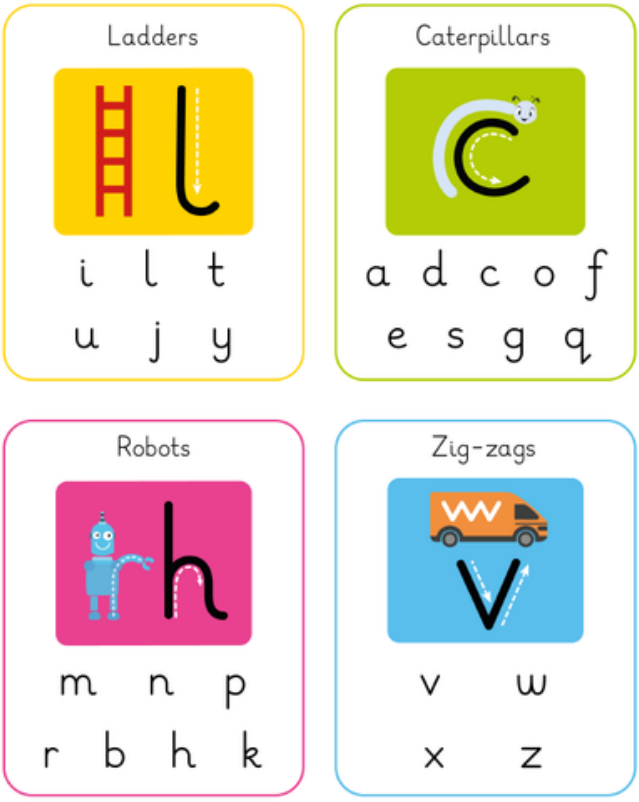
Message to Parents
Handwriting

During Reception, your child will be focussing on developing the necessary fine and gross motor skills in readiness for handwriting. The children will be taught the correct letter formations though 'letter families':



Letter-join

Optional Fine Motor Control Activities (at home)

- **scissor practise-** cutting along different lines, modelling how to hold scissors, using scissors in playdough
- **sand play-** drawing shapes, numbers, patterns, numbers in the sand
- **threading-** through cooling racks, creating patterns with beads, through pasta, weaving pasta
- **play dough-** using fists to mould, fingers to make marks, roll and make letters/numbers
- **chalk play-** on blackboards/concrete walls, make patterns, letters, numbers, draw around bodies, use a paintbrush and water to paint over the chalk marks to make them disappear
- **popping-** bubble wrap
- **paper scrunch-** on 'go' scrunch up newspaper into a ball as fast as you can
- **tearing-** paper into the smallest size you can
- **colouring**
- **clothes pegs-** peg socks on a line, pegs around a piece of cardboard (eg. cereal box)

Preparation for handwriting involves developing four key areas:

1. **Gross motor control-** the control and co-ordination of the big movements the body can make
2. **Fine motor control-** being able to fine-tune the movements of the arm, hand and fingers.
3. **Visual control-** making sure hand and eye movements are working well together
4. **Spatial control-** helping children to be able to move themselves confidently in a space with an awareness of direction (left/right) and plane (horizontal/vertical) and eventually helping them to transfer that sense of space to paper.

As a reminder, correct letter formation for lower-case letters is as follows. The arrows show the direction of your child's pencil:

