



Lanivet School
Honey's Hill, Lanivet
Bodmin, PL30 5HE
Headteacher – Mr.T.Gray
Telephone: 01208-831417

www.lanivet.cornwall.sch.uk

September 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

As your child begins their journey as writers, we would like to share some ways that you can support their fine motor development at home.

At Lanivet, we know that **strong writers first need strong hands**. Before children can write comfortably and confidently, they need to develop the finger strength, hand control and coordination that writing requires. In school, we provide many opportunities for children to build these skills through fun, play-based activities.

In class, we teach letter formation using **Read Write Inc. (RWI) mnemonics**, which help children remember how to form each letter correctly. We encourage you to use the same mnemonics at home so that children experience a consistent approach to letter formation. You will find these in their 'my set 1 homework books'.



We also are teaching your child about correct pencil grip using our **"birdy beak"** method. Ask your child to show you how we do it! Holding a pencil correctly helps children write with greater comfort, control and confidence. This is the correct pencil grip.



How You Can Help at Home

Alongside practising letter formation, there are lots of enjoyable activities that help strengthen the small muscles in your child's hands and fingers:

- Playing with playdough by squashing, squeezing and rolling
- Painting and mark-making
- Dot painting with a cotton bud
- Colouring
- Lego and construction toys
- Threading and bead activities
- Pouring and transferring activities
- Using plastic tweezers to pick up small objects
- Cutting with child-safe scissors

It is equally important to develop children's **gross motor skills**, as these provide the strong foundations needed for fine motor control. Activities such as:

- Lifting and carrying
- Digging in the garden
- Sweeping and brushing
- Climbing and balancing
- Outdoor painting with large brushes

all help to build strength, stability and coordination.

Short, regular practice can make a huge difference, but most importantly, **keep it fun!** Little moments of play and exploration everyday help children develop the skills they need to become successful and confident writers.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. Working together at home and school will help give your child the very best start on their writing journey.

Kind regards,

Miss Haworth

Reception Teacher

Lanivet Community Primary School