Invisible writing

A message in secret ink is usually written on the back of an ordinary letter or in the blank spaces between the lines and along the sides.

You will need:
• a piece of white candle
• fine powder for wax writing – you can use powdered instant coffee, chalk or even finely powdered sand in an emergency
• ink or paint and a brush or sponge to make the water message appear
• a potato for the potato ink well
• some paper – use thin paper for the water mark
• a toothpick

Always mark the message to show your contact how to develop it (make it appear).

Marks to use are:
• w.x. for a wax message
• u.m. for a water message
• h for a message that must be heated
• x on the message side of the paper

1. WATER WRITING
   - Wet some paper thoroughly. Lay it on a smooth, hard surface. Cover it with dry paper and write firmly. The message will appear on the wet paper when held to the light.
   - The message will vanish when the paper dries and reappear whenever it is wet. Your contact can brush it with water or paint to make it permanent.

2. WAX WRITING
   - Wax some paper by rubbing it with a white candle. Lay the waxed side on plain paper. Write firmly to print the message in wax on the paper.
   - Your contact should sprinkle the message paper with powdered instant coffee or chalk or water. The paper will stick to the message and slide off the rest of the paper.

3. SPY TRICK
   - Black hat had just arrived at the airport. He was stopped and searched, but was found to be carrying only... A sewing kit... The spy was allowed to go. After all, a few needles and threads can't be much help to the enemy... or can they?
   - Alone in his room, the spy drew the thread over a hot light bulb, and tiny dots of invisible ink appeared along it. Turn the page to see how to use a dot code.

1. POTATO INKWELL
   - Hold the potato like this and cut off both ends with a table knife, as shown.

2. SCRAPING
   - Dip a toothpick into the potato ink to write the message. When the 'ink' dries, the message will be invisible.
   - If the message is put in a warm oven (250°F, 120°C, gas mark 8) it will look like this. Make other 'inks' with lemon juice, milk, onion juice or cola.

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