



Locks Heath Junior School

Warsash Road
Locks Heath
Southampton
Hampshire
SO31 9NZ

Telephone: (01489) 572226
www.locksheathjunior.com

Headteacher Mrs N Farrell

Dear Parents/Guardians,

5th September 2025

We are very pleased to share that we are incredibly proud of the way our Year 5 children have made an excellent start to the year and are adjusting well to the new expectations and responsibilities of Upper Key Stage 2.

We are looking forward to the year ahead and excited about all the experiences we have planned for the children, the first of which is the Avon Tyrrell residential next week for most of our children. We are also excited to be able to provide the children who aren't attending Avon Tyrrell, with some exciting opportunities here at school.

We have many engaging activities planned for the children to take part in this term. Our first project is 'Structures' where we will be answering the overarching question 'Can we use structures to tell us about societies' values?'. At the end of term, we will be celebrating our learning by creating a museum to share our learning with you and we invite you to join us so your child can share their learning and achievements. We will update you with the date for this nearer the time.

As we launch into the new school year, I thought I would take this opportunity to explain some routines and arrangements for Year 5.

PE

Year 5 will require their PE kit in school on a Wednesday.

Swimming

Year 5 will swim every Wednesday for alternating half-terms; Class 9 and Class 10 will be swimming in the first half-term and Class 11 and 12 in the second and then this cycle will continue until the end of the year.

Reading Arrangements

The children will visit the Library every Friday. During this time, children will be able to borrow two library books. The first, will be a book set at the correct level of challenge for your child to progress in their reading skills (assigned by colour). 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. The reading age/book level is not only determined by their word reading but also by their comprehension. Therefore, do not be concerned if you feel the book looks too easy as we are using it to develop a range of wider reading skills. Their 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). In addition, children receiving phonics interventions will bring home a book to practise reading the sounds they are learning in these sessions.

It is important these reading books are kept in your child's bookbag and brought into school everyday as they may be used for reading independently or with an adult. Additionally, we would appreciate your support in encouraging your child to participate in the Monster Read Challenge. A new selection of books is available for your child to enjoy throughout the year. This reading list can be found in the front of your child's reading journal.

Continued over

Home learning expectations:

Reading

In order to support your child at home, they should read to you for 10 - 20 minutes, at least four times a week. Starting from the week beginning Monday 8th September, the children will bring home their 'Home Reading Booklet'. Please could you record inside each time you read with your child at home in the corresponding weekly section which will be reviewed in school once 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 them to make predictions about what might happen next, explain a character's actions or how they might be feeling, or make links to similarities in other texts they have read.

We still strongly encourage your child to read independently, reading regularly makes a huge difference to their progress across the curriculum and research has proven it also has life-time health and economic benefits.

Arithmetic

We will also be sending home an arithmetic booklet each Monday from 15th September to be returned the following Monday. This will contain questions for the children to complete using methods taught in school. They should not spend more than 30 minutes on this task and we will be using these questions in our arithmetic sessions to recap and remind the children of suitable methods to use.

I hope that this clarifies the situation but if you have any further queries, please contact your child's class teacher.

Drop Off and Collection

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. 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.

Key Year 5 dates:

Avon Tyrell: Wednesday 10th – Friday 12th September

'Meet the teacher / Avon Tyrell slideshow' – Thursday 18th September 3.30pm – 4.00pm

Egyptian day: Friday 26th September (details to follow)

We look forward to meeting you soon in our 'Meet the teacher' sessions. In the meantime, should you have any queries or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact your child's class teacher or the Year 5 Leader Mrs Weatherill.

Kind regards,



Mrs Weatherill and the Year 5 Team