



Believe, Strive, Achieve

Winklebury Federation

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Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to inform you about an update to how we teach writing across the school, following the Department for Education's new National Writing Framework (July 2025).

As a school, we are implementing this framework to ensure our teaching reflects the very best practice. A key focus of the new framework is transcription skills, placing a strong emphasis on helping children to develop:

- Accurate handwriting, with correctly formed and consistent letters
- Secure spelling, enabling pupils to write words confidently and correctly

The framework highlights that mastering these foundational skills is essential before children can write fluently and at length. By strengthening handwriting and spelling, children are better able to focus on expressing their ideas clearly.

Developing strong fine motor skills is an essential foundation for confident, fluent handwriting. In school, we support this through fun, practical activities to help children strengthen the small muscles in their hands and fingers. These playful routines improve coordination, dexterity, and hand control.

In Reception, handwriting is taught alongside phonics using the Little Wandle Handwriting Programme, ensuring correct letter formation is embedded from the earliest stages of writing. From Year 1 to Year 6, we follow the Letter-join Printed Progression Programme. This provides a clear and consistent progression in handwriting skills, building on the foundations established in Reception.

In Year R and Year 1 spelling is developed through the Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Phonics Programme. In Year 2, spelling is taught using the Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised Spelling Programme supporting pupils as they transition from phonics to more complex spelling patterns. From Years 3 to 6, spelling is delivered through Spelling Shed. This provides a structured and progressive approach to the teaching of spelling, reinforcing statutory word lists and spelling rules. We also encourage children to take pride in their work and check it carefully.

You can support your child at home by:

- Encouraging neat and careful handwriting in homework
- Practising spelling patterns and key words
- Providing opportunities for writing, such as lists, stories, or letter
- Using playdough or putty to build hand strength (roll, squeeze, pinch, flatten).
- Encourage "finger workouts" with household items (pegs, tweezers, threading beads).
- Encourage drawing, colouring, and simple crafts (cutting, sticking, folding).
- Involve children in real-life tasks (opening containers, stirring, buttoning, zipping)

We are excited about the positive impact this focus will have on your child's confidence and progress in writing.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

Jane Graydon
English Manager