

Glory Farm Primary School get to grips with *Penpals for Handwriting!*



“ “ When we were using our previous handwriting scheme we had an Ofsted inspection and handwriting was criticised.

The decision was made to change schemes following a review with the whole staff and in consultation with the LEA advisor. The thing I've found with introducing a new handwriting scheme is that the whole school needs commitment to it and that there has to be enthusiastic input.

The *Penpals* rationale helped us to take a broader view of handwriting – for example we were introduced to the physical activities. These were completely new to us, but it made so much sense to have them. The CD-ROMs gave us an easy way into using our new whiteboards frequently.

When children have poor letter formation or might be struggling with being ready for handwriting, the big books are great for them to write on with a dry-wipe pen and get extra support with a LSA.

The pupil's books are essential – children have got to practise. Children love to 'practise the pattern' and they take pride in their work. In Year 1, handwriting is one of their favourite subjects – they wouldn't have said that before *Penpals*. Even those children who find pencil grip hard can do *Penpals* – but they couldn't manage with our previous handwriting provision.

In *Penpals* the progression is so clear – it tells you what to teach and how to teach it. The advice to teachers is excellent and *Penpals* will support you no matter what your experience.

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Teacher's TV

"It's the first resource I've ever seen that actually shows you how to teach handwriting. I've seen a lot of very happy children using that resource."



Handwriting patterns in the pupil's books establish rhythm and control in writing.