



# Locks Heath Junior School

Warsash Road  
Locks Heath  
Southampton  
Hampshire  
SO31 9NZ

Telephone: (01489) 572226  
[www.locksheathjunior.com](http://www.locksheathjunior.com)

Headteacher Mrs N Farrell

Dear Parents/Guardians,

5<sup>th</sup> September 2025

We hope you had an enjoyable summer holiday; it was lovely to welcome everyone back yesterday. All the children made an excellent start to their first day in Year 6 and are adjusting well to the new expectations and responsibilities. We are looking forward to the year ahead and excited about all the experiences we have planned for the children. This year, we will regularly be emailing regarding the learning and key messages from Year 6 which we hope you will find beneficial.

Our project this term is 'Legacy' where we will be answering the overarching question 'Will today's societies leave a greater legacy than those of the past?'. Our learning throughout will inform this question as it will be revisited at the end of the learning journey. We will be celebrating our learning towards the end of the term by creating a celebration of legacies throughout history where we will invite you to join us so your child can share their learning and achievements with you. A date will follow for this event soon.

As we head into the new school year, we thought we would take this opportunity to explain some routines and arrangements for Year 6.

## PE

Year 6 will require their PE kit in school on a Thursday.

## Swimming

This year, swimming will take place on a Thursday.

Autumn 1	Class 13 and 14
Autumn 2	Classes 15 and 16
Spring 1	Class 13 and 14
Spring 2	Classes 15 and 16
Summer 1	Class 13 and 14
Summer 2	Classes 15 and 16

## Reading Arrangements for 2025/26

We continue to place a great emphasis on developing a positive reading culture throughout Locks Heath Junior School. Children will be able to borrow **two library books every week**. The first, will be a book set at the correct level of challenge for your child to progress in their reading skills. We will be assessing the children's reading levels over the next couple of weeks to ensure that they are all receiving the correct level book. We have found that our programme 'Accelerated Reader' continues to be a great tool for accurate assessment of reading and the children will complete a 'Star Reader' test within the next few weeks which will determine their levelled book. The reading age/book level is not only determined by their word reading but also by their comprehension. The second choice of book from the library, will be a free choice to allow reading for pleasure and aspirational reading which can be supported by an adult at home (perhaps shared reading of a longer story).

Continued over .....

These library books should be kept in a **school book bag** and the **books should be bought to school every day** as they may be used for reading independently or to an adult. We anticipate that every child should have their first set of books by the end of the first full week of term (Friday 12<sup>th</sup> September) to allow all classes to visit the library.

In class, we will spend two hours a week on guided reading session as well as attending a forty-minute library session too. Reading in Year 6 continues to focus on the teaching of reading skills such as comprehension, inference, understanding word meaning, summarising and identifying themes and conventions. There will also be times where children read aloud to develop fluency and expression. Each class will also enjoy listening to the teacher read from a longer story book to develop a ‘reading for pleasure’ culture.

Lastly, this year we will continue with our home reading booklet. We expect the children to record when they read during a week using the pages provided. Our expectation is that a child will read **four times a week**. We ask for home reading booklets to be brought into school each Monday so the class teacher can monitor the home reading that has been completed. Additionally, we would appreciate your support in encouraging your child to participate in the **Monster Read Challenge**. A new selection of books has been introduced for this year’s challenge and a copy of this reading list has been sent home within the home reading booklet.

### **What Can I do to Support My Child at Home?**

In order to support your child at home, he or she should read four times a week. 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 him or her to make predictions, discussing the meaning of new vocabulary, explaining a character’s actions or making links to similarities in other texts they have read.

These actions and your support at our reading events, will have a huge impact on your child’s attitude and enjoyment of reading and towards wider academic and personal development.

### **Spelling**

This year, we will be continuing with the Year 6 spelling programme. The spelling programme focuses on the teaching of spellings so that children understand how to apply patterns, strategies and knowledge to other words and not just the words given that week. It also provides links to prior knowledge and allows targeted support for those who are not yet able to spell words from our year group programme of study. As a result, children in Year 6 will continue to not bring home a spelling practice as this will all be completed during lesson time.

### **Mathematics**

This year, for the first half-term, we will not be sending home an arithmetic booklet because we want the children to spend the first half term developing their fluency in times tables.

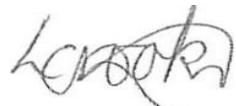
Over the years, we have seen the positive impact of building children’s fluency and recall in multiplication and division. From next week (Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> September) your child will be coming home with a times table homework which will need to be completed for the following week. This will be focusing on different times tables and will be due each **Thursday**. As well as this, your child will be set a weekly task to complete on Times Table Rock Stars (we will ensure we have reminded them of their logon details before this is set). If your child still wishes to do more, they may choose to undertake extra activities on Times Tables Rock Stars (after they receive their password).

Continued over ...

Thank you for your continued support with these tasks. 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.

We look forward to meeting you soon in our 'Classroom Drop In' on **Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> September at 3.30pm**. In the meantime, should you have any queries or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact your child's class teacher or the Year 6 Leader Mrs Crooks.

Kind regards,



Mrs Crooks and the Year 6 Team