, we recommend that you speak to your child's teacher or another suitably qualified professional.

# Handwriting

## What Is Important in Year 5 Handwriting?

In years 5 and 6, children will still practise handwriting and be encouraged to increase their speed so that problems with forming letters do not get in the way of writing. In readiness for secondary school, your child will also need to learn what standard of handwriting is appropriate for a particular task. By contrast to earlier years, they will also be taught that joining letters isn't always the best way to write. Your child will be taught to use an unjoined style for labelling diagrams, writing email addresses, recording results/data, when using algebra in maths or filling in forms.

## How Do Fluency and Speed Make a Difference?

By the final term of year 6, your child will need to write at length in a timed assessment. Your child will also benefit from these skills as a preparation for increased demands in secondary school. For this reason, teachers in year 5 and 6 continue to practise handwriting, but also balance this against the need for speed. Additionally, they'll encourage children to adjust their writing dependent on a task, encouraging printed script and capital letters where convention requires this. For example, most forms that are handwritten are best completed in capital letters, while email addresses are usually completed in unjoined printed lower-case writing.

## What Does the National Curriculum Say About Handwriting?

The national curriculum encourages the development of handwriting across primary school, but makes clear that children do not need to join all their letters. Once they've mastered the necessary strokes and joins, they are encouraged to work out which letters are best joined and which left unjoined. This may well vary according to the type of writing that is being done. For example, it is quicker to not join every letter or start every word on the line if you're writing notes at speed.

### Illuminated Lettering

This type of lettering dates back to the Medieval times and the letters were normally used as the first letter of a page or paragraph. You'll find illuminated letters for colouring in this **Twinkl Illuminated Letters Pack**. This can help your child to understand the beauty of elegant writing while engaging in mindfulness colouring. Why not try it together and get into the moment? You could have each person's bedroom door with their initial on it.

### Shrug Those Shoulders

Get your child to loosen up before writing so that they are in a good sitting posture with their muscles relaxed. Shrugging your shoulders up and down is a great way to loosen up before writing and can be helpful before starting homework or when your child has been writing for a while. Pretending to play the piano on the front of the desk is great for preparing the fingers too!

### Japanese Writing

The writing style used in **this activity sheet** is very different to English script. However, it's great for fine motor practice and recognising that care produces results that are pleasing to the eye.

### Helping Around the Home

What practical writing tasks can your child help with around your home? Perhaps they could write a shopping list or a note to stick on the fridge. Do you have a friend or family member who would like a card? Asking your child to write in everyday situations will help them see the practical uses for good handwriting.

## Step 1

### Fine Motor Warm-Ups

As your child starts to write at greater length, knowing how to exercise your hand is important and can help when getting ready for SATs. These hand exercise cards can help to support your child with fine motor movement as can they strengthen the fingers and help to improve handwriting. You could have your child practise some of these exercises before writing and adopt the ones that work best. When they get tired of writing at length, encourage them to pause and repeat the exercises before continuing.



### Confident Writer

In year 5, children need to be working towards a size of writing that fits between 8mm lines. For some children, this is too small to complete the necessary round-letter shapes and still fit in ascenders (the tall bits of lower-case letters). To help your child build confidence in writing, work out which line guide works best for your child and encourage them to use this at home. When writing letters or doing your own work at home, you could help to boost your child's confidence further by using their favoured line guide. Over time, you may reduce the height of the lines as your child practises.

## Step 2

## Step 3

### Letter Writing

Writing in a specific layout on a page is an important skill to learn when writing for a purpose. Why not look at how an informal letter is formatted? This resource includes information on where to put your own address, the recipient's address, how to sign the letter and more. It's worth running through the guidelines together before planning an actual letter.



### Practical Writing

One of the joys of learning with your child at home is that you can do things practically and for a real purpose. Think of times when your child really ought to write a letter, perhaps to say thank you to a friend's parents for organising a sleepover. Look at this layout format with your child and plan how this will look on a blank page. Select your child's preferred Twinkl line guide from our selection and paper-clip it to a blank sheet of A4. Gently mark where to start the address so that the letter will fit nicely on the paper. Discuss whether it will look neater if your child writes on every other line. What is a suitable ending to round off the letter? As you're writing or when you've finished, why not use this letter writing checklist to make sure you've included all you need?

## Step 4



# Explore and Discover More

Twinkl Go! is a digital platform, hosting interactive content such as videos, games, audiobooks and more. Twinkl Go! enables digital content to be streamed to your computer or mobile device.



twinkl  
Go!



twinkl  
Book Club

Twinkl Book Club is our book subscription service. Enjoy our original works of fiction in beautiful printed form, delivered to you each half-term and yours to keep!



twinkl  
Boost

Twinkl Boost is a range of intervention resources, created to support and lift learning with children at every level. These include our easy-to-use SATs and Phonics Screening resources.



twinkl  
imagine

Imagine resources are designed to help your children to think creatively, question and imagine. Every week, a new topic consisting of five photos, each with related activities, is created.



twinkl  
ORIGINALS

Twinkl Originals are engaging stories written to inspire pupils from EYFS to KS2. Designed to encourage a love of reading and help curriculum-wide learning through accompanying resources.



twinkl  
KIDS' TV

Twinkl Kids' TV is our wonderful YouTube channel dedicated to fun and informative video-style resources full of new and creative activities you can try at home!