



Welcome to Year 3 – Autumn Term Newsletter Hethersett VC Primary School – September 2025



Dear Macaws,

We hope you've had a wonderful summer break and are looking forward to the year ahead. We're really excited to welcome you to Year 3 – it promises to be a busy but enjoyable term full of learning, creativity and fun.

This letter aims to give you an overview of what to expect this Autumn Term. We'll also be holding a '**Meet the Teacher**' drop-in on **Thursday 4th September between 3:15pm–5:15pm**. You're very welcome to come along to say hello and explore the classroom. If you have any questions about anything in this letter or throughout the term, please feel free to speak to me after school or get in touch via email.

Year 3 Team

Mr Wilkins (lwilkins@hethersettprimary.co.uk)

Mrs Harrison

Reading

All children will receive a reading record and a book matched to their current reading band in the first week back. These will be based on their reading level at the end of Year 2, and we'll adjust them as needed after hearing each child read.

Children will have access to two types of books:

1. **Band/levelled books** – to be changed as needed throughout the week.
2. **Library and class library books** – we visit the school library every **Friday**. Children can also choose from our class library any time and return finished books to the tray in the classroom.

Please aim to read with your child **at least three times per week**, signing the reading record each time. House points will be awarded as follows:

- 3 reads = 1 HP
- 4–6 reads = 2 HPs
- 7 reads = 3 HPs

Reading records are checked every **Monday**.

PE and Swimming

Our PE schedule for the Autumn Term is as follows:

- **Mondays (all year)** – PE with Mr Bounden (starting **Monday 8th September**)
- **Thursdays (Autumn 1)** – PE with Mrs Chamberlain (starting **Thursday 4th September**)
- **Wednesdays (Autumn 2)** – Swimming with Miss Betts (starting **Wednesday 5th November**)

Children should come to school in their PE kit on **Mondays** throughout the year and **Thursdays in Autumn 1**.

A Few Changes from Year 2

- **Morning drop-off:** In Year 3, children enter the building independently from **8:35am** without needing to wait for a staff member. Registration runs from **8:40am–8:50am**. To support a smooth transition, I'll be on the playground for the first three mornings back.
- **Free school meals:** The **Universal Infant Free School Meals** scheme ends in Year 3. If your child no longer qualifies for free school meals, please ensure they have a **healthy snack** for break and either a **packed lunch** or a paid school lunch via School Money.

Autumn Term Curriculum

English (Pathways to Write and Whole-Class Reading): In Autumn 1, children will write recounts in the form of letters, inspired by *Seal Surfer* by Michael Foreman. In Autumn 2, they will explore fiction and fantasy through *Winter's Child* by Angela McAllister and *Ice Palace* by Robert Swindells. Children will also take part in two whole-class reading lessons per week using the Ashley Booth scheme, developing comprehension, vocabulary and fluency through high-quality, engaging texts.

Maths (Maths — No Problem!): Children will focus on place value to 1,000 and develop their understanding of addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division.

Science: The topic this term is forces and magnets, including practical investigations and developing scientific reasoning.

History: Children will explore life in the Stone Age, including how people lived, hunted, gathered and how this period compares to modern life.

Geography: Children will develop their understanding of the United Kingdom and Europe, with a focus on Northern Italy, including countries, capital cities, physical features and map skills.

Design and Technology: Children will design their own wearable digital technology and develop both a program and housing for a Micro:bit, combining creativity with computing and design skills.

Art: Children will explore prehistoric art by recreating cave-style artwork using charcoal and natural pigments. They'll experiment with colour mixing and large-scale pieces, developing both artistic techniques and historical understanding.

Computing: The focus will be on animation, using digital tools to plan, create, and refine simple animated sequences.

PE: This term includes tag rugby, swimming and gymnastics.

RE: Children will explore religious beliefs about creation and consider what it means to follow God.

PSHE: Units this term include building a positive classroom environment, understanding emotions, managing self-control and anger, and learning how to make thoughtful choices.

French: Children will learn vocabulary for shapes and animals, building confidence in spoken and written French.

Music: Children will explore sounds and singing in French, developing rhythm, pitch, and performance skills.

Homework

Fact File homework

Each half term, children will receive a topic-based Fact File to complete. The first will focus on *The UK and Europe* (Geography). A paper copy will be handed out during the first lesson and also emailed home.

Reading

Please aim for at least three adult-signed reading sessions each week. Reading records are checked on **Mondays** and house points awarded.

Spellings

Weekly spellings will be sent home from **Friday 5th September to start the first test the following week.**

These can also be found online at: <https://hethersett-vc-junior.secure-primariesite.net/spellings-7/>

Times Table Rock Stars (TTRS)

Children will receive login details in their reading records. TTRS is a fun and effective way to practise times tables at home. House points will be awarded weekly:

- 3 sessions = 1 HP
- 4–6 sessions = 2 HPs
- 7 sessions = 3 HPs

TTRS Modes:

Jamming: Choose specific tables to practise

Garage: Adaptive practice based on progress and completes the children's heatmap

Studio: Timed tests to earn a 'studio score' and appear on the school leaderboard

Soundcheck: Mimics the Year 4 multiplication check – 25 questions with 6 seconds per question

Please note: Studio and Soundcheck modes are best left until your child has confidently learnt all their times tables up to 12×12 and turned their heatmap green. This is not expected until the end of Year 4, so no pressure to use these modes early!

 [TTRS Parent/Carer Guide \(video\)](#)