



Locks Heath Junior School

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Headteacher Mrs N Farrell

Dear Parents and Guardians,

5th September 2025

What a lovely start to a new year! The Year 3 team have enjoyed welcoming our new Year 3 children into Locks Heath Junior School over the last two days and we are very proud of the independence and bravery skills they have shown us already. The Year 3 area has been buzzing with exciting energy. As we launch into our new routines, I thought I would take this opportunity to explain reading and other arrangements for the term ahead.

Reading Arrangements

We place great emphasis on developing a positive reading culture throughout the school. This year, children will be able to borrow **two library books every week**. One library book will be a book of choice at any level, and one book will be at the correct level of challenge for your child to progress in their reading skills. Initially, your child will come home with a reading book based on their reading levels from the end of Year 2. As reading skills can decrease or lapse over the summer break, we will be assessing the children ourselves using Accelerated Reader during the first week to ensure that they are all receiving the correct level of challenge.

These library books should be kept with your child's reading record in a **school bookbag** (please do not send in any rucksacks) and the **books should be bought to school every day** as we aim to read in class daily. We anticipate that every child should have their first set of books by the end of the first week of term (Friday 5th September) to allow for all classes to visit the library. In addition, children receiving phonics interventions will also bring home an additional book to practise using the sounds they are learning in these sessions. Phonics interventions will commence later in September.

In class, we will spend around two hours a week on guided reading sessions and on library time. Reading in Year 3 moves away from the infant school model and there is more focus on the teaching of reading skills such as comprehension, inference, summarising and identifying themes and conventions. If your child still needs support with phonics, they will be supported with this in small groups. Each class will also enjoy listening to the teacher read from a longer story book to develop a 'reading for pleasure' culture.

For more information about how reading is delivered, please attend our Parent Reading Session on **Thursday 11th September at 5.00pm – 5.45pm**.

What Can I Do To Support My Child At Home?

In order to support your child at home, he or she should read to you for 10-20 minutes, four times a week. This should be recorded in your child's reading record which will be looked at by the class teachers starting from Thursday 11th September. Please could you record inside each time you read with your child at home in the corresponding weekly section.

Ideally, most of this reading should be with the book set at the right level of challenge for your child but it is also good to read from newspapers, leaflets, websites and from other books so that your child experiences a range of genres.

When listening to your child read, it is really helpful to ask questions about the text such as asking them to make predictions, explain a character's actions or make links to similarities in other texts they have read. These actions and your ongoing encouragement with reading will make a huge impact on your child's attitude and enjoyment of reading and towards wider academic and personal development.

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Homework Expectations.

In addition to home reading expectations, children are expected to practise their times tables each week. The children need to practise their times tables starting with 2, 5 and 10s. The children are expected to know the tables in a mixed order and with corresponding division facts (e.g. $3 \times 5 = 15$ and $15 \div 5 = 3$). This knowledge helps to support many other areas in maths such as fractions, ratios, division and time so it is really worth the effort.

We suggest that you encourage your child to learn these in different fun ways such as: Times Table Rockstars (log on for this will come out in the first few weeks), through song, drawing with bubbles in the bath or rainbow to name but a few! Later in the year, the children will start to take weekly times table tests to assess their knowledge. We are holding a parent '**Times Table Workshop**' on **Tuesday 30th September at 3.30pm – 4.00pm** where we will show you some different ways of teaching and practising times tables. Occasionally, we will set project related homework tasks where children will be given a couple of weeks to research or make something to enhance their understanding of our project.

I hope that this clarifies the situation but for further detail and a rationale regarding our homework, please see our Homework Policy on the school website. In the meantime, if you have any further queries, please contact your child's teacher.

PE

In year 3, our P.E. / Games sessions are all on Mondays with CM Sports coaches. On Monday, your child will need to bring their PE kit to change into and take home to be washed – they should not be coming into school in their kit. As the weather cools, we would suggest that they wear warm clothing e.g. track suit bottoms or leggings and jumpers (they may wear their school jumper if you are happy with this).

Swimming

Year 3 will swim every Monday for a whole half term; The year group will be split into two groups (Class 1 and 2 and then Class 3 and 4) Each group will then swim for a whole half term. Information about which group your child is in will be send out to before the end of this week. Swimming will commence on Monday 15th September.

Drop off and collection – reminder

We expect all children to arrive between 8.40am and 8.50am. This is especially important, so they do not miss the start of lessons. The end of the school day is 3.20pm. Drop off and collection for all classes is through the Year 3 gates by the class doors. Please can you ensure that you contact class teachers if a different adult is collecting your child so that we can add this to our class information and ensure the safety of the children. If an older sibling within the school is collecting your child, please can you also let class teachers know this as we need your consent to be able to do this.

Uniform and bookbags

Children are to wear their school uniform every day – please see the website for more information. A gentle reminder that children with hair longer than shoulder length must **tie their hair up** whilst in school and that **no rucksacks** are allowed in school; bookbags are available from the school office.

Parent drop ins.

We would love to welcome parents in to school to meet the teacher, see the classrooms and ask any questions you may have on **Tuesday 9th September at 3.30pm**. Please wait in the Y3 garden.

If you have any queries or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact your child's class teacher or myself; we cannot wait to spend an amazing year with your children!

Kind regards,



Miss Collins and the Year 3 Team