

Keep pencils sharpened

Always replace lids and caps on inks and paints to prevent leakages and drying out

If you ever need to sharpen your nibs use an Arkansas Stone. You should only need to do this if you are doing a lot of calligraphy regularly or experiencing thickening of fine strokes that cannot be attributed to the angle of your board and/or the repositioning of the reservoir. Wet the stone with some water and draw the nib along it. Then make a figure of 8 shape with the nib. The nib must be kept at a constant angle to the stone & must be moved with a light but even pressure. Be aware that using the stone can make nibs too sharp or cause a burr. Sharpened nibs can be finished off by polishing with a Crocus Cloth (available from Penmandirect)

Store your papers in a dry place, lay flat if possible. Place the paper inside a protective cover, such as the cover of a old used pad or a large plastic bag. This should help to keep the paper dust free and hopefully prevent any damage to the surface & corners of the page

Always keep jars and pots used for dangerous substances, for example, Gesso, clearly marked and away from the rest of your household storage! Wash them thoroughly after use.

Always make sure that your paint brushes are cleaned properly. This will ensure that you don't contaminate one colour with another & and when using the brushes with Size (glue) will ensure that the brush doesn't dry into a solid mass

Where possible have one pair of scissors for use on paper only!! Use another pair when dealing with the cutting of sellotape or masking tape etc. Clean the blade of these scissors on a regular basis to prevent a sticky build up. I have found it best to use a cotton wool pad soaked in nail varnish remover. **BE CAREFUL NOT TO CUT YOURSELF!** Always stroke the pad from the cross of the scissors down the blade to the tip—away from you.