



Locks Heath Junior School

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Headteacher Mrs N Farrell

Dear Parents/Guardians,

3rd September 2026

We have really enjoyed welcoming our Year 4 children back into Locks Heath Junior School this week and we are very proud of the independence and bravery skills they have already shown us. We have some exciting activities for the children to take part in this term. Our project comes under the concept of 'Inventions'. At the beginning of our project, we will discuss the question, 'Is factual knowledge as important than the ability to be imaginative?'. Our learning throughout will inform us on this question as it will be revisited at the end of the learning journey. We will be celebrating our learning at the end of the term by sharing our thoughts, ideas and outcomes with the rest of our Year Group. We are also very excited to be performing a 'Nativity' production in December for parents to come in and watch (timings to be confirmed nearer the time), the dates for this are as follows:

Tuesday 8th December – matinee and evening performance

Wednesday 9th December – evening performance

As we launch into the new school year, I thought I would take this opportunity to explain some routines and arrangements for Year 4.

PE

Year 4 will require their PE kit in school on a **Tuesday**.

Swimming

Year 4 will swim every Tuesday for a whole half-term; The year group will be split into two groups and each group will then swim for a whole half-term. Information about which group your child is in will be sent out to you before the end of this week.

Reading arrangements

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' is a great tool for accurate assessment of reading; the children will complete a 'Star Reader' test which will determine their levelled book. The reading age/ book level is not only determined by their word reading but also by their comprehension. 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).

Children receiving phonics interventions will also bring home an additional book to practice sounds they are learning in these sessions.

Continued over

These library books should be kept with your child's reading record in a school book bag and the books should be brought to school every day as they may be used for reading independently or to an adult.

In class, we will spend around two hours a week on guided reading sessions and one session in the library. Reading in Year 4 continues to focus on the teaching of reading skills such as comprehension, inference, 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.

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.

Home learning expectations

In order to support your child at home, he or she should read to you for 10-20 minutes, four to five times a week. Your child 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, explain a character's actions or make links to similarities in other texts they have read. These actions will make a huge impact on your child's attitude and enjoyment of reading and towards wider academic and personal development.

For mathematics home learning, the children need to prioritise their times tables knowledge, up to 12×12 . The children are expected to know the tables in a mixed order and with corresponding division facts (e.g. $3 \times 4 = 12$ and $12 \text{ divided by } 4 = 3$). This knowledge helps to support many other areas in mathematics 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 through song, drawing with bubbles in the bath or online games. In addition to this, we ask that your child spend 10 mins 4x a week on Times Tables Rock Stars. Towards the end of Year 4, the children will complete a **national statutory multiplication check** online (more information will be sent throughout the year) which has a very similar format to TTRS so we have found that practicing on here helps the children to become familiarised with the keypad. We also have a weekly times tables session in school. **There is a Times Table workshop for parents to attend on Friday 16th October** (details will follow nearer the date). If your child has forgotten their TTRS log-in, they can ask their teacher. I hope that this clarifies our home learning expectations for Year 4 but for further detail and a rationale regarding our home learning, please see our Homework Policy on the school website. In the meantime, if you have any further queries, please contact your child's class teacher.

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 8th September at 3.30pm**. We very much look forward to supporting our Year 4 children for an exciting year of learning.

Kind regards,
Mrs Snow and the Year 4 Team