



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

CARING, INSPIRING, ACHIEVING

Important dates:

Holtspur 75th Anniversary Celebration – Friday 10th May 2026

KS2 Sports Day Thursday 25th June 2026 (*Back up Sports Day – Thursday 2nd July 2026*)

Mop End River Trip – Monday 20th July 2026

Transition day, children meet next year's teacher – Tuesday 7th July 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to our final term in Year 4; I hope you all had a relaxing and an enjoyable Easter break. This term, we have lots of exciting new topics and experiences planned including a fun-packed trip to Mop End to carry out some field work on the local River. Please keep a look-out for the letter.

The following is a summary of what your child will be covering this term.

	Summer 1	Summer 2
English	The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane	The Bluest of Blues
Maths	Decimals B, Money, Time	Time, Shape, Statistics, Position & Direction
Science	Living things & their habitats	
Computing	Effective Searching	Sound Stories
History	How have children's lives changed?	
Geography		What are rivers and how are they used?
D&T /Art	DT- Fastenings	Art – Sculpture
RE	Buddhism: Beliefs in practice	Christianity: Prayer and Worship
PE	Static balance - reaction and response Athletics	Ball chasing and static balance (stance) Rounders
PSHE	Relationships	Changing Me*
Music	Expression and Improvisation	The Show Must Go On!
French	Boucle d'or et les Trois Ours	Chez moi

* Please note that this will be the RSE unit. Please contact Miss Orsi for any queries.

English:

This half term, we will be reading 'The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane' by Kate Di Camillo. In Summer 2, we will be reading 'The Bluest of Blues'. This is a delightful picture book depicting the life of Anna Atkins an English botanist and photographer who is considered the first person to publish a book illustrated with photographic images. These books enable the children to cover Literacy aspects such as settings, character development, building



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vocabulary, word and sentence use, grammar and punctuation. We will use reading skills, oracy skills, discussion, drama and hot seating, as well as writing to develop the children's understanding of language use. These books enable the children to explore, in depth; characterisation and settings in different narratives, the motivations and actions of characters and similarities and differences between author's choices in different genres. Alongside these books we will also have weekly grammar, spelling and handwriting lessons.

Reading: We continue to expect children to read daily in order to further their language and reading skills.

Maths: In Maths we will be following the small steps in White Rose (in line with the National Curriculum), to develop and consolidate the children's knowledge of key concepts while also relating their understanding to real-life problem-solving situations and reasoning.

Science: This term we will be exploring and using classification keys to help group, identify and name a variety of living things in their local and wider environment.

P.E.

The PE lesson will take place on a **Thursday** with the Sports Coach and the children will continue to go swimming on **Friday morning**.

Equipment needed within Pencil cases

- **Clear** pencil case with child's name
- 2 x pencils
- Blue Pen
- Eraser (plain)
- Pencil sharpener
- 30 cm Ruler
- Protractor
- Whiteboard pen and glue stick.
- Colouring pencils

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

Pen licences are issued when a child demonstrates clear and neat writing, with accurate ascending and descending joined letters. Once issued, children must write in **blue** and may use any free-flowing pen e.g. Pilot friction ball, Stabilo or Staedler handwriting pens or a fountain pen.





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Our school uniform is:

Grey shorts or trousers; grey skirt or pinafore dress	from any retailer
White shirt/blouse (or polo for KS1)	from any retailer
Maroon school jumper or cardigan	from School Shop
School tie – KS2	from School Shop
White or grey socks	from any retailer
Grey or black tights	from any retailer
Black shoes	from any retailer
Maroon and white striped summer dress	from any retailer
Maroon school fleece	from School Shop
Head bands and Alice bands must be in Maroon or black	from any retailer

Pre-school t-shirts and sweatshirts are available from The School Shop, Beaconsfield.

PE / Games Kit

The following items are essential and PE takes places on a Tuesday and Fridays. They should be kept in a separate bag:

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

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

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.



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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)

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.



Home learning:

Sent out: Thursday

Due in: the following Tuesday.

Two pieces of home learning will be set out, consisting of either:

- Maths
- Reading comprehension
- Grammar or Punctuation
- Science
- Topic

This is on top of children learning their weekly spellings and times tables practice.



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

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 and it will be delivered directly to school. Alternatively, if you'd prefer to source the item(s) elsewhere, then you are welcome to do so. Our top priorities in the class are glue sticks and whiteboard pens. 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 4 Amazon wish list link is:

https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/7GQPCOYPB58L?ref=cm_sw_em_r_un_un_94SgBVJ5BwDc7

Communication

We are here to help with any questions or concerns you may have. Please email the office to speak to us. Please be assured that, all messages received by the office are passed on to us the same morning. Just call through and leave your message with Mrs Over.

Yours sincerely,

The Year 4 Team.

Class Timetable (subject to change)

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8:40 - 9:00	Registration Morning task & 1:1 reading	Registration Morning task & 1:1 reading	Registration Morning task & 1:1 reading	Registration Morning task & 1:1 reading	Registration Morning task & 1:1 reading
9:00 - 9:30	Reading	Reading	TTRS 9.00-9.30	Reading	Reading
9:30 - 10:30	English	English SPaG	Reading & English 9.30-10.45	English Handwriting	English: Spellings
10:30-10:45	Assembly				SWIMMING
10.45-10.55	Break	Break	RH_Break 10:30 - 10:45	Break	
11:00 - 12:00	Maths	Maths	Maths	Maths	
12:00 - 1:00	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
1:10 - 2:10	RE	DT/Art	Computing TTRS	PSHE	Maths
2:10- 3:10	Science	French	Geography/History	PE	Music
3:15	Home time	Home time	Home time	Home time	Assembly [2.45-3.00] Home time



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