






## Handwriting Scheme and Terminology Explained

### Summary of Letter Groups:

	<p>Harriet the Cow</p> <p>All letters start 'on the grass' (or line) and start with a straight line.</p> <p>l, h, t, b, k, f</p>
	<p>Rupert the Sheep (cousin on Zac – part of same family)</p> <p>All letters start on the grass and start with a short straight line, reaching as high as the helicopter line. These are the more commonly used letters.</p> <p>l, r, n, m, u, j, p, y</p>
	<p>Georgia the Pig</p> <p>Start on the grass (or line) and go 'up and over' before coming back round to form the letter. Generally short (as high as helicopter) with exception of /d/</p> <p>o, a, d, g, q, s, c</p>
	<p>Zac the Sheep (Cousin of Rupert)</p> <p>e, v, w, x, z</p>
	<p>Pippa the Rabbit (special placement)</p> <p>These letters go below the grass line 'looking for worms'. This does not reflect formation (as above) but helps with understanding of descenders (or special placement as the scheme calls it)</p> <p>g, q, j, y, p, f</p>

## Key Rules to Remember when Teaching:

1. There are 4 lead-in strokes to learn but only 1 lead-out stroke
2. The letter you are joining onto dictates the line you need to use.

### The lead-in lines:



#### Tall Up Swing

The tall up swing is used when joining onto a Harriet the Cow letter such as:

*l h t b k f*



#### Up and Over Swing

The up and over swing is used when joining onto Georgia the Pig letters, but be careful as some Georgia the Pig letters join onto the next letter at the helicopter line, known as the 'dip line'.

*o a d g q s c*



#### Short Up Swing

The short up swing is used to join onto all of Rupert the White Sheep letters such as:

*i r n m u j p y*



#### Short Up Swing

The short up swing is used to join onto all of Rupert the White Sheep letters such as:

*i r n m u j p y*



#### Unusual Short Up Swing

A usual short up swing is used to join on to Zac the Grey Sheep letters. Whilst it starts off looking like the up swing, the line moves into a horizontal or a diagonal line, not a vertical line.

*e N W X E*



### The lead-OUT line:



#### The Dip

The dip is a line which comes after some letters, to join them onto the next one. When using this line you do NOT go back to the grass but start the next letter from the helicopter line.

*o r N W X*

## Key terminology:

<b>baseline</b>	The line on which most letters rest. Picture a line under the letters in this sentence– that’s the baseline.
<b>ascender</b>	A letter that goes above the <b>x-height</b> (helicopter)  This includes ALL capital letters
<b>ascender line</b>	The line that ascenders go up to (the cloud line)
<b>descender</b>	a letter that goes below the <b>baseline</b> (grass)  Letters that go below the baseline (or grass) are those in the Pippa family.
<b>descender line</b>	The line that descenders go down to (worms)
<b>upstroke</b>	Any movement upward with the writing instrument.
<b>downstroke</b>	Any movement downward with the writing instrument.
<b>slant</b>	To left or right in comparison to vertical angle, also called <b>gradient</b> .
<b>stem</b>	The vertical line in a letter: B b D d F f g H h I i J j K k L l M m N n P p R r T t u Y  Referred to mostly as ‘tall up-swing’
<b>crossbar</b>	The horizontal line through these letters: A E F f G H T t
<b>counter</b>	The white space inside a closed letter like these: A a B b D d e g O o P p Q q
<b>weight</b>	The thickness of the lines.