**Cursive Handwriting **

From September 2014, junior infants will be introduced to cursive writing. An intensive pre-writing programme to strengthen finger muscles will take place, prior to any letter formation.

The reasons we have chosen to start cursive handwriting in junior infants are as follow:

* Avoids having to learn to write twice
* Cuts out letter reversals (b and)
* Stops use of capital letters in the middle of words
* Cursive writing is faster and less tiring
* Helps spelling
* Looks lovely when perfected
* elps spelliRecommended for children with dyslexia

We have complied a FAQ section below, to help answer any questions you may have.

1. Is cursive handwriting not more complicated to learn?

Actually, cursive handwriting requires less movement than print. Also, unlike print **all cursive letters start in the same place**. Before we begin to form any letters, children will take part in a pre-writing programme to strengthen finger muscles.

1. Is it not confusing for children to write in a different style to the print they see in books?

The children will learn 2 alphabets- a reading and writing alphabet. This is common practice in many European countries e.g. France and research shows this is not a major problem.

1. Surely it must be more difficult for children who struggle with reading and writing?

Again research says not. Cursive handwriting rules out any letter reversals and aids spelling. It is recommended by the British Dyslexia Association.

1. I don’t write in cursive. How do I help my child?

You can help your child in 2 very important ways.

Help your child to hold their pencil correctly. (Tip sheet will be sent home)

Work on their motor control skills using tip sheet given out at induction.

1. My child has started to print already. What should I do?

Let them write! Mark making and copying shapes is a stage in learning to write.

As we will be learning to form each new letter together and from scratch, previous experience (or lack of!) is not an issue.



Once we start forming letters, a video clip showing correct formation will be posted on the school website. We will also keep you informed of new letters, in our monthly newsletters.