

# Kings Langley Primary School

## Handwriting Information to Parents

updated January 2013

Handwriting is a physical skill that demands attention to detail.

Learning how to sit, how to use a 'presser', the optimum angle at which to place the paper and how to hold the writing tool are all important factors. These can be remembered as the '4Ps'.

1. Posture
2. Presser
3. Paper position
4. Pencil/Pen hold

### Posture

- You should have two feet on the floor, making sure that your body faces the table.
- The chair should be a comfortable distance from the table.
- You should be able to rest your elbows and forearms on the table.
- Your non-writing hand should support the work.

### Presser

A presser is a supportive piece of paper to put underneath the paper that you are writing on. This will increase the ease with which you write.

### Paper Position

The angle of the paper is very important, especially for left handed writers.

#### **-Right handed writers:**

- Angle the paper slightly so that the bottom-left corner is lower than the bottom-right corner of the work.
- The non-writing hand should support the work, preventing it from moving.

#### **-Left handed writers:**

- You need to be able to see what you are writing.
- Angle the paper so that the bottom-right corner is lower than the bottom-left corner.
- The non-writing hand should be placed above the writing hand. This makes sure nothing gets in the way of the writing hand, as well as stopping a hook-grip from developing.

### Pencil/pen hold

By the end of Year 1 a pupil's grasp should have developed from holding a pencil/pen with more than one finger on the barrel, to holding it between the pads of the thumb and index finger. Writers should be encouraged to hold the pencil/pen at least 2cm from the point. A good guide is that pencils should be held on the coloured part of the shaft, not the wood at the tip. This encourages better hand movement and improves fine motor control.

Year 1 children are taught 'flicks in' and 'flicks out.'

In Year 2, when a child is ready, joins are introduced. Once a child has grasped a fully cursive style, they are given their 'pen licence' and are issued with a school pen.

## Letter Formation

a b c d e f g h i j k

l m n o p q r s t u

v w x y z

A B C D E F G H I J K

L M N O P Q R S T U

V W X Y Z

The quick brown fox  
jumps over the lazy  
dog.

- The pink dot indicates the starting point of each letter