

## **The Benefits of Effortless, Neat Handwriting:**

Handwriting is more than just a form of communication; it's a fundamental skill that offers a wide range of benefits for your child's cognitive development. Here are some of the key advantages:

### **Enhanced Reading and Spelling Skills:**

Handwriting skills are closely linked to literacy. Through the act of forming letters and words, children develop a better understanding of the written language, aiding them in reading and spelling.

### **Improved Memory and Recall:**

Handwriting promotes memory retention. The physical act of writing helps children remember information better than simply typing it. This can be a valuable tool for study and learning.

### **Reduced Mental Strain:**

Laboured handwriting can be mentally draining, diverting valuable mental resources away from the creative aspects of writing. When handwriting is smooth and effortless, it allows children to focus more on expressing their ideas and thoughts effectively.

### **Increased Motivation to Write:**

We believe that children should take pride in their presentation. When handwriting is perceived as a chore, motivation to write may diminish. By contrast, when children take pride in their handwriting and find it enjoyable, they are more likely to engage in writing activities willingly and frequently.

### **Efficiency in Academic Tasks:**

As children progress through their education, they will need efficient handwriting skills for note-taking, test-taking, and other academic tasks. Legible, joined-up writing is an invaluable asset in these situations.

Here at Our Lady of the Wayside, we are on a journey to improve handwriting. Since the introduction of our handwriting improvement initiative in September 2023, we are pleased to report notable progress in children's penmanship skills. The concerted efforts of teachers, parent and pupils have yielded very positive results, showcasing improved neatness and fluency in cursive writing.

As an additional incentive in school, children who demonstrate consistent improvement in their handwriting, achieving consistent, neat and fluent cursive writing, will be eligible for a "Pen Licence" starting from Year 3 upwards.

The pen we recommend is the blue-ink Pilot Erasable Refillable Frixion pen:

[https://www.amazon.co.uk/Pilot-Frixion-Erasable-Rollerball-Pack/dp/B005ELBX7Y/ref=sr\\_1\\_5?keywords=frixion%2Bpens&qid=1702837155&sr=8-5&th=1](https://www.amazon.co.uk/Pilot-Frixion-Erasable-Rollerball-Pack/dp/B005ELBX7Y/ref=sr_1_5?keywords=frixion%2Bpens&qid=1702837155&sr=8-5&th=1)

Here is a link for the refills:

[https://www.amazon.co.uk/Frixion-0-7-Pilot-Refill-Rollerball/dp/B06XTMYSCY/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?crid=1K0EQKUN8DQO5&keywords=pilot+frixion+pen+refill&qid=1702838001&srefix=pilot+frixion+pen+refill%2Caps%2C134&sr=8-1](https://www.amazon.co.uk/Frixion-0-7-Pilot-Refill-Rollerball/dp/B06XTMYSCY/ref=sr_1_1?crid=1K0EQKUN8DQO5&keywords=pilot+frixion+pen+refill&qid=1702838001&srefix=pilot+frixion+pen+refill%2Caps%2C134&sr=8-1)

Our ultimate goal is to help our children achieve joined, legible writing that they can be proud of and that will support them throughout their educational journey. Your support in helping your child work on their handwriting skills at home will go a long way in reinforcing what we teach in the classroom. Together, we can help them develop not only as writers but as confident, expressive individuals.