

an
post

Making
better happen

3rd and 4th Class

An Post Handwriting Competition



Dear Teacher,

Every day, you see the importance and power of words in the classroom. At An Post, we recognise the power of words to connect people, inspire ideas and create positive change. When young people express themselves, share their ideas and turn their thoughts into action, they can help to Make Better Happen in their own lives, communities and the wider world.

In the Age of AI, the ability to think critically and creatively, and to express yourself clearly and confidently, is more important than ever. We want to **empower young people to find their voice**, championing literacy and self-expression as powerful tools for creating positive change.

Spoken word and rap have become important forms of self-expression for young people, helping them explore the world around them and respond to real-world issues. This year, we're delighted to team up with **Kabin Crew**, who are inspiring young people across Ireland through music, creativity and self-expression. Their message is simple: **Your words have power. Use them.**

For this year's An Post Handwriting Competition, we invite your pupils to do just that - using their best handwriting to share how their **words, ideas and actions can help to Make Better Happen**.

An Post Handwriting Competition

To participate in the An Post "Making better happen" Handwriting Competition, complete the following steps. Please note that the Teacher Guide on the next page will help your pupils explore the theme and create their individual entries!



Step 1: Explore

Explore the theme of 'Making Better Happen' and how words can positively influence and impact the world around us. Use the Teacher's Guide on the following page to explore this.

Step 2: Write

Ask your pupils to respond to the theme of 'Making Better Happen' by writing a letter (Template 1), or a song, rap or poem (Template 2).

Optional but not adjudicated: Pupils can illustrate their writing with a picture.

Step 3: Check your Work

Ask your pupils to use our handwriting checklist to edit their work.

Step 4: Send it in!

- Fill out the class entry form and attach the handwritten copy of pupils' entries.
- Send it to:
An Post Handwriting Competition
PO Box 13287
FREEPOST FDN7461
Dublin 1
- The deadline for entry submission is **22nd January 2027**.

Adjudication Criteria/Notes:

1. Entries will be judged on handwriting.
2. There will be no adjudication of any drawings included as part of an entry. The provision of the drawing task as part of the Teacher Guide is to enable further exploration of the theme in a visual arts capacity and as an option for pupils who complete the handwriting task early.
3. Guidance: Up to one page of handwriting.



Welcome to the An Post Handwriting Competition Teacher Guide.

We've put together some activities about writing and its importance. Please use the Classroom Slides to accompany the lesson.

1. Introduction

- **Slide 3 - (Who am I?) Discuss the image (taken from the Kabin Crew video).**
 - Ask pupils to use hints in the image to think about who the person is? Where are they? What are they doing? Why are they doing it? (This is a member of the Kabin Crew posting a letter.)
- **Slide 4 & 5 - (Dear Kabin Crew...) Discuss and elicit from pupils the following:**
 - The image shows an example of persuasive letter writing.
 - There are key elements to writing a persuasive letter including - your address, recipient's name and address, grabbing the reader's attention, clearly stating your point.
 - A letter is a way of communicating in writing.
- **Slide 6 - (Writing All Around!)**
 - In small groups ask pupils to think of other ways of communicating in words e.g. postcard, notes, poem, rap, song. Discuss as a class.
- **Slide 7 - (Where do you stand?)**
 - Prepare by marking one side of the playing space as 'Strongly Agree' and the other as 'Strongly Disagree'. In this game, pupils stand in particular places according to their opinions.
 - Example statements: Pineapple is great on pizza. / Invisibility is the best superpower. / Dogs are better pets than cats. / A pet unicorn is better than a pet dragon. / Hurling is better than football. / Sweet tastes are better than salty tastes.
 - Discuss some of the pupils' opinions and their rationale.
 - Discuss the importance of being able to express our opinions and also being able to listen to the opinion and voice of others.

2. Video

- **Slide 9 - (View the Kabin Crew!)** Show pupils the video.

- **Slide 10 - (Let's Think!)** Discuss the video using the prompt questions.
- **Slide 11 - (Word Power!)** Discuss as a class using the prompt questions.

3. Reading and Writing

- **Slide 13 - Optional Activity (Convince the Class!)**
 - Ask pupils, working in groups, to write a persuasive letter to the rest of the class. For example, pineapple is great on pizza, invisibility is the best superpower, dogs are better pets than cats, a pet unicorn is better than a pet dragon.
- **Slide 14 - (Persuade us!)**
 - Ask each group to read out their letter and discuss, seeing if they can persuade the class of their opinion.
- **Slide 15 - (Handwriting Competition)**
 - Ask pupils, working individually, to respond to the theme of 'Making Better Happen' by composing a letter, poem, rap or song, about the importance of words and how they can be used in positive ways to make the world better. You are welcome to share recordings of your performance with us. These will not be judged but may be used for promotional purposes. We will contact you for consent before sharing on our website, social media or other promotional channels.
 - Ask pupils to use the template provided to write their composition. Guideline for 3rd- 4th class is up to 1 page of writing.
 - Ask pupils to self-check their writing, using the checklist provided.

4. Entry Submission

- Once the composition is completed on the templates provided, a copy could be made and retained for the pupils to display in an area in the classroom or shared with parents.
- Ensure **Pupil Name, Class Level** and **School Name** have been completed on pupils' forms.
- Complete the entry form **PER CLASS** and send entries to the address on page 1 of this document.

**an
post**

**Making
better happen**

Template 1

My Letter



Name:

Class:

School:



Template 2

My Song, Poem or Rap



Name:

Class:

School:

[illegible]

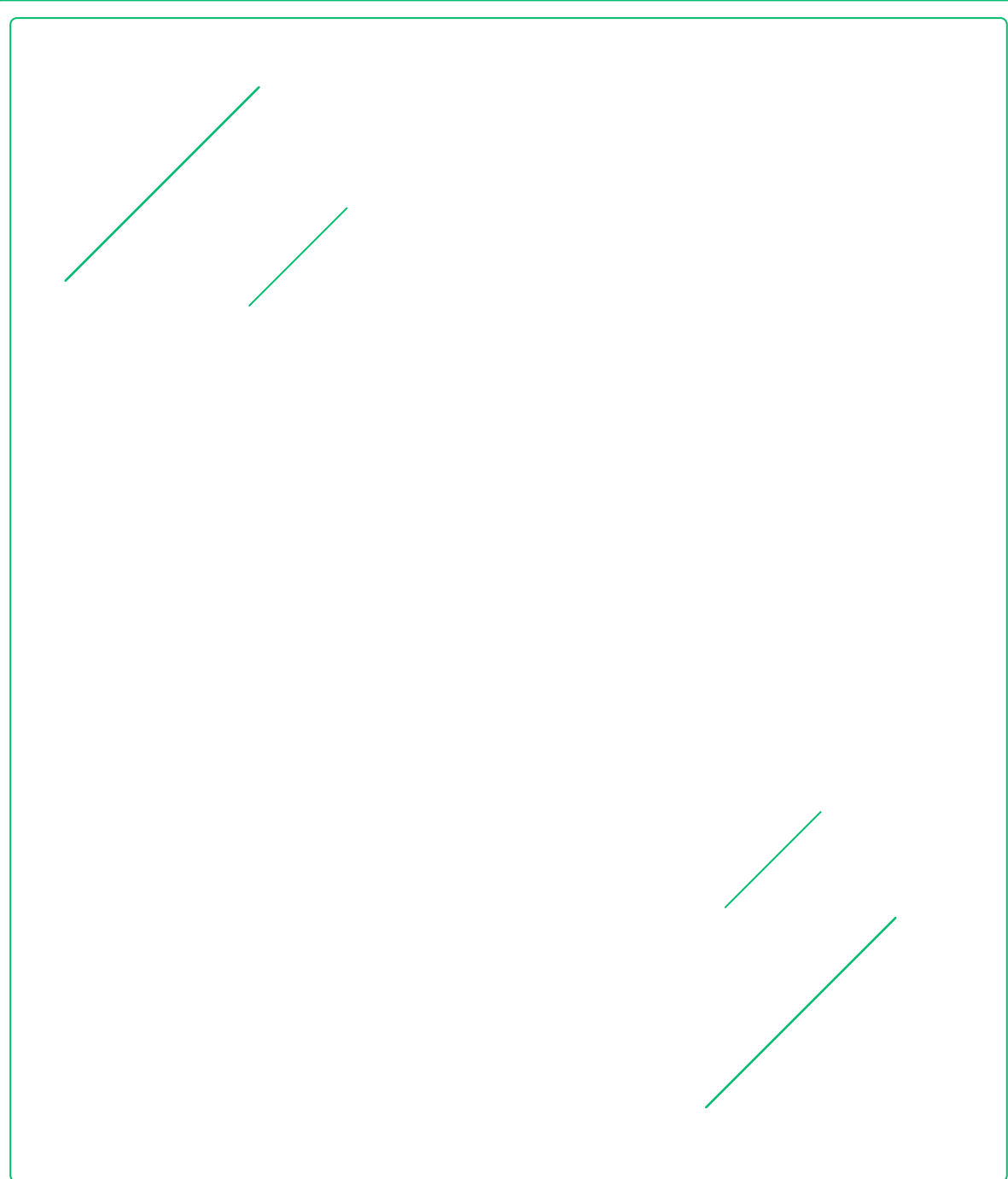
- ☐ I wrote using my neatest handwriting.
- ☐ I used spaces.
- ☐ I used capital letters at the beginning of each sentence.
- ☐ I used punctuation marks.
- ☐ I tried my best when spelling my words.

an
post

Making
better happen

Draw it!

Think about how words can make things better in the world around us. Imagine you are looking out a window to a scene that shows what this looks like. Draw it!



an
post

Making
better happen

Additional Writing Paper

