



# Locks Heath Junior School

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Headteacher Mrs N Farrell

Dear Parents/Guardians,

3<sup>rd</sup> September 2026

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 in just over a 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 invite you in to celebrate your children's learning and showcase their developing oracy skills. This is planned for the last part of the school day on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December and I will share more details on this, including timings, after half term.

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; you will be notified as to whether your child is swimming this half-term or in the second and then this cycle will continue until the end of the year.

## **Reading Arrangements**

The children will visit the Library every Tuesday. 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 every day as they may be used for reading independently or with an adult.

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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.

### **Spelling**

This year, we will be continuing with the Year 5 spelling programme. The programme is designed to help children develop a deeper understanding of spelling patterns, strategies and rules, enabling them to apply what they have learned to unfamiliar words rather than memorising a weekly list. It also builds on previously taught knowledge and provides opportunities for additional support for children who are still developing the spelling skills expected within the Year 5 programme of study.

For this reason, children in Year 5 will not be given weekly spelling lists to practise at home. All spelling activities and practice will take place during lesson time.

### **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 7<sup>th</sup> 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 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.

#### **Maths**

We will also be sending home a maths task each **Monday** from 21st September to be returned the following **Monday**. This will initially focus on consolidating times table skills. They should not spend more than 30 minutes on this task and if they are unable to finish, please encourage them to make a note of where they were able to complete to in the 30 minutes.

We encourage children to continue to build upon the times tables skills they have developed by regularly engaging with Times Table Rockstars; we suggest a minimum of twice a week. This will be monitored in class and celebrated in our Learning to Learn assemblies. Being able to apply the times table skills they have developed is key to developing their understanding of fractions and formal methods of multiplication and division, particularly as the complexity increases throughout Year 5. For the first 2 weeks of term, before our residential, we will be running a TTRS tournament to encourage the children to continue practising these vital skills where we will be competing across the year group to see which classes and individuals have been developing their times table skills. I hope that this clarifies the situation but if you have any further queries regarding home learning, please contact your child's class teacher.

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### **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 16<sup>th</sup> – Friday 18<sup>th</sup> September

‘Meet the teacher’ – Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> September 3:30pm – 4:00pm

Avon Tyrrell slide show: Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> September 3.30pm

Egyptian day: Friday 25<sup>th</sup> 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