



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

7th September 2027

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to Reception class at Holtspur School. We are looking forward to getting to know your children and the exciting year ahead!

Autumn Term is all about settling the children into the classroom and getting to know each other. Our main aim is to ensure the children feel happy and secure at school and to make learning as fun and as interesting as possible!

Key dates:

Meet the Teacher – 5pm 9th September 2026
 Bring a photo of your family – 11 September 2026
 Phonics Reception Parent Workshop – 9am 17th September 2026
 Parents evening: 30th November and 1st December 2026
 Diwali dance workshop – Friday 6th November
 Nativity: 2pm 16th December 2026
 St Thomas Church & Dove Café Trip TBC

Timetable:

	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 – 9:40	Phonics	Phonics	Phonics	Phonics	Assembly 9:00-9:20
9:40-9:45	Movement Break	Movement Break		Movement Break	Phonics 9:20-10
9:45-10	Literacy	Literacy	PE 9:40 – 10:30	Literacy	Literacy 10-10:10
10:00 - 11:00	Continuous Provision	Continuous Provision	10:30 - Snack	Continuous Provision	Continuous Provision
11:00 – 11:15	10:30 Assembly 10:45-11- Snack	Snack	Literacy/Maths	Snack	Snack
11:15 – 11:50	Maths	Maths	Continuous Provision	Maths	Maths
12:00 – 13:00	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
13:00 – 13:10	Mastering Number	Mastering Number		Mastering Number	Mastering Number
13:10-13:30	Topic	Topic		Topic	Topic
13:30-14:45	Continuous Provision	Continuous Provision	Forest School	Continuous Provision	Continuous Provision
	PSHE/RE	Library		Music	Computing
14:45-15:15	Story and Home time	Story and Home time	Story and Home time	Story and Home time	Story and Home time



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Topics for the term:

Subject	1 st Half Term	2 nd Half Term
Understanding the world (Topics)	Settling in All about me Space Senses Special books	Seasons Celebrations Favourite stories
English	Ruby's worries - Tom Percival Owl babies – Martin Waddell Pumpkin Soup Recipe	Rajiv's Starry - Niall Moorjani One Snowy Night - Nick Butterworth Letter to Santa
Maths	Match, sort and compare Talk about Measure and patterns Its me: 1,2,3	Circles and triangles 1,2,3,4,5 Shapes with 4 sides
DT/Art	Portraits of our families	Making soup
PSHE	Zones of Regulations Being me in my world	Black history Month Celebrating Difference
PE	Real PE- Coordination-footwork Static balance- one leg	Real PE- Dynamic balance to agility- jumping and landing Static balance- seated
Music	Chant to the animals	Creative Moves Nativity songs

Reading/Phonics:

The children will follow our Read, Write, Inc scheme which will see them explore sounds and begin to use these sounds to blend and read simple words. We will also explore how to write these sounds.



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Reading books will be allocated to the children once we have started our phonics sessions. Reading books will be kept in the book bag. To begin with, sound books will be used to practice sounds. Once the children are ready they will be given sound blending books. Children's reading books will be changed on a Monday and it is very important you sign and date when your child has read a book at home. 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 phonetic 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 the reading and understanding of different words and encourages interest in their selection of reading.

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/parents 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 text they are reading.

English:

We use the key texts listed above to expose your children to a range of vocabulary, which they can then use in their writing as well as in their play. This term we will be encouraging the children to share their ideas, record their ideas with marks and begin to use their phonics to write simple words. We will also focus on your child's pencil grip and letter formation. Please also continue to work on name writing with your child, which we will practice at school daily.

Mathematics:

In Maths we will be laying the foundations to become great mathematicians. We do maths very practically in play as well as have class inputs. Please do talk to your child about numbers around us, encourage them to count and notice shapes in our environment.

Homework:

Homework will be sent out on a Thursday and will be due in on a Tuesday once the children are settled. Each week we will send home a letter formation sheet for your child to complete. This sheet will have the Read, Write, Inc saying on it to help for the focus sound of the week. The homework will be put into your child's book bag.

You will get a Numbots login to use at home where your child will get to play some number games.

P.E.

PE will take place on a Wednesday. Your child will need named shorts, tracksuit bottoms, PE top and trainer. Please send your child to school in their PE kits every Wednesday.

Forest School:



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Forest School will be on a Wednesday. Please bring in home clothes each Wednesday in a named PE bag. Please ensure that the clothes you provide are clothes you don't mind getting dirty. Please ensure it is appropriate for the weather. We have waterproof's for very rainy days that the children can put on over their clothes. Please bring a pair of named wellies that will be left at school.

Cloakroom

To help minimise the problem of over-crowding, coats will be kept on their pegs each day and their water bottles on the bench. The children keep their book bags in their trays. Your child only needs to bring a backpack/rucksack on Wednesday with their Forest school things in – please only bring a book bag the rest of the days.

Tapestry:

Just a reminder that we use Tapestry, an online journal to record observations of your child. You have access to this in your home environment and can add your own observations if you want to share something fantastic that has happened outside of school. Please check that you can access Tapestry. If not please speak to Mrs Bell and pick up or email the office. Sometimes there can be teething issues with tapestry, so we ask for your patience as we sort these out.

Library

We visit the school library every week on a Tuesday afternoon when children will select a book of their choice to bring home to read for pleasure. Please ensure that your child returns their library book every Tuesday when they can swap it for a new one. We put the Library books into your child's book bag.

General:

Your child will need a **named bottle of water** for class, please ensure that the bottle is filled up daily.

I will explain the Reception Year in more detail in the Meet the Teacher on Wednesday 9th September 2026. Please ensure you attend.

Messages for the day can be left (verbally or written) with the member of staff on the gate or placed on Tapestry (if non-urgent). Alternatively, please free to send an email to the school office and Mrs Bell will respond as soon as she 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 Mrs Bell if you have any concerns or wish to meet with us and we can arrange a mutually convenient time to speak to each other whether that be in person or over the phone.



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	Expectations
School Uniform	Grey shorts or trousers; grey skirt or pinafore dress; white shirt or blouse; white polo shirt (with or without school logo); maroon jumper or cardigan (with or without school logo); maroon fleece (with or without school logo); maroon and grey school tie (optional in Reception and KS1); white or grey socks; grey or black tights; maroon and white striped or checked summer dress; black shoes (all black – please avoid visible labels). No branded socks.
Hair Accessories	Alice bands and hair clips should be black, white or maroon.
Indoor PE Kit	White polo shirt or T-shirt (plain or with school logo); maroon or black shorts; white socks; plimsolls. Religious headdresses may be worn; we suggest a sports hijab.
Outdoor PE Kit	Trainers; plain black jogging bottoms; maroon school fleece OR plain black sweatshirt/fleece.
PE – Health & Safety	Religious bracelets should be covered by a towelling sweatband. Watches must be removed for PE. Stud earrings must be removed or taped over; parents should supply the tape.
Hair	- Shoulder-length hair must be securely tied back for both girls and boys using a simple stretchy band in maroon, white or black. - Hair should be kept out of the eyes with a simple maroon or black hairband. - No flowers, jewels or other decorations in the hair. - Hair should not be dyed. - Fashion cuts, including shaved lines or symbols, Mohicans, stripes etc., are not allowed. - If hair has been beaded or plaited during the holidays, it must be securely tied back for health and safety.
Jewellery	Jewellery is not permitted at school. Small stud earrings and a simple watch are permitted, provided the watch does not have digital photo-taking capability.
Religious Jewellery / Clothing	Jewellery or clothing with religious significance may be allowed at the discretion of the Headteacher. Parents should make a written request to Mrs McKellar.
Make-up & Nails	Nail varnish, temporary tattoos and make-up are not allowed.
Labelling	All items of uniform must be clearly and permanently labelled with your child's name.

School-specific polo shirts, jumpers/fleeces and ties can be purchased from The School Shop in Beaconsfield or through the PTA uniform shop, which also sells good-quality second-hand uniform.



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Class Amazon Wishlist:

In the current economic climate of school budgetary constraints, we are continuing with Amazon wishlists. Each class has set up a list of items that would benefit the children and are appealing to parents and carers to help with this. Please do visit the link below 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. 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 Reception Amazon wish list link is:

https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/1HJ7W9GWPE17C?ref=wl_share

We are all looking forward to an exciting term!

Many thanks for your support,

Mrs Bell and The Reception Team.