

an
post

Making
better happen

Junior & Senior Infants

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 completing the template on page 3. Ask pupils to trace the words 'We can make the world better.' and to then copy the sentence in their own handwriting.

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

Step 3: Check your Work

Encourage pupils to check 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.



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 - (What am I?)**

Discuss and elicit from pupils the following:

- The image shows an invitation. How do pupils know it's an invitation? For example, the layout, the illustrations, key words like 'To', 'From', 'Date', 'Time', 'Address'.
- An invitation is a way of communicating in writing.

- **Slide 4 - (Sam's Party)**

- o Explain that it is Sam's birthday and she has a list of things she needs for her party.
- o Ask the pupils to listen to the list of items as you call it out. Ask them to remember as many of the items as they can.
- o List- balloons, cake, cups, plates, straws, napkins, sweets, party hats, party bags.
- o Then as a class, ask pupils to recall items. Make a list on the board. How did you do?
- o Discuss how it's difficult to remember all the items but that writing can help, for example, writing and/or drawing a list of the items.

- **Slide 5 - (Writing All Around!)**

- Ask pupils for examples of things that we write. Click to next slide to reveal some images.

2. Video

- **Slide 8 - (View the Kabin Crew!)**

- Information for pupils - The Kabin Crew are a famous rap and hip-hop group from Cork, Ireland and they know all about the importance of words. Check out their song here 'Making Better Happen'.
- Show pupils the video.

- **Slide 9 - (Let's Think!)**

Discuss the video using the prompt questions.

- Slide 10 - (Word Power!)

- Prompt Questions:
- Can you think of ways that words are important? Have you ever had to use your voice to:
 - ...to get help?
 - ...stick up for yourself, or a friend?
 - ...to make others understand your feelings?
- What would you change in your class, school or local area to make it better? For example, would you have more litter bins, more green spaces for kids? How would you use your words and your voice to share your ideas?
 - ...create a poster?
 - ...make a list for your teacher/principal?

3. Reading and Writing

- Slide 12 - (Handwriting Competition)

- Show pupils the lyrics 'We can make the world better'. Ask pupils to respond to the theme of 'Making Better Happen' by tracing the words 'We can make the world better.' and then copying the sentence in their own handwriting in the template provided. Please note that Junior Infants can just trace over the letters.
- Ask pupils to check their work.

4. Entry Submission

- Once the composition is completed on the template 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.

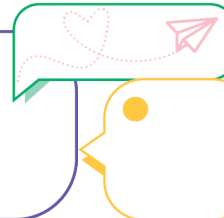


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Template

1. Trace over the words.
2. Then copy in your own writing!
3. Draw a picture about it!

Name:

Class:

School:

We can make the world better

