



Cherry Tree Road, Holtspur, Beaconsfield, Bucks, HP9 1BH
 Telephone (01494) 674325/730434
 Email: Office@holtspurschool.co.uk
 Headteacher: Mrs L McKellar

Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope you had a lovely Easter break and are looking forward to our summer term together in Year 1.

Dates for Year 1: Friday 1st May – Maypole dance workshop (pm)
 Thursday 14th May - Science trip to Holtspur Bank (1pm-3pm)
 Monday 8th June to Friday 12th June Phonics Screening week
 Friday 26th June – KS1 Sports Day (am)
 Wednesday 8th July – KS1 Singing concert

Below is an outline of topics that we will be covering during this term.

Subject	1 st Half Term	2 nd Half Term
Science	Plants and trees	Weather: Seasonal Changes
Computing	Coding	Spreadsheets/Technology
Geography		What's the weather like here?
Art / DT	Sculpture and 3D: Woven wonders	Fruit smoothies
RE	Shabbat (Judaism)	Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur (Judaism)
PSHE	Relationships	Healthy me
PE	Sending and receiving, reaction and response Run, jump, throw	Ball chasing and static balance Send and return
Music	Having fun with improvisation	Let's Perform Together



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Reading:

Children's reading books will continue to be changed every Monday and Thursday. Please remember to sign and date when your child has read a book at home so we can then change it. If it is not signed in the reading log we will assume they haven't read the book and it won't be changed.

Your child will need to bring their reading book to school each day and they should read at home every day with an adult. Please make sure that when they come to an unfamiliar word they use their increasing phonic knowledge to sound out the letters in order, rather than guessing. It is also important that you discuss the book together. The more attention they pay to punctuation when reading, the easier they will find it to use the same punctuation in their own writing.

Please supplement reading with books from the local library as it will broaden their reading and understanding of different words and encourages interest in their selection of reading. Please record what your child has read in the reading record book. This is important as we will change the home reading book when we can see it has been read. We encourage you to read the books more than once with your child to build confidence and increasing recall of words on sight.

By the end of the year children are expected to be able to identify words they do not know/understand when reading their own books. They need to be able to find out the meaning of unknown words through discussion with others and thus be able to retrieve information from a given text (comprehension). This is something you can support your child with at home by discussing what any unknown words could possibly mean in the context of the books and texts they are reading.

English:

This term the children will be focusing on the following books within their English lessons. We will read a range of other stories alongside those below which will also be used during English lessons or as whole class reading books for comprehension and enjoyment.

The English books are:

- The Snail and the Whale
- The Secret of Black Rock

A small and unusual request (if you haven't already read these books): please try not to read these with your children as it can spoil the element of each reveal/surprise and thinking activities in our English lessons. Thank you!

Writing will focus on the use of adjectives to add detail to sentences; using conjunctions other than 'and' in sentences; ensuring letters and digits are formed correctly, with a focus on neat presentation in the books they record in. We will continue with our handwriting lessons in class



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to secure the correct letter formation (with kicks and flicks) for all lower case letters of the alphabet and form capital letters correctly. Some children may begin to use a joined, cursive style - this is not a requirement of Year 1; however, it can support fluency when writing.

Spelling:

Spellings continue to be covered in the daily phonics lessons. However, encourage your child to sight read as many Common Exception Words or High Frequency Words as they can from the list handed out at the start of the year. Once they can sight read each word encourage them to learn how to spell it and use it in their written work. The list is part of their English expectations in Year 1 and Year 2 and the earlier they learn these the better their reading and writing can become. Children can highlight the words they know and focus on words they find tricky.

Phonics:

As you may be aware, in June, year 1 children across the country will take part in a national phonics screening test. Activities will be sent home weekly this term to help you to support your child so they are prepared. Miss Orsi and Mrs Bell will be carrying out the tests with the children in June and as they already read with them regularly for the Read Write Inc assessments each half term they will not be told it is a test.

We teach phonics daily in phase groups, your child will know which group they are in.

We follow the Read Write Inc scheme of work. There are plenty of websites that you can access to support your child's learning, for example

www.phonicsplay.co.uk or <http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/wordsandpictures/phonics/>.

Mathematics:

In Maths we continue to follow White Rose Maths. We will begin the term with Multiplication & Division, Fractions, and Position & Direction.

Maths in Year 1 is very practical with an emphasis on forming digits and numbers correctly.

Emphasis is placed on the children being able to start using mathematical vocabulary to answer questions and deepen their understanding about different concepts. They may know the answers to certain questions posed to them but they need to be able to explain how they know it, which links to a greater depth of learning. Here is the link to the White Rose website in case you would like more information <https://whiterosemaths.com/resources/primary-resources/primary-sols/>

Science:

We will start the term by studying 'Plants and Trees'. The children will be identifying and growing different plants and trees as well as observing what it is they need to be able to grow. We will spend time outside looking at trees and wild/garden plants in our local area and use our scientific vocabulary to explain what is the same and different about them. Consolidation of this topic can happen when you walk to and from school, or go out at weekends to the garden center or local park.

We will be visiting Holtspur Bank on Thursday 14th May from 1pm – 3pm to look at local trees and wildlife in this fantastic conservation area. If you are able to support this local trip, please let us know and we will confirm your attendance nearer the time when a letter will go home including all the details and arrangements. Thank you in advance for your help.



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Library:

We visit the school library every Friday afternoon. Children are encouraged to borrow a book for the week. Please ensure that your child has their library book on that day. If there are any outstanding library books, please could they be returned as soon as possible. Many thanks.

Homework:

We send home a grid which includes full details on how to complete each piece of homework. Homework is due on a Tuesday and will be given back on a Thursday.

P.E.

PE will take place on a **Wednesday and Friday** in the hall and outside respectively. Your child will need named kit including their shorts, tracksuit bottoms, PE top and trainers with them at the start of the week. Please send socks if your child wears tights to school.

Cloakroom

To help minimise the problem of overcrowding, coats and PE kits will be kept on the pegs. The children keep their book bags in their tray in the classroom. If the children have too many key rings on their book bags, they won't be able to fit everything in their tray, so we request that you restrict this to **one small keyring**.

School trip:

Visit to Maidenhead Synagogue – date tbc (Summer 2nd half)

General:

Your child will need a named bottle of water every day, especially as the weather is starting to get warmer. Please ensure that the bottle is filled up daily.

Messages for the day can be left (verbally or written) with the member of staff on the gate. Alternatively, please send an email to the school office and I will respond as soon as I can. The office email is office@holtspurschool.co.uk

Please note that children will not be dismissed at the end of the day to persons under the age of 16.

Please inform the class teacher if you have any concerns or wish to meet with us and we can arrange a mutually convenient time to speak to each other.

We are all looking forward to a productive term!

Many thanks for your support,

Miss Barnes and the Year 1 team