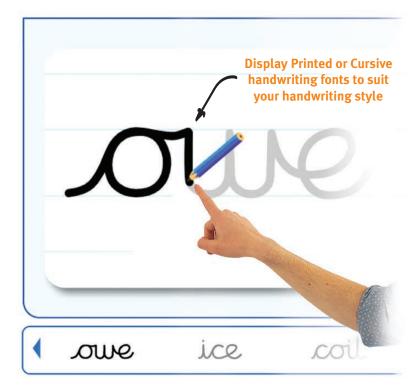
# Letter-join

# Handwriting MANUAL

Letter-join is an on-line, whole school scheme that includes everything you need to teach handwriting.







Lesson Planners for printed and cursive handwriting



Digital handwriting games with a choice of fonts



Pupil log-in for school and home



Worksheets for real handwriting practice

### Contents

# Classroom set-up for teachers

- 4 Classroom set-up
- 5 The Letter-join menu
- 6 The 7 Letter-join fonts
- 7 Font set-up for MS Word
- 38 School Administrator page



# Lesson Planners

**8** Designed for schools wishing to follow a whole school approach to



**EYFS** 

**10** Structured programme to introduce handwriting to Early Years pupils.

Lesson Planner MODULE 1 Print and Cursive



KSI

14 Resources to teach other character sets and to reinforce and practise handwriting.

Lesson Planner MODULES 2 & 3 Print and Cursive



KS2

20 Exercises to promote fluent and legible handwriting to help reach National Curriculum expectations.

Lesson Planner MODULES 4 to 7 Cursive



### Resources

- 24 Introduction
- **26** Printout sheets
- **29** Worksheet Generator
- 30 Dictation Exercises
- 32 On-line Word Processor
- 34 Word Animator and Word Banks

# School Admin & Tech

- 40 The School Administrator page How to personalise Letter-join for vour school.
- 42 Letter-join for pupils at home Access Letter-join at home.

#### 43 Installing fonts

Downloading and installing Letter-ioin fonts on PCs and across networks.

43 LearnPad installation

Access Letter-join on a Learn Pad.

#### RECOMMENDED **BROWSERS**





# Welcome to Letter-join

Letter-join is a whole school handwriting scheme offering teachers the option to start teaching handwriting using either printed or cursive letters.

The Letter-join website is continuously updated with new resources providing the most comprehensive and enjoyable handwriting scheme for teachers and pupils. If you are new to Letter-join, register for a free trial at www.letterjoin.co.uk



Recently added to Letter-join: a new printed font, Print Plus, and linked resources for Early Years and Key Stage 1.

# **Essential Letter-join**

#### Letter-join in the classroom

Letter-join is an online handwriting resource for teaching handwriting on interactive whiteboards. It includes animations, touch-screen activities, cursive and printed fonts, lesson planners and access to hundreds of practice worksheets.

#### **Choice of Letter-join fonts**

Class teachers can choose Cursive or Printed fonts to use for online resources and printouts. School subscribers can download fonts to use in MS Word.

#### Alternative letterforms

Letter-join cursive fonts include alternative letterforms for f, k, w, x and z. The printed font has alternative letterforms for f and k.

#### Letter-join practice worksheets

Letter-join contains worksheets and printouts in PDF format. These will use your class choice of font and your school's preferred letterforms.

#### Letter-join on iPads and tablets

Letter-join access on iPads and tablets is included with school subscriptions. Letter-join's fun, touchscreen activities are compatible with most Apple, Android and Windows tablets.

#### Free home access for your children

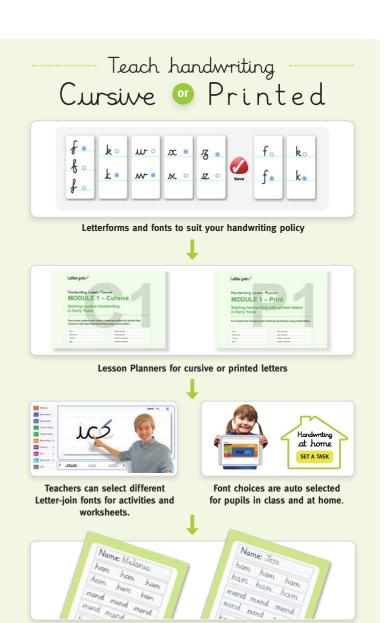
Letter-join includes free access for pupils to log in to Letter-join at home on PCs and tablets.

#### Handwriting Lesson Planners

For schools wishing to follow a structured handwriting plan, there are handwriting Lesson Planners for all year groups. There is also a Handwriting Assessment Tracker and Handwriting Recovery Programme.

#### Handwriting Policy Document

Letter-join includes a curriculum-based Handwriting Policy that can be personalised by schools.



Choose and print worksheets in your chosen font for real handwriting practice.

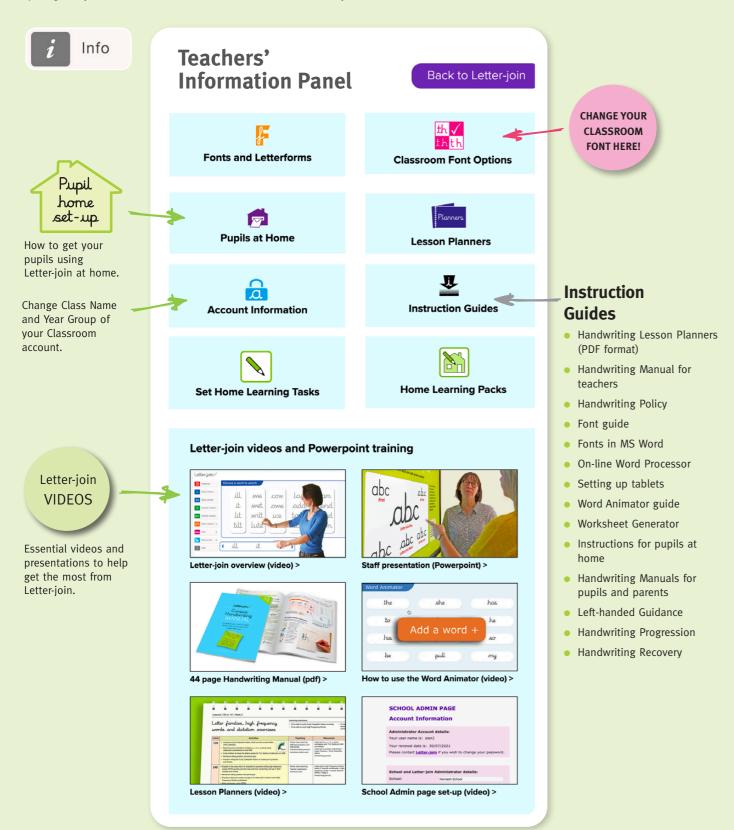
2 LETTER-JOIN HANDWRITING MANUAL LETTER-JOIN HANDWRITING MANUAL 3

Search here to find any

Letter-join worksheet

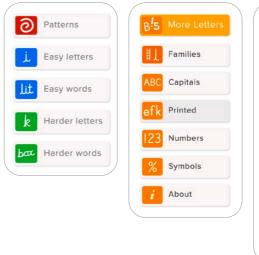
# Classroom Set-up

Click on the Info button on any Letter-join web page for essential classroom information.

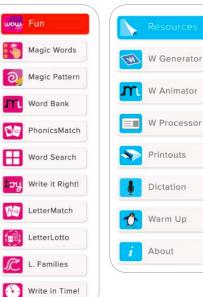


# The Letter-join menu

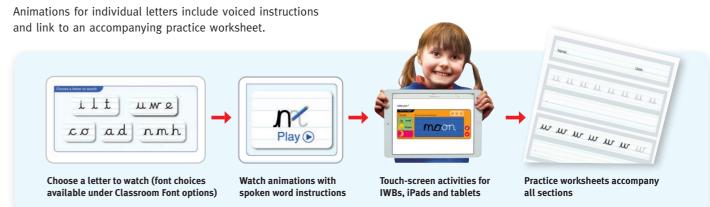








### Letter-join workflow: animation to worksheet



CLASSROOM SET-UP

# Letter-join cursive and printed fonts

#### **Individual class fonts**

Class teachers can use any Letter-join font for their class by clicking the 'Info' button and choosing 'Classroom Font Options'. The chosen font will be used for all Letter-join activities.



#### Letter-join fonts for MS Word

Letter-join fonts can be downloaded by school subscribers from the Admin page for use in MS Word. See 'Installing fonts' page 43.

#### Letter-join fonts: use without a download

The Letter-join on-line Word Processor is designed to produce documents using Letter-join fonts, without needing to download to a computer. Find out more on page 32.

#### Watch Letter-join Font Videos

letterjoin.co.uk/videos.html

#### Letter-join Plus

Letter-join Plus is a continuous cursive font with lead-in and lead-out lines.

the dog ran

#### Letter-join No-lead

Letter-join No-lead has no lead-in line but has a lead-out line that joins to the following letter.

the dog ran

#### Letter-join Air Plus

Letter-join Air Plus is used when wanting to teach continuous cursive letters that are not joined.

the dog ran

#### Letter-join Air No-lead

Letter-join Air No-lead does not include a lead-in line and the letters are not joined.

the dog ran

#### **Letter-join Print Plus**

Letter-join Print Plus has simple exit strokes for letters that end 'on the line'.

the dog ran

#### **Letter-join Print**

Letter-join Print matches the letter style used in Letter-join to teach printed letters.

the dog ran

#### **Letter-join Basic**

Letter-join Basic is designed for use with PowerPoint and Smart Notebook. It is based on Letter-join Plus.

the dog ran

# Display cursive fonts correctly in MS Word

When using any of the Letter-join cursive fonts in Microsoft Word it is important to switch on the Contextual Alternates option to correctly reproduce the cursive letterforms and use the correct joining strokes between letters. Please set-up as shown below.

#### **About Contextual Alternates**

Contextual Alternatives is a typographical term for correctly joining cursive letters together.

#### Letter-join font software compatibility

As well as MS Word, Contextual Alternates is auto-selected by Apple Pages. For programmes that do not have Contextual Alternates, please use the Letter-join Basic font as shown on opposite page.



**CONTEXTUAL ALTERNATES SWITCHED ON** 



CONTEXTUAL ALTERNATES SWITCHED OFF



Please make sure that the Letter-join fonts are installed - see page 43.

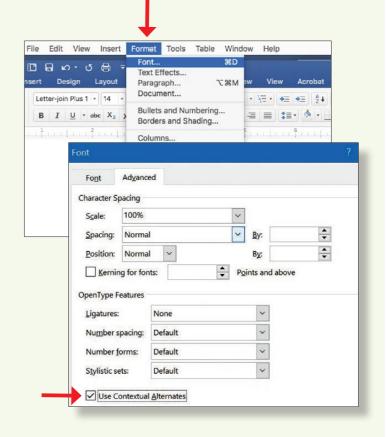
With the Letter-join fonts installed on your computer open MS Word and check that the fonts are displayed in the font list.

If the Letter-join fonts are not listed, re-start MS Word.

#### How to switch on Contextual Alternates:

- Highlight all text.
- Select Format > Font (or Ctrl D).
- Select the 'Advanced' tab.
- Tick the 'Use Contextual Alternates' button.

This option has to be selected every time MS Word is re-opened or alternatively a Word template can be created with Contextual Alternates already enabled.

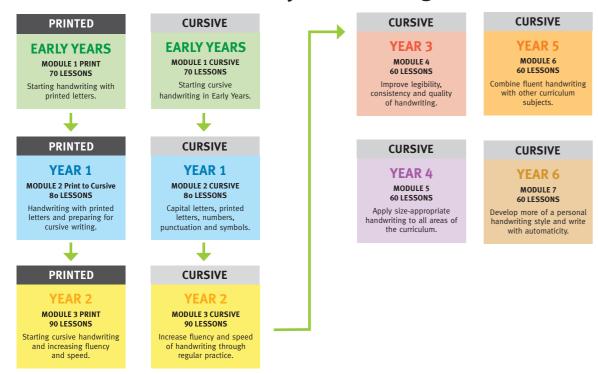


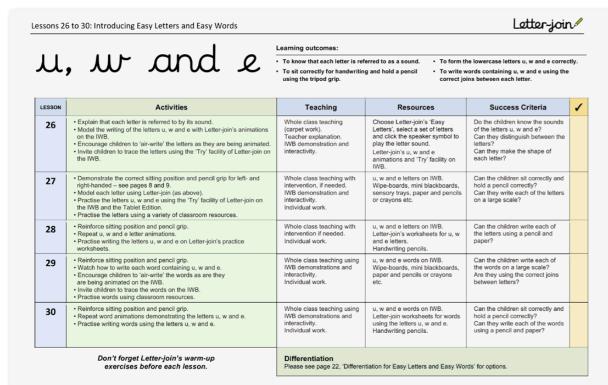
# Handwriting Lesson Planners

The seven Letter-join Lesson Planners provide structured lessons for teaching printed and cursive handwriting.

To suit your school's handwriting policy, Letter-join's Lesson Planners offer two routes into teaching handwriting; either printed or cursive letters in Early Years and Key Stage 1.

### Lesson Planners: Early Years through to Year 6





Lesson Planners are provided in PDF format and can be downloaded from the teachers' 'Info' page.

#### Handwriting worksheets

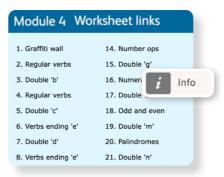
Letter-join Handwriting Lesson plans progress through a series of worksheets combining handwriting practice with SATs revision topics for KS1 and KS2.

Lesson Planners cover each of the key stage requirements and are written by teachers and editors with expertise in EYFS, KS1 and KS2.

They are developed in keeping with the UK National Curriculum and use Letter-join's resources to provide a thorough and interesting way to teach handwriting.

#### **How to download Lesson Planners**

Letter-join Lesson Planners and their corresponding worksheets links can be accessed from the 'Lesson Planners' option on the Teachers Info page.



Each module has links to corresponding worksheets.



Early Years lessons cover all lowercase letters; either printed or cursive fonts.



KS1 and KS2 handwriting practice includes SPaG topics and longer passages of text.

#### **Handwriting Recovery Programme**

Designed for pupils in upper Key Stage 2 and above who require extra support with their handwriting.

#### **Handwriting Assessment Tracker**

Provides a complete scheme to assess pupils' progression in handwriting skills from Early Years to Year 6.



Lesson Planner
MODULE 1 FOR PRINTED
OR CURSIVE LETTERS

# Early Years Foundation Stage

Letter-join offers the option to start teaching handwriting using printed letters, for all resources and worksheets, before moving on to cursive handwriting.

Patterns and pre-writing shapes can be challenging for young pupils, but Letter-join has all the resources needed to introduce the different handwriting strokes.

Letter-join's animations present pre-writing patterns with fun sounds that can be copied by air-writing or by tracing on IWBs, tablets and, most importantly, by practising with a pencil on printed worksheets.

This naturally leads on to the introduction of real letters. Watching and copying the shapes of letters and the various joining techniques, if appropriate, will enable pupils to learn to write simple words at this early stage.



#### **EYFS** touch-screen activities

To complement Letter-join worksheets for patterns, letters and words, children can choose Letter-join's touch-screen activities to enhance writing skills.

Use any Letter-join printed or cursive font to display in activities.

Choose the font that's most appropriate for your class.



#### **Magic Patterns**

A selection of patterns, shapes and mazes for tracing.



#### **Magic Words**

Enter any word to trace on a variety of colourful backgrounds.



#### **Letter Families**

Reinforce the different letter shapes and show children the correct way to write the letters.



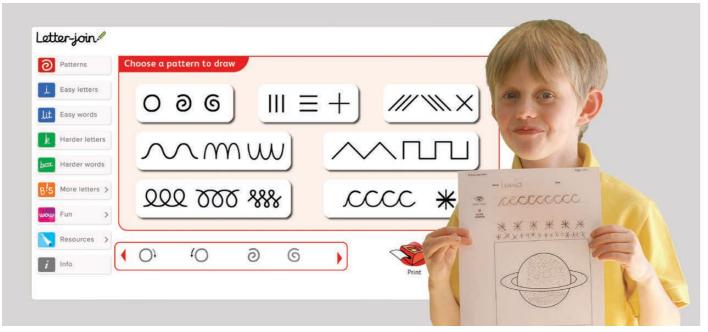
#### PhonicsMatch

Combine handwriting and phonics with Letter-join's fun, interactive phonics resources.



EYFS

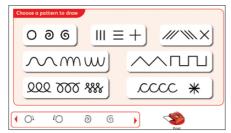
# Develop writing skills with pre-writing patterns



Interactive whiteboard display allows for whole class involvement.

Letter-join provides a selection of fun pre-writing patterns for EYFS pupils that cover all handwriting movements. These encourage fine and gross motor skills as a foundation to handwriting.

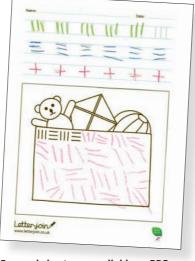
Presented at a large scale the IWB, Letter-join is perfect for practising gross motor skills by air-writing the shapes. Finer control can be gained by finger writing on tablets or with a pencil using the worksheets. Worksheets consist of lines of patterns for tracing using a pencil or crayon and a simple drawing which can be 'coloured-in' using the patterns of that group.



Pre-writing patterns cover all writing shapes.



Watch patterns, such as jellies, with fun sounds.



Fun worksheets are available as PDFs for all the pattern sets for handwriting practice using pencils and crayons.

# Start handwriting using printed or cursive letters

Letter-join has now expanded to include a new Print font and Lesson Planners giving teachers the choice to start teaching handwriting using printed or cursive letters.



# Letters and words made simple

Watch, practise, trace and copy - the easy way to learn handwriting.

Letter-join introduces animations of the letters of the alphabet in a progressive manner starting with 'long ladder letters' and building up to the more complex letter shapes.



Each letter is presented as an animation with a spoken description.

There are also opportunities to 'try' letters and words on IWBs and tablets.



Each set of letters is followed by accompanying words illustrating the joining methods of the letters just practised.

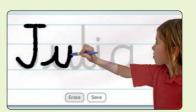
The letter and word sets can be printed in three different sizes for real handwriting practice.



Each set of words also includes a worksheet which models each of the words in a sentence helping children to understand the word in context.



# WORD ANIMATOR Create animations for any word



Use Letter-join's Word Animator to create an animation of any word.

These can be saved into Word Banks for children to use at home.

# WORD BANKS Make class word banks



Word Banks can be easily made into spelling lists and word searches can be accessed by children who log-in to Letter-join at home.

#### CLASSROOM FONT OPTIONS



To change a Letter-join font, click the 'Info' button on any Letter-join page and choose 'Classroom Font Options'.





Animations of letters and words and associated worksheets are available without lead-in lines.



Lesson Planner
MODULES 2 & 3

# Key Stage 1

Handwriting can be fun and Letter-join will help reinforce skills throughout KSI with a mix of touch-screen and traditional activities.

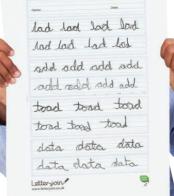
KSI is the time to introduce new letterforms including capital letters, numbers and punctuation. To show the correct letter construction, Letter-join includes animations for all of these, and provides ready-made worksheets for labelling and form-filling using capital and printed letters.

Key Stage I children should be working to produce neater handwriting with consistent spacing. Handwriting speed can be improved and developed using Letter-join's dictation exercises.

Teachers can set home learning tasks for their class, and pupils can log into Letter-join at home, on iPads and tablets, to access the tasks and use Letter-join's other fun activities.

See page 42 for details.

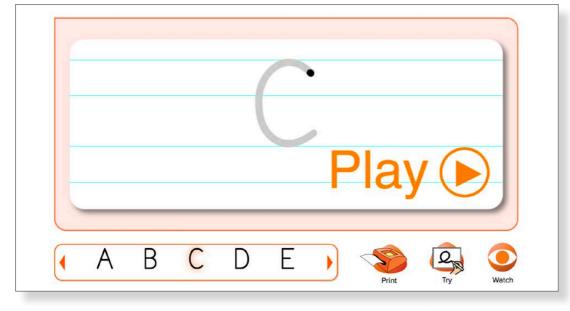




# Developing pupils' handwriting skills

For capitals, numbers and printed letters, try 'More Letters' for touch-screen activities and worksheets.





#### **Capital letters**

Letter-join's animations teach how to form capital letters correctly. To accompany teaching, there are Letter-join worksheets specifically for practising capital letters e.g. writing names, form-filling, crosswords and word searches.



#### **Numbers and symbols**

Touch-screen activities can be used for immediate practice of numbers and symbols. For real handwriting practice there is varied and interesting selection of worksheets.



#### **Printed letters**

KS<sub>1</sub> activities for practising printed letters include labelling diagrams, writing email addresses and worksheets that include a mixture of printed and capital letters, for instance when addressing an envelope.









#### **Practise number writing**

Letter-join includes a full set of times tables worksheets, up to 12 x 12, which are great for practising number writing. They are provided in look, trace and copy format.

Magic Words, in the 'Fun' section, can also be used to practise number writing.



#### Letter-join worksheets in 'Resources'

Capital letters, printed letters, numbers and symbols can be practised using real handwriting on the many worksheets provided in 'Resources'.

For the complete listing of printout sheets, Letter-join users can visit Resources > Printouts. See page 24.

#### Introduce form-filling

Pupils can learn how to write within the constraints of a form using printed and capital letters. Letter-join includes a selection of forms for Key Stages 1 and 2.



#### **Reach Key Stage 1** handwriting standards

• Demonstrate the correct methods for writing upper and lower case letters with the correct joins.



- · Show how to form numerals of the same size that sit on the base line.
- Teach how to write printed letters and use Letter-join's animations and worksheets to practise how they are used.



- Ensure that pupils know how much space to leave between words.
- Encourage pupils to write longer passages of text to build up endurance using the Dictation Exercises.
- Use Letter-join's worksheets to ensure that letters sit on the base line and are consistent in size with correctly formed ascenders and descenders.





# **Letter-join's Magic Words – touch-screen activities**

Magic Words is a great way for KS1 pupils to type in their own words and practise their handwriting using the touch-screen capabilities of iPads and tablets. Class teachers are able to select the Letter-join font they wish their pupils to practise with. There are five exciting, colourful backgrounds and a simple star reward function, which pupils will enjoy using on their tablets at school and at home.













### **Practise speedy writing with Dictation Exercises**

Letter-join's Dictation Exercises are a great way to introduce speedy writing and help build up stamina. Dictation Exercises help with children's listening skills and in learning how to revise and edit their writing.

The dictation exercises for KS1 start with a simple spelling list, a list of 2-digit numbers and an easy poem.



ruiet	piedo be ginte	Produce be quite.
	po your boot	Do your best.
	Time to play	Time to play.
ouch	Do not tuch	Do not touch.
shows	The your shows	Til your shoes
	Est your apple	Eatyour apple
	Brush yarteeth	Brush your teeth
	Today is suny	Troday is surry
Wrip	Raptup	Wrap it up

A dictation list written out as a first draft and a final copy.

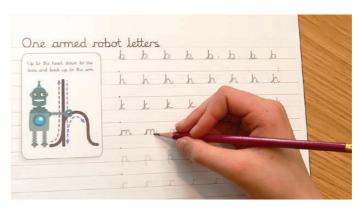
See page 30 for more information about Dictation Exercises.

# Try Letter Families worksheets and touch-screen activity

Help pupils become familiar with similar letter shapes and become confident at writing differently formed characters.

Using the familiar format of long ladders, curly caterpillars, one-armed robots and zig-zag letters, Letter-join's Letter Families worksheets can be printed out for tracing and copying.

To strengthen letter formation and to learn which letters belong to each family, try the Letter Families touch-screen activity, under the 'Fun' tab.





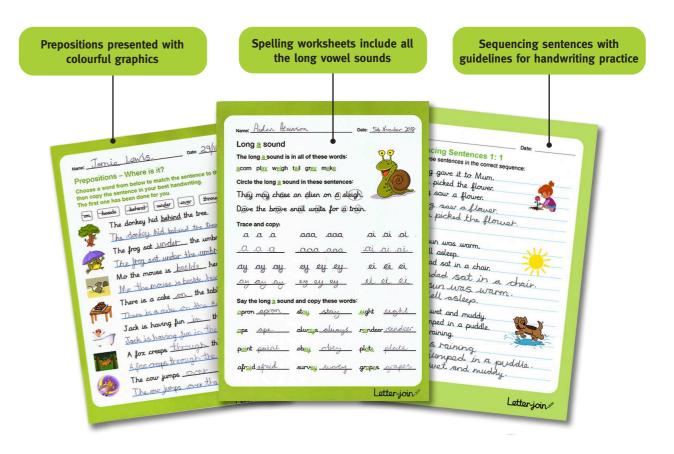
#### **Handwriting worksheets**

Handwriting and spelling go together and Letter-join provides many spelling worksheets for practising handwriting.

These include: pangrams, high frequency words, cloze sentences, word spacing and joining techniques. See pages 26 to 28 for more worksheet examples.

#### **SPaG** practice worksheets

A series of worksheets which specifically cover spelling, punctuation and grammar practice. As well as providing excellent revision and homework sheets, the printouts also provide plenty of handwriting practice. KS1 worksheets are available with printed or cursive fonts.

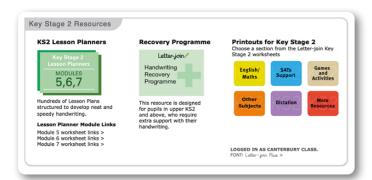


# Key Stage 2

Ready for the final round of handwriting challenges? When pupils master these they'll be true handwriting champions!

Building on KSI skills, pupils will be writing passages of text neatly and speedily, labelling diagrams using printed letters appropriately and filling in forms using legible writing.

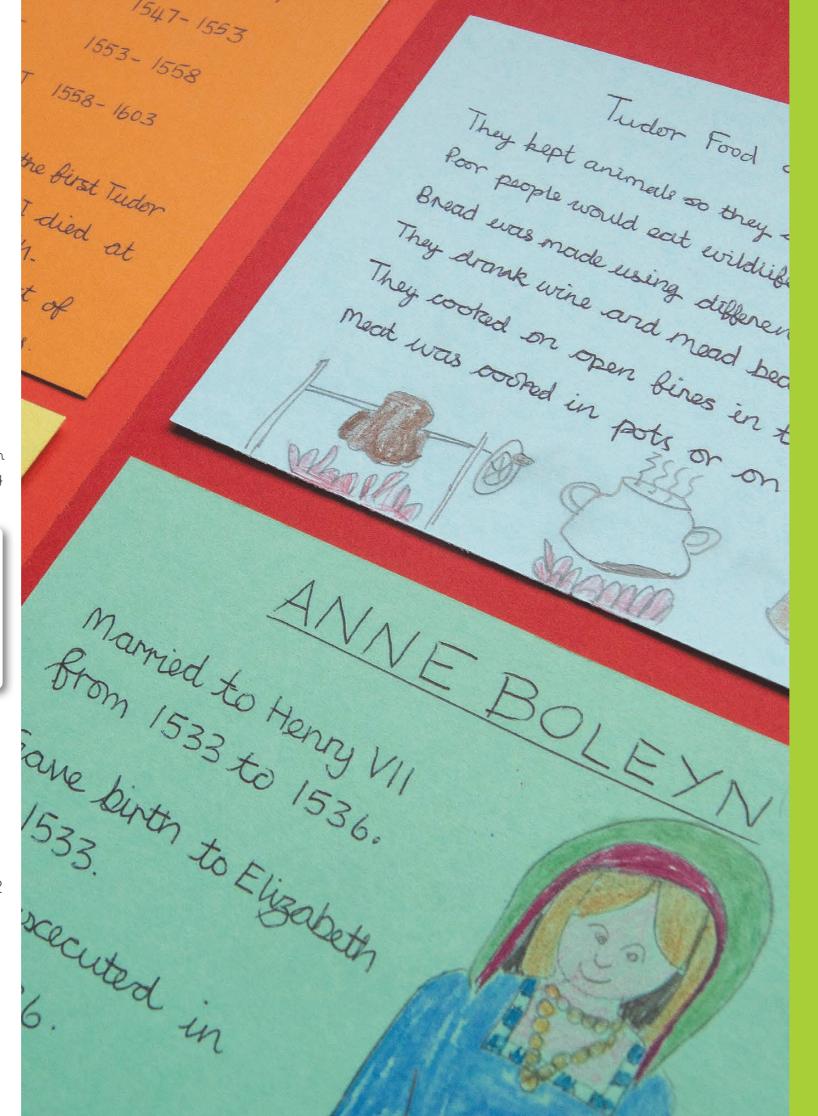
Letter-join's KS2 teaching resources will help pupils acquire a feel for neatness and quality in their final handwritten work. Audio dictation lessons (see page 22) will develop handwriting stamina when writing.



KS2 home page with quick links to a range of resources.

Log in to Letter-join as a Key Stage 2 class (see 'Classroom Options' on page 4) and Letter-join will display a page of links to a range of resources specifically for KS2. This includes quick links to Lesson Planner worksheets and the Handwriting Recovery programme, and direct links to categorised KS2 worksheets and resources.

With the support of Letter-join, pupils will have covered all the criteria necessary by the end of Year 6 to reach the standards set out in the National Curriculum for handwriting.



# Let's try...

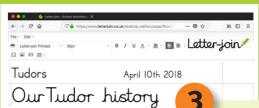
Practise topic spellings using the Word Animator and the On-line Word Processor

Build animations of words for whiteboard and tablet practice and send to the Letter-join Word Processor to create 'look, trace and copy' spelling lists.





Share classroom Word Banks with pupils to watch and



Choose to make a spelling list or word search to extend Word Bank activities

Look	Trace	Сору
school		
guillotine	gullotine	
king	king	
queen	queen.	
abdication	abdication	
government	government	
voyage	voyage	
Elizabeth		

See page 32 for details of the On-line Word Processor and page 34 for details of the Word

# Accomplishing neat handwriting

Introducing Letter-join's advanced handwriting exercises to reach KS2 National Curriculum standards.

# Challenging dictation exercises for KS2

These exercises will help with stamina, speedy note-taking and encourage proof-checking and editing.



#### **Write in Time!**

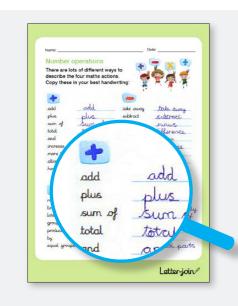
A handwriting activity for Key Stage 2 children that provides the opportunity to practise fast and fluent handwriting which is neat and legible. To play the game, children choose from eight familiar KS2 topics. The more words that are neatly written, the higher the award given.





**Curriculum topics** 

Letter-join provides opportunities to link handwriting practice to other areas of the curriculum and combines handwriting practice with other KS2 tasks such as statutory word lists.





# The National Curriculum tasks Key Stage 2 pupils with aiming for quality, speed and stamina.

Letter-join's resources will help to attain this target and provides worksheets and exercises to help improve handwriting.

The National Curriculum criteria for KS2 handwriting includes:

#### **Quality:**

Ensure that letters are of consistent size with equal word spacing and that ascenders and descenders are parallel and do not interfere with the writing on the above or below lines.

#### Speed:

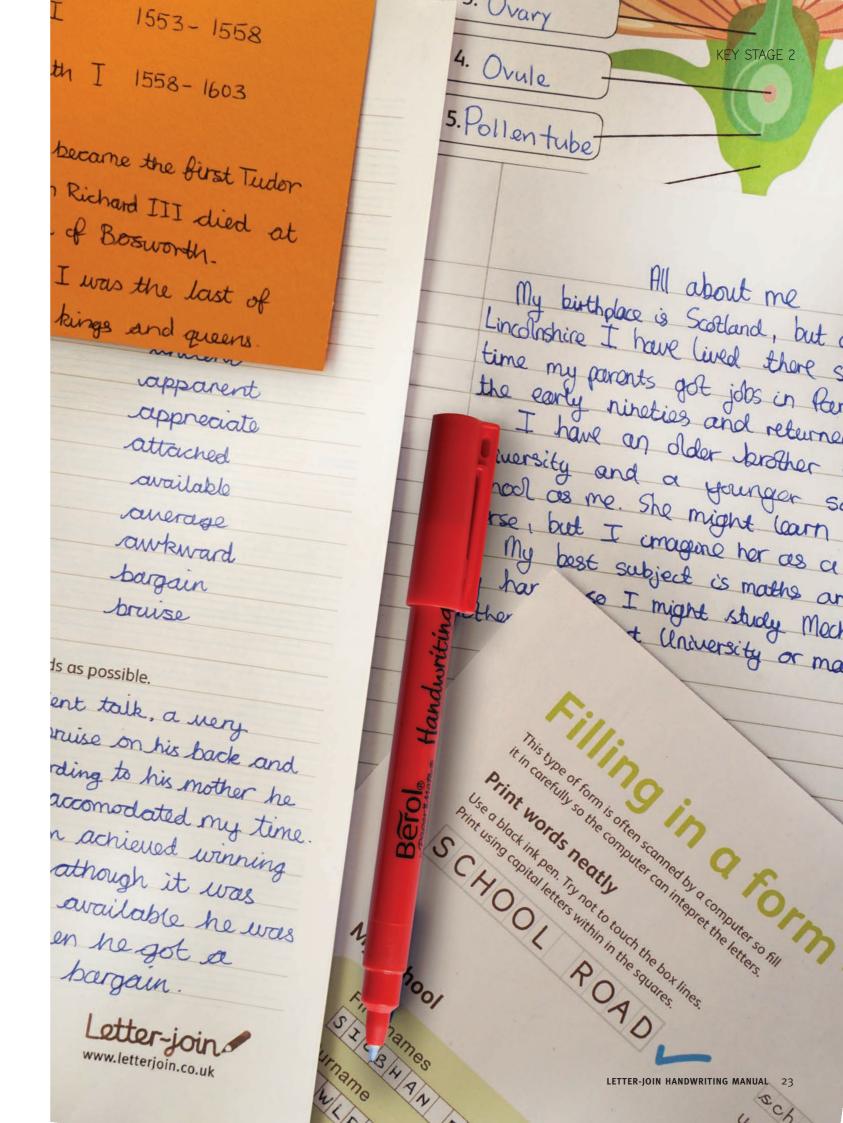
Improve speed of handwriting to allow creative writing to take precedence over the task of handwriting and be able to take 'quick notes' at a faster pace.

#### Stamina:

Have the strength and mobility to be able to write for longer periods of time without fatigue.

Pupils are expected to have full knowledge of different kinds of handwriting for different purposes including:

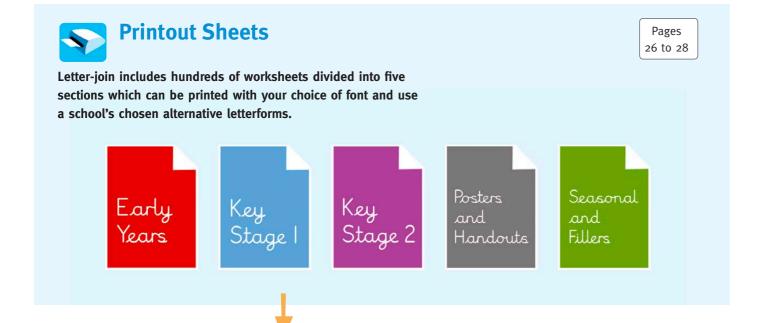
- Neat, joined, cursive letters for writing passages, large amounts of text, lists and letters.
- Printed or capital letters for posters, presentations, headings, labelling and form filling.
- Speedy handwriting for notetaking and dictation where neatness is not as important and shortcuts can be used, such as '+' instead of 'and'.



# Resources

Letter-join resources include hundreds of printouts, and tools to help you create your own content. Create spelling lists, word banks and posters, all of which can be saved and shared for future use.

- Printout sheets
- Word Animator
- On-line Word Processor
- Dictation Exercises
- Warm-up Exercises
- Worksheet Generator

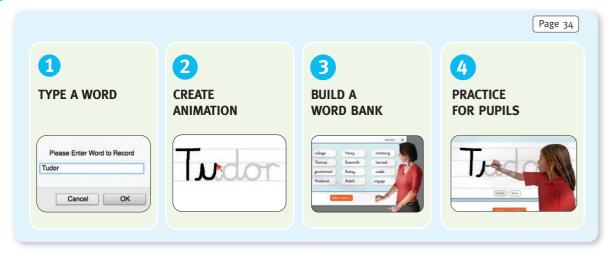


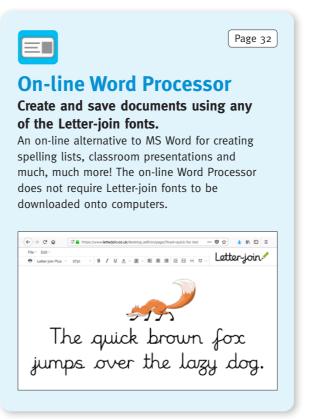


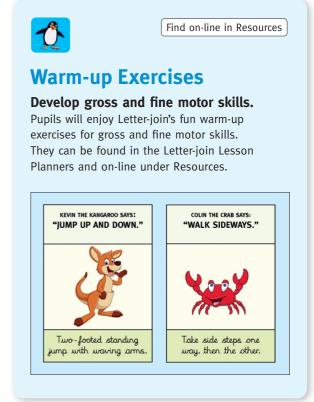


#### **Word Animator**

Create animations of words to save into classroom Word Banks.









Page 30

#### **Dictation Exercises**

Improve listening skills as well as handwriting speed, accuracy, note-taking and editing.

#### Key Stage 1

- A selection of CVC words, a list of numbers and an easy poem.
- Harder dictation exercises: a list of phrases, easy additions and a three-verse poem.
- Sentences and paragraphs using years 1 and 2 common exception and high frequency words.

#### Key Stage 2

- More challenging exercises: a shopping list, complex numbers and a longer written passage.
- Dictation exercises using extracts from traditional stories and poems.



Page 29

#### **Worksheet Generator**

Create handwriting worksheets for spelling lists, sentence sheets and posters.

Choose any of the Letter-join fonts to produce worksheets. Worksheets are created within internet browsers and your school's choices of preferred letterforms will be used. They can be saved as PDFs for future use.



### **Printouts**

Letter-join includes hundreds of printouts using your choice of font and alternative letterforms

# Font style

All printouts are available in two font styles:

- WITH lead-in lines
- WITHOUT lead-in lines Early Years and KS1 printouts are also

available in the print font.

# **Handwriting worksheet examples**

#### High frequency words

100 high frequency words to trace and copy for EYFS and KS1 in large, medium and small sizes.

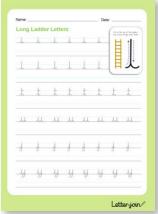


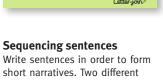




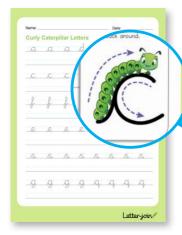
#### Letter families

Colourful worksheets to help with the different families of letter shapes.





levels for years 1-2 and years 2-3.



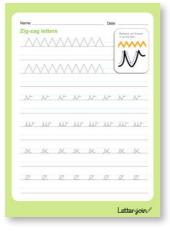
Meg gave it to Mum. She picked the flower. Meg saw a flower.

The sun was warm.

He fell asleep. Grandad sat in a chair.

He got wet and muddy. Spot jumped in a puddle. It was raining.

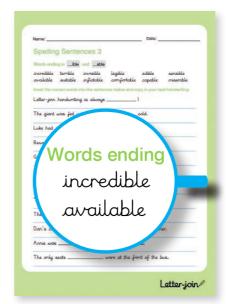






#### SPaG worksheets

A growing series of worksheets combining handwriting practice with KS1 and KS2 SATs revision.



#### Spelling lists and sentences

Practise spelling rules and patterns with trace and copy word lists then reinforce with complementary 'missing words' worksheets.



#### Punctuation

Punctuation practice in the context of meaningful sentences. Worksheets cover all the punctuation requirements.



#### Gramma

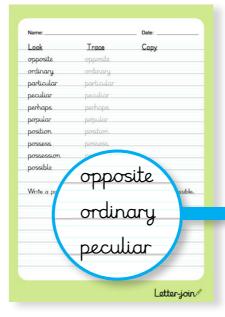
A series of exercises covering the grammar topics required for KS1 and KS2 SATs such as adjectives and prepositions.

#### MFL worksheets



Worksheets combining handwriting practice and French/Spanish vocabulary.

#### Word lists



Spelling words, as listed in the DfE's English Programmes of Study in look, trace and copy format.

#### Cloze exercises



Missing words sentences using words from the word lists for Years 3-4 and Years 5-6.

#### **Pangrams**

Worksheets to consolidate correct letter formation using sentences that contain all the letters of the alphabet.

Pangrams are sentences that contain all the letters of the alphabet.

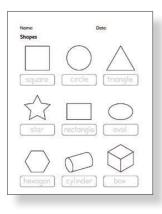
Copy each of the pangram sentences in your best handwriting.

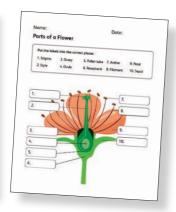
The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog.

### **Numbers, Capitals and Printed Letters worksheets**

#### Labelling exercises

A selection of worksheets for practising printed letters, covering curriculum-based topics for all key stages.





#### Times tables worksheets

Trace and copy worksheets for tables facts to 12 x 12.

ook	Trace	Сору
x 5 = 0	0 x 5 = 0	1.0
x 5 = 5	1 x 5 = 5	
x 5 = 10	2 x 5 = 10	
3 x 5 = 15	3 x 5 = 15	
x 5 = 20	4 x 5 = 20	
x 5 = 25	5 x 5 = 25	
x 5 = 30	6 x 5 = 30	
7 x 5 = 35	7 x 5 = 35	
3 x 5 = 40	8 x 5 = 40	
$1 \times 5 = 45$	9 x 5 = 45	
$0 \times 5 = 50$	10 x 5 = 50	
x 5 = 55	II x 5 = 55	
$2 \times 5 = 60$	12 x 5 = 60	

#### Form-filling exercises

A series of form-filling exercises for all key stages to help teach the formation of printed and capital letters.





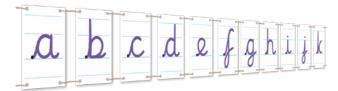
#### **Posters and Handouts**

#### Alphabet printouts

A4 printouts for cursive, printed and capital letters which will print using your school preferred letterforms for f, k, w, x and z. These are useful for sending home so that parents know which letterforms are used at school.



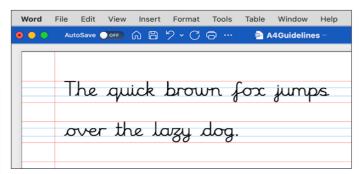
#### Alphabet banners

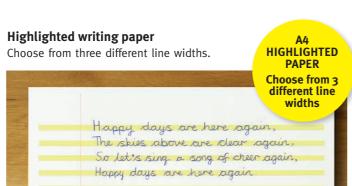


All the letters of the alphabet, each on an A4 sheet, to print out for displaying in the classroom or for pupils to colour in. Available as cursive, capital and printed letters.

#### **Microsoft Word templates**

Designed to match a standard handwriting book style. Choose from four sizes.







### **Worksheet Generator**

Create your own handwriting worksheets for spelling lists, sentence sheets and posters.

Each classroom account can choose any of the Letter-join fonts to produce printouts using the Worksheet Generator. Worksheets are created within internet

browsers and your school's choices of preferred letterforms for f, k, w, x and z will be used.



#### **Spelling Lists**



In three sizes with options to show all the guidelines or the baseline only.

#### **Sentence Sheets**



In three sizes with options to hide or show guidelines and with trace or trace and copy options

#### Posters/Freestyle

REMEMBER. Keep your handwriting neat and even.

Start every sentence with a capital letter.

End every sentence with

a punctuation mark.

to range text left or centred.

In three sizes with options

to show guidelines, baseline only or no lines at all, and

#### Worksheet Generator **Hints and Tips**

#### Changing the font

You can quickly change the font via the 'Info' button and choose 'Classroom Font Options'.

#### The font is not joining correctly on the Worksheet Generator.

Do not use Internet Explorer for Letter-join! The Worksheet Generator will produce fonts correctly if using Google Chrome, Firefox or Safari.

#### PRINTING WORKSHEETS

#### How do I save worksheets created using the Worksheet Generator?

The Google Chrome browser has a facility to save pages as PDF files. Create your worksheet as normal using Google Chrome and select Ctrl P then change 'Destination' to 'Save as PDF'.

#### The worksheets are printing very faint and the guidelines are not showing.

Some laser printers can struggle to print from a web page. Save the worksheet as a PDF (see above) and print from

#### The tracing words are printing in black when I generate a worksheet.

If using Firefox, to print the tracing words in grey please select the 'Print Background' option from Page Setup. Firefox: File > Page Setup > tick Print Background.

#### The lines are over-running when I print a generated worksheet.

We recommend a maximum number of letters/words/lines for each character size on the Worksheet Generator. If exceeded text lines may overrun. Try reducing the number of words per line.



# **Dictation Exercises to speed up handwriting**

# Increase the pace of children's note-taking



Letter-join's dictation exercises are a collection of recorded texts and accompanying support text, especially written to improve listening skills and increase the pace of children's note-taking.

Dictation is a very good exercise to build proficiency and speed in handwriting as well as supporting spelling and

Letter-join's fun dictation exercises for Key Stages 1 and 2 cover common exception, high frequency and statutory words. They are simple and fun, and can be practised at school as well as at home.

The exercises start with simple CVC words and progress through to longer passages of text to help build stamina and automaticity in handwriting.

#### **Dictation Exercises**

Help teach your pupils to speed up their note taking with a series of dictation exercises. See Notes ▶





A selection of CVC words, a list of numbers and an easy Key Stage 1 Harder dictation exercises



A list of phrases, an easy number sentence and a three-verse

Key Stage 1 paragraphs



Years 1 and 2 common exception and high frequency words.

Key Stage 2 More challenging



A shopping list, complex numbers and a longer written passage.

Key Stage 2 Traditional stories and

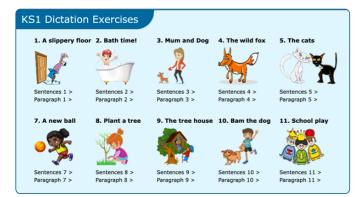
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Longer passages using extracts from traditional stories and

Dictation Exercises are found under the Resources tab.

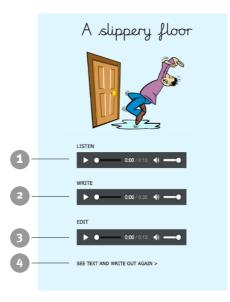


KS1 dictation exercises use common exception and high frequency words in sentences and paragraphs.



The first set of KS2 dictation exercises cover a mixture of numbers and words

### How to use Letter-join Dictation Exercises



Click 'Play' on the 'Listen' row to play the dictation exercise at normal speed for the class to hear. This is to allow pupils to become familiar with the dictation they are about to write.

Press 'Play' on the 'Write' row for pupils to listen to a slower version of the recording, pressing 'Pause' between phrases to allow time for pupils to write what they hear. Explain that if they do not hear clearly, or if they don't have time to write everything,

they can leave a blank space which can be

filled in later at the 'Edit' stage.

#### 3 Edit

Play the Edit recording which is at normal speed. This will allow pupils to fill in any blanks they have left, or to make changes. You can play this more than once, if necessary.

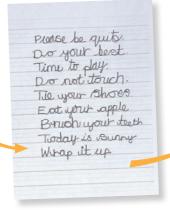
#### 4 Write out again

Click the link to display the written text so that pupils can check their work before writing out again using their best joined-up handwriting.

#### A typical Key Stage 1 dictation exercise using simple sentences



Dictation sound file for class to listen to.



Pupil's written text.

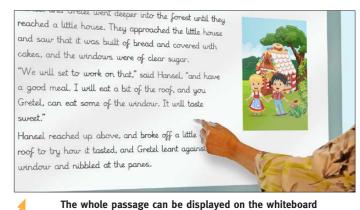
Please be quiet. Do your best. Time to play. Do not touch. Tie your shoes. Eat your apple. Watch this space Brush your teeth. Today is sunny. Wrap it up. Letter-join

PDF for teachers to display for checking

#### A Key Stage 2 dictation exercise, using a traditional story, with a longer passage of text



Children listen to the passage and write down what they hear.



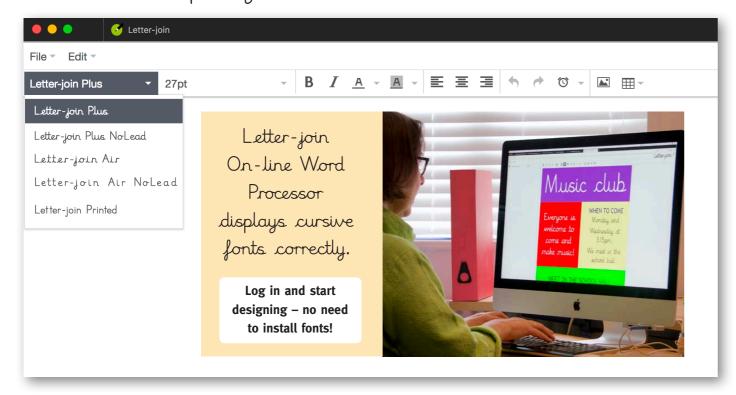
for children to check their work.

Hansel and Gretel went deeper into the forest until they reached a little noise. They approached the little house and saw that it was was made of bread and covered with cakes, and the windows were of close sugar



# **Letter-join On-line Word Processor**

Create instant spelling lists, and more, on-line.



The Letter-join On-line Word Processor allows you to create and save documents using any of the Letter-join fonts with a school's pre-selected letterforms.

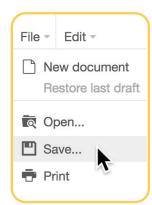
Use to create worksheets, posters and notices when using a computer that does not have the Letter-join fonts or MS Word installed.

#### How to use

Log in to your Letter-join classroom account, select the 'Resources' tab and choose 'W Processor'. You can either start typing to create a new document using familiar commands, or open any of the ready-to-use template files to overwrite with your own text and images.



#### Opening, saving and printing documents



Please use the 'File' option on the menu bar WITHIN the browser window to open, save and print documents. Do NOT use Ctrl-S or File > Save etc. on your computer's menu bar.

As well as each classroom's saved documents, Letter-join's templates and examples can be opened and edited.

Documents are saved for each classroom account.

When printing, ensure that 'Print background images' is selected to print worksheets correctly.

#### Ready-to-use Letter-join templates

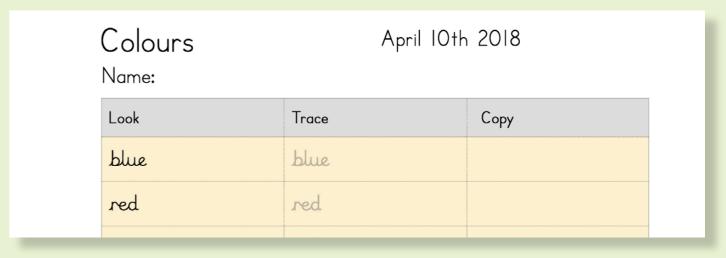
The Letter-join Word Processor includes a growing number of templates including lined and highlighted paper, Spelling List and Year 2 Common Exception words for classroom display. Staff can customise templates on-line by typing new words and choosing any Letter-join font.

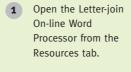
Tudors		09th November 2020	
Name:			
Look	Trace	Сору	
school	school		
guillotine	guillotine		
king	king		
queen	queen		
abdication	abdication		

'Look, trace and copy' spelling list

Instructions can be found under the Info button.

#### Make a spelling list with the Letter-join on-line Word Processor





Spellings title

Days of the Week

an option from the pull-down menu.

Name:

Look

B



overwrite the heading for your spelling list.

B / U A - M - E E ■ ← ← □ - Ω ≥ □ ⊞

Scroll over 'Insert date' and overwrite the date or select

Click 'File' from within the Word Processor window and select

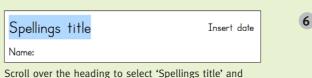
Choose 'Look, trace and copy Spellings' from the 'Templates' section.

Other templates are available.

Insert date

Сору





Continue until the table is complete.

Once the list has been created, select all of the text to change it to your preferred font.

Monday



Look

B

Monday

You can save your worksheet using 'Save' at the top left of the Word Processor.





B / U <u>A → A →</u> **E** Ξ

You can print directly to your printer or you can save as a PDF by changing the destination of the printer to 'Save as PDF'

Place your cursor in the cell underneath Look, and type your first word. The 'Look' text will be black.

Сору Monday

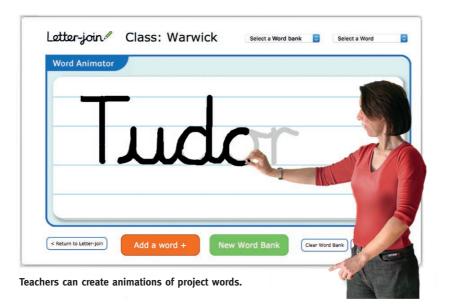
> Now place your cursor in the cell underneath 'Trace', or use the Tab key, and type your first word again. The 'Trace' text will be grey.

32 LETTER-JOIN HANDWRITING MANUAL LETTER-JOIN HANDWRITING MANUAL 33



# **Word Animator** and Word Banks

Create animations of words for classes to save and replay.

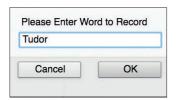


### For Teachers - how to create animations to share with pupils

#### Create animations of words to save to class Word Banks



1 Select 'New Word Bank' or choose an existing Word Bank from the pull-down menu.



2 Choose 'Add a Word' and enter a word. Click 'OK'. You must write over the word to be able to save it.



**3** Trace over the word slowly and smoothly. If necessary, you can erase and start again.



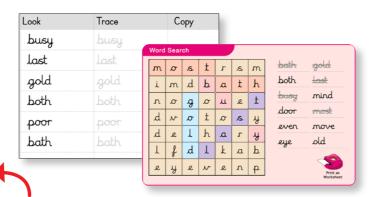
4 Press 'Save' to add the animated word to the Word Bank.

#### **Using class Word Banks**



- Create unlimited Word Banks, for example, of topic words, spelling lists or children's names.
- Ready to use Word Banks (including common exception words) are pre-installed.
- Children can access their classroom's Word Banks at school on a whiteboard, or at home on tablets – see opposite page.

#### **Word Bank activities**



From the 'Activities' tab teachers can make spelling lists or word searches using the Word Bank words:

- · Automatically produce look, trace and copy spelling lists by selecting the 'Make Spelling List' option. Change the font to the
- Make an online word search using the Word Bank words by selecting the Word Search option from the Activities tab. The Word Search can also be printed out.

### Show Pupils how to access their classroom's Word Banks

Word animations that are produced by a class teacher can be watched and practised at school and at home on IWBs, iPads and tablets.

Magic Words

Magic Pattern

Word Bank

#### 1 Log in to Letter-join

Use the Pupil Accounts log-in on an iPad or tablet to log in, and select the correct classroom name.



#### 2 Select 'Fun' From the Letter-join menu choose Fun and then Word Bank.

3 Choose Select a Word Bank from the pull-down list.



#### 4 Select a word

Select a word, either on-screen or from the pull-down menu, to watch and practise.



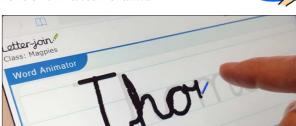
#### 5 'Watch'

Choose 'Watch' to see the word being written on the whiteboard or tablet. Playback can be Freehand or Controlled.



### 6 'Try'

Choose 'Try' to practise writing words on a whiteboard or tablet.



Activities

#### **Using Word Bank Activities**

Pupils can choose to make any Word Bank into a spelling list or word search.



#### Set-up Letter-join for children to practice at home

Letter-join includes a home log-in instructions letter for parents. See page 42.

34 LETTER-JOIN HANDWRITING MANUAL LETTER-JOIN HANDWRITING MANUAL 35

# Fun activities

Colourful, handwriting activities for IWBs and tablets.



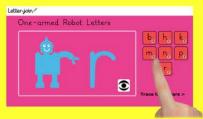
#### **Magic Patterns**

A selection of patterns, shapes and mazes for tracing on imaginative backgrounds.



#### **PhonicsMatch**

A matching pairs game to beat the clock using cursive or printed letters.



#### **Letter Families**

Reinforces different letter shapes and shows the correct way to write the letters.



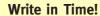
#### **Word Search**

Create class word banks to make word searches or spelling lists.



#### SoundMatch

A matching pairs game for Early Years to support Letter-join Phase 1 Phonics activities.



A Key Stage 2 activity to practise fast and fluent handwriting.



Choose from eight KS2 topics. The more words that are neatly written, the higher the award given.



#### **Magic Words**

Enter any word and trace on a choice of colourful backgrounds.



#### Write it Right!

A fun activity that rewards neat handwriting.



#### LetterMatch

Helps teach the names and sounds of the letters of the alphabet.



#### LetterLotto

Practise recognition and orientation of cursive or printed letters.



#### **Phozzle**

Practise phonemes and graphemes to reveal an exciting picture.



#### **Classroom font options**

Class teachers can choose which font to use for Letter-join activities, and the same font will be displayed when children log in home.

#### **Fun Activities**

From the Letter-join menu find the 'Fun' tab to access Letter-join activities.



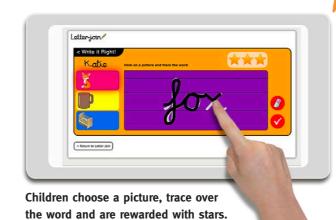
Write it Right!
A fun activity that rewards good handwriting!

Write it Right! selects groups of pictures with words (easy, medium and hard) for children to trace.

The activity has accompanying sounds and fun animations to encourage children to play and practice their letter shapes over again.









Completed handwritten words are then displayed with an audible cheer.

Children can print their handwriting results or return to the activity to have another go. Write it Right! includes three levels to practice.



36 LETTER-JOIN HANDWRITING MANUAL 37

lettering.

# **Word Search**

Letter-join's Word Searches are designed for iPads and tablets. They are both fun and practical, reinforcing spellings and are easily printed for handwriting practice.



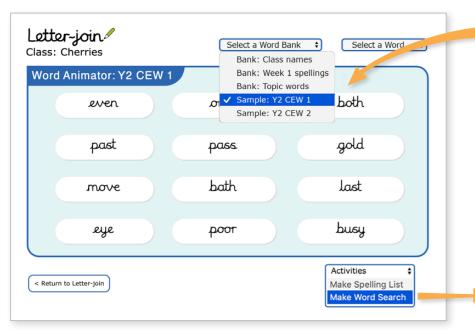
	o to o n	.500
	a e o a m	r <del>oo</del> bet trai
	w t k h e	bor
ag	Carefully copy these words:	,
ag alf	soak soak	
274	root belt	
no	train born	

**3** 

Letter-join Word Searches include a variety of words from CVC through to some of the statutory 'tricky' spellings.

#### **Make Word Searches from Word Banks**

Word searches can be automatically made from any of Letter-join's pre-installed Word Banks or from a classroom Word Bank that has been created by a class teacher.



1. Choose a class Word Bank

A4 Word Search printouts using words from Phonics

Phases 2 to 5.



2. Select 'Make Word Search' from the 'Activities' tab.

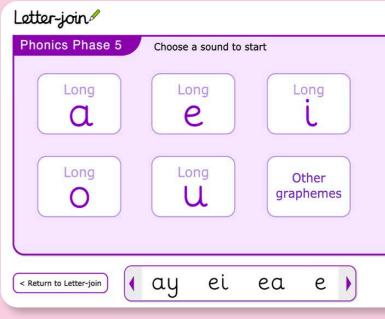
# **Letter-join Phonics**

# Combine handwriting with phonics in an easy and seamless way.

Letter-join Phonic resources encompass Phase 1 to 5. Teachers can display pictures of each phoneme or grapheme on the whiteboard and the class can hear them and watch them being written.

Children can practise tracing the phonemes and graphemes on whiteboards or tablets and then play the Phonics Match game.

Schools can choose from any of the Letter-join fonts for the words which accompany the phonemes and graphemes.



Phonics Phase 5



The phoneme or grapheme is displayed along with a picture of the word with the phoneme or grapheme highlighted.



Handwriting practice of the phoneme or grapheme can be on IWBs, iPads or tablets.



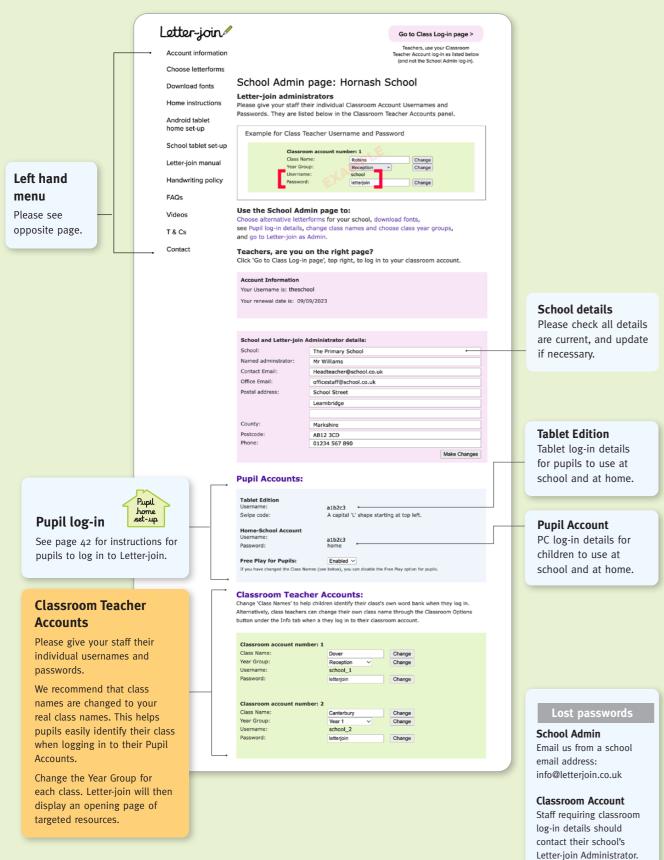


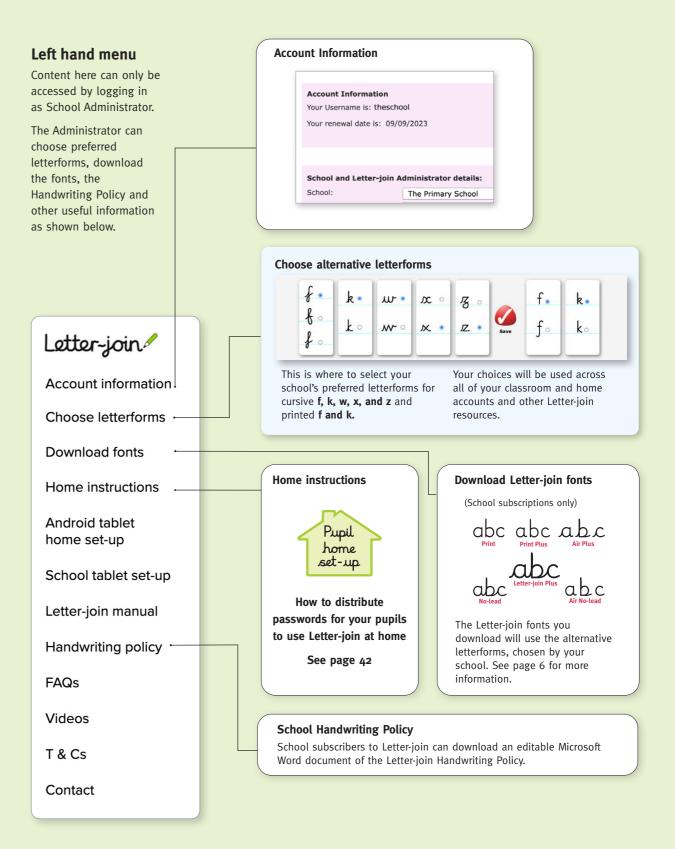
Phonics posters can be printed out for class displays using your preferred font and letterforms.

# School Administrator Page

Log in to Letter-join with your School Administrator details (sent to you by email) to access your school's Administrator Page, shown below. As a first task please give your staff their individual usernames and passwords from the Classroom Teacher Accounts panel.

The School Administrator Page allows you to change preferred letterforms for your school, download the Letter-join fonts and add class names and year groups.





ADMINISTRATOR SET-UP

# Access for pupils

#### Pupil log-in details

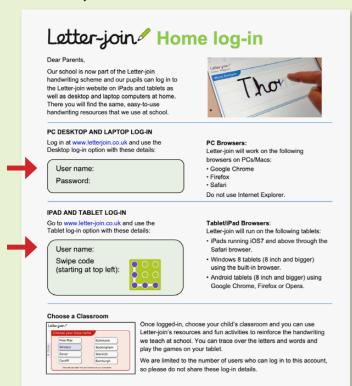
Log-in details for pupils to log in to Letter-join at school and at home are listed on your school Letter-join Admin page.

There is a username and password to log in on PCs and and username and swipe code to log in on iPads and tablets.

# Issuing passwords to children for using Letter-join at school and home.

Log in to Letter-join as 'School Administrator' and select 'Home Instructions' from the left hand menu. Open the link to the MS Word Document letter and insert Pupil log-in details where indicated. These can be found on your Letter-join Admin page.

#### The Letter-join Home Instructions letter



The completed MS Word document can be printed onto a school letterhead or pasted into a school newsletter so children can use Letter-join at home.

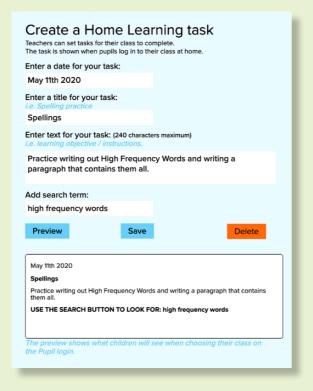
#### Naming your classes on the Admin page

To allow pupils to access resources created by their class teacher, please see how to change class names on your Letter-join Admin page (see page 40 for details).

# Home Learning

#### **Home Learning Tasks**

Click the 'Set Home Learning Tasks' button from the Teacher's 'Info' page to create a class task.



#### **Home Learning Packs**

There are two sets of home learning packs for each year group. Ideal for when children work from home. They can be found on the Teacher's Info page.



### Installing Letter-join fonts on PCs and across networks

The Letter-join fonts can be downloaded by subscribing schools by logging in to Letter-join as a School Administrator and following the instructions below.

IT technicians and class teachers can also download the Letter-join Font Guide from the Info page for more information about installing and using Letter-join fonts.

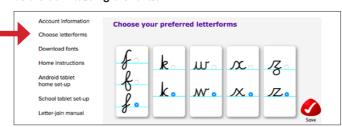
#### **Installing fonts on individual PCs**

1. From the Letter-join home page, log in as Administrator on your desktop computer.



Letter-join desktop log-in.

2. Select your school's preferred letterforms before downloading the fonts.



Choosing your school's preferred letterforms.

3. Select 'Download fonts' and follow instructions.



'Download fonts' is in the left hand menu.

4. To download the fonts please accept the Terms and Conditions and click on one, or each of the font name buttons, as shown below.



Font download options from the Administrator page.

# 5. Locate where the fonts have been downloaded on your PC to install.

The fonts are named Letter-join Plus, Letter-join Air Plus, Letter-join No-lead, Letter-join Air No-lead and Letter-join Print, each followed by a number relating to your choice of letterforms.

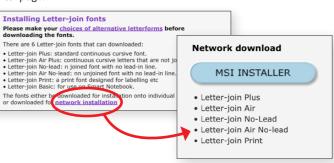
#### 6. Right-click the file and choose the 'Install' option.

Restart MS Word so that the font is recognised. The font is now ready to use in Microsoft Word and other applications that support Contextual Alternates.

#### **Installing fonts across networks**

Letter-join fonts can be distributed and installed onto classroom PCs and laptops across a school network.

Please consult your IT technician to distribute the fonts using the MSI installer option from the link on the Letter-join 'Download fonts' page.



#### Setting up Letter-join for LearnPad

Access to Letter-join through LearnPad:

- On your PC log in to LearnPad.
- Log in to Class Connect.
- Choose 'Content'.
- Search for keyword 'Letterjoin'.





www.letterjoin.co.uk info@letterjoin.co.uk



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#letterjoin
Follow us on Twitter!

Download and print further copies of this manual at www.letterjoin.co.uk/manual.pdf

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