



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

CARING, INSPIRING, ACHIEVING

Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope that your Easter Holidays were filled with fun, rest and lots of chocolate! As we enter the final term of Year 3, we would like to take this opportunity to thank both yourselves and the children for making this year so enjoyable and successful.

Important dates:

- Wednesday 15th April 2026 – Trip to Verulamium museum
- Thursday 19th May – Year 3 Class Assembly at 9:15 am
- Wednesday, 3rd June – Trip to Gurudwara (more information to follow)
- Tuesday, 7th July 2026 – Transition day, children meet next year's teacher
- Thursday, 9th July 2026 – Year 3 Singing Concert
- Friday, 17th July 2026 – Year 3 to Holtspur banks for Junior Rangers

Year 3 Summer 1 Timetable (subject to change):

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8:40 -9.00	Registration Morning task	Registration Morning task	Registration Morning task	Registration Morning task	Registration Spelling Test
9:00 – 9:30	Reading	Reading	Reading	Reading	Assembly
9:30 – 10:30	English	PE	Forest School	English	English
10:30-10:45	Assembly	Change after PE			Spelling lesson
10.45-10.55	Break	Break	Break	Break	Break
11:00 – 12:00	Maths	Computing	Maths	Maths	Maths
12:00 -1:00	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
1:00 – 1:10	Change for PE		Free Reading	Free Reading	Free Reading
1:10 – 2:10	PE	Maths	English	Science	RE
2.:10– 3:10	Art/DT	English	History/Geography		French
				PSHE	Music
3:15	Home time	Home time	Home time	Home time	Home time



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The following is a summary of what your child will be covering in the Summer term:

	Summer 1	Summer 2
English	The Great Kapok Tree	I Was a Rat! – Phillip Pullman
Math	Fractions Money Time	Time Shape Statistics
Science	Plants	Living things and Habitat
Computing	Branching Databases	Simulations / Graphing
Geography/History	Are all settlements the same?	Why did the Romans invade and settle in Britain?
Art/DT	Our local neighbourhood collage inspired by Faith Ringgold	DT – Eating Seasonally (Savory tarts)
RE	Sikhism - Sharing and Community	Sikhism - Prayer and Worship
PE	Static balance, reaction and response Athletics	Ball chasing and balance Cricket
PSHE	Relationships	Changing Me
French	Fruits	Little Red Riding Hood
Music	Bringing us Together (Disco)	Reflect, Rewind and Replay (Western)

English:

During this half-term, we will be using the book 'The Great Kapok Tree' by Lynne Cherry. The book ties in beautifully with the science topic of plants, by highlighting the kapok tree's crucial role in the Amazon rainforest ecosystem. The book illustrates how plants provide shelter, food, and oxygen, emphasizing their importance to both animals and humans. Our text for next half-term is using Phillip Pullman's 'I Was a Rat!' to write diary entries, recounts and news reports. I Was a Rat! Is set in the early 1920s, telling the tale of a young boy with a mysterious past who claims to be a rat. He is taken in off the streets by elderly couple Bob and Joan who name him Roger and it soon becomes obvious that he is no ordinary child.

Reading:



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Children are expected to read daily in order to further their language and reading skills. Please challenge your child to read a variety of different books and genres. Reading records will be monitored on a regular basis!

Maths:

We are following the White Rose (Maths Mastery) program to teach the maths curriculum. This means more time will be spent looking at the areas in more depth, which provides the opportunity for the children to fully grasp the concepts within the Maths curriculum. The topics we will be covering are: fractions, time, properties of shape and statistics.

Computing:

During Computing lessons with Mrs Heritage, the children will be covering a range of basic IT skills through their learning of emails, databases and simulations.

Science:

We begin the term with discovering the inner workings of Plants. We will be identifying and explaining the functions of different parts of a plant and identify the main life stages of flowering plants. In the second half of the term, we will be learning about 'Living things and their habitat'.

RE:

In RE we will be looking at Sikhism following the Discover RE scheme. The question we will be exploring is, 'Do Sikhs think it is important to share?'. We will be learning about the story of Guru Nanak and the boulder and delving further into the Sikh faith regarding prayer and worship.

PSHE:

During PSHE this term we will be learning about 'Relationships'. We will discuss how to make friends, how to solve problems when they occur, how to make others feel part of a group and how to treat others and show respect. After half term, our topic is 'Changing me'. This topic includes the understanding of how animals and humans change from birth to fully grow. This will also give children the opportunity to identify how their bodies change and the feelings associated with those changes.

History:

In History we will be studying the Romans, their impact on Britain and why they were so successful in battle. We will be covering: the reasons why Rome invaded Britain, how the Britons responded (Boudicca), battle formations, what life was like in Rome during these times and identify the Roman legacy in modern Britain.

Geography:



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In Geography, we will be learning all about settlements and the geographical factors which influence these. The children will be creating a case study to compare our local area to one that is far away. As part of our learning, we will be required to conduct a local survey of the surrounding area approximately halfway through the topic. This will consist of walking around the locality of Holtspur school as a group and photographing specific features – A message will be sent out to inform you of when this will be happening.

Art:

In our Art in Collage topic, inspired by Faith Ringgold, pupils will learn how to choose and arrange materials to create bold, eye-catching artwork. They will focus on making their work neat and precise, and will practise using techniques such as coiling, overlapping, tessellation, mosaic, and montage to build interesting and detailed collages.

DT:

In DT, the children will be cooking with the produce we grow at school. They will learn that different foods grow in different countries because of their climates, and that some fruits and vegetables only grow in certain seasons. They will explore how eating seasonal food is better for the environment and find recipes that use ingredients that grow at that time of year. Finally, children will use their own harvested produce to make seasonal tarts.

PE:

PE will take place on a **Tuesday** and **Thursday**. Please ensure the children have named shorts, PE top, socks and trainers with them at the start of the week.

Equipment needed within Pencil cases

- **Clear** pencil case with child's name
- 2 x pencils
- Eraser (plain)
- Pencil sharpener
- 30 cm Ruler
- Whiteboard pen and glue stick.
- Colouring pencils
- Art/DT overall (an old adult sized shirt is perfect for this)

**It is very useful and strongly suggested for ALL items to be labelled with your child's name.*

PE / Games Kit

The following items are essential and should be in school every day. They should be kept in a separate bag:

- White polo shirt – plain, or with school logo
- Maroon or black shorts



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- White socks
- Plimsolls
- Religious headdresses may be worn but we suggest a sports hijab

For outdoors:

- Trainers
- Plain black jogging bottoms
- A school fleece (optional for cold weather) or plain black sweatshirt or fleece

Attendance - Every day counts

Attendance has a direct link to attainment. Absence can also affect a child socially, emotionally and impact on the way they see themselves as a learner. Our curriculum is sequenced in a way that builds upon prior knowledge, when a child is absent, they miss key concepts which are built upon. Low attendance causes gaps in understanding which impacts children's progress and self-confidence. The attendance ladder below shows the breakdown of how each day lost or time lost impacts their overall attainment and progress. At Holtspur we expect all children to attend school every day, **our attendance target is 96%** for all children. Children should only be absent if they are too ill to attend.



Hair

- Shoulder length hair must be tied back (girls and boys) securely with a simple stretchy band (Maroon/Black). Short hair needs to be kept out of eyes with a simple maroon/black hair band. No flowers, jewels or other decorations. Hair should not be dyed. Fashion cuts – shaved lines and symbols, Mohicans, stripes etc are not allowed. If hair is beaded or plaited during the holidays, it must be securely tied back for reasons of health and safety. If in doubt, please ask before the event.

Jewellery



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- We do not permit jewellery to be worn at school because there is a Health and Safety risk to the child wearing it and to others. We do however allow small stud earrings and a simple watch (provided there is no digital photo taking capability) to be worn.
- We recognise that jewellery or clothing may have a religious significance, in this case they will be allowed, at the discretion of the Headteacher. Parents must first make a request to the Head in writing.
- Nail varnish, temporary tattoos and make-up are NOT allowed.

For PE

- Religious bracelets should be covered by a towelling sweatband
- Watches must be removed
- Stud earrings must be removed or taped over (parent to supply tape)

Home learning:

Sent out: Thursdays.

Due in: the following Wednesday.

Two pieces of homework will be sent out, consisting of either:

- Maths
- Reading comprehension
- Grammar or Punctuation
- Science
- Geography or History
- Topic
- Spellings

Spellings will be given out on Thursdays alongside other homework. Children will be tested through a Dictation on Friday morning.

Spelling Shed:

As a means to supplement spelling practice, we use Spelling Shed across the school. Children's login details can be found in their reading records. Weekly assignments are set on the Spelling Shed portal and link directly to the spellings sent home each week. These tasks reinforce the spelling rules taught in class and provide valuable extra practice. We kindly ask parents to support your children in completing their weekly Spelling Shed activities.

Pupils are encouraged to read daily, so please ensure the reading journal is kept up to date.



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Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me via the school office and I will respond as soon as I am able to do so. If the matter is urgent and requires an immediate response, please let the office staff know when you ring or email.

Class Amazon Wishlist

In the current economic climate of school budgetary constraints, we are trying something new. Each class has set up a wish list of items that would benefit the children and are appealing to parents and carers to help with this. Please do visit this link and if you feel you could purchase one or more of the items for the class then please do so. Our top priorities in the class are glue sticks and pencils. There is no obligation to purchase any items, however if you are able to do so we would be very grateful as this will help us to prioritise finances to other areas across the school.

The Year 3 Amazon wishlist link is:

https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/SZNUGJ1VUSTY?ref=wl_share

Yours sincerely,
Mrs Marikani