

Reception Writing expectations

Expected by Autumn Term - <i>Italic for baseline</i>	Expected by Spring Term	Expected by Summer Term - Bold ELGs	Achieved
Use a comfortable grip with good control when holding pens and pencils			
Show a preference for a dominant hand			
Use some of their print and letter knowledge in their early writing. E.g.: writing a pretend shopping list that starts at the top of the page; writing 'm' for mummy			
Write some or all of their name			
Write some letters accurately (letters familiar to them such as letters in their name)			
Begins to hear initial sounds in words and write them			
Read individual letters by saying the sounds for them			
Begin and continue to teach formation as they learn the sounds for each letter using a memorable phrase, encouraging an effective pen grip. (When forming letters, the starting point and direction are more important at this stage than the size or position of the letter on a line)			
Develop their small motor skills so that they can use a range of tools (pencils / mark making tools) competently and confidently			
Continue to develop the foundations of a handwriting style which is fast, accurate and efficient			
Use their developing phonic knowledge to write things such as labels and captions			
Begin to write simple sentences			
Begin to form lower-case and capital letters correctly - Continue to teach formation as they learn the sounds for each letter using a memorable phrase, encouraging an effective pen grip. (When forming letters, the starting point and direction are more important at this stage than the size or position of the letter on a line)			
Spell words by identifying the sounds and then writing the sound with letter/s			
Write short sentences with words with known letter-sound correspondences using a capital letter and full stop			
Re-read what they have written to check that it makes sense			
Hold a pencil effectively in preparation for fluent writing – using the tripod grip in almost all cases			
Write recognisable letters, most of which are correctly formed			
Spell words by identifying sounds in them and representing the sounds with a letter or letters			
Write simple phrases and sentences that can be read by others			