



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

7th September 2026,

Important Dates:

Wednesday 9th September – Meet the Teacher – 5pm
Friday 6th November – Diwali dance workshop
Monday 30th November and Tuesday 1st December – Parents Evening
Wednesday 2nd December – Festival of Lights

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the new academic year! I hope the Summer holidays were enjoyable for everybody. It was a pleasure to see all of the children so enthusiastic about the year to come. We are beginning to settle in and understand the expectations of being in KS2.

The curriculum in Year 3 provides many exciting and stimulating learning opportunities for the children both in and out of the classroom.

The following is a summary of what your child will be learning over the Autumn term.

	Autumn 1	Autumn 2
English	Ug	The Pebble in my Pocket
Maths	Place value, Addition and Subtraction	Multiplication and division
Science	Rocks and Fossils	Light and Shadows
Computing	E-Safety	Coding
History	Would you rather live in the Stone, Bronze or Iron Age?	
Geography		Why do people live near volcanoes?
Art/DT	Constructing a Castle	Volcano Landscape – Georgia O’Keeffe
RE and worldviews	Unit: what makes us human?	Unit: Where do our morals come from?
PE	Hockey Gymnastics	Football Dance
PSHE	Zones of Regulations Anti-racism	Celebrating Difference

English:



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In Autumn term, we will be working on class texts which complement our Stone Age and Rocks and Fossils topics – ‘Ug’ by Raymond Briggs and The Pebble in my Pocket by Meredith Hooper and Chris Coady. This lends itself to lots of cross curricular writing by examining and exploring plot, characterisation and setting. We will even become journalists and write our own interview reports. The children will continue weekly SPAG lessons that support their writing.

Reading:

This year, we will be continuing to use Accelerated Reader to support our reading. This system helps children engage with books at levels tailored to their reading ability, and encourages comprehension through fun quizzes after each book. To support their progress, children are expected to read daily—a habit that strengthens both language and literacy skills. We encourage you to challenge your child to explore a wide range of books and genres. Reading records will be monitored regularly to track progress. To promote independence, children will also be encouraged to visit the library and change their own reading books once finished.

Mathematics:

In Maths, we will be following White Rose, to develop the children’s knowledge of the four operations and wherever possible relate their understanding to real-life problem-solving situations. We will begin the term with: representing and comparing numbers to 100 and 1000, counting in 50s, addition and subtraction up to 3-digits, estimating, multiplication and division including the 2, 3, 4, 5, 8- and 10-times tables.

Computing:

This term Mrs Heritage will be teaching Computing and will cover areas such as: word processing, programming, digital safety and multimedia.

Science:

We start the year exploring Rocks and Fossils. In this topic, the children will be classifying rocks based on their appearance and simple physical properties. They will also be learning how fossils are formed and the composition of soil.

After half term, we move onto Light and Shadows. The children will learn that light is reflected from surfaces and is needed in order to see things and also that dark is the absence of light. They will be able to recognise that light from the sun can be dangerous and that there are ways to protect their eyes. The children will also learn that shadows are formed when the light from a light source is blocked by a solid object and be able to find patterns associated with shadows.



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RE and worldviews:

We will be using the Kapow scheme to deliver 'RE and worldviews'. The children will be covering a range of religions and worldviews within each unit of work. This subject delivers lessons that focus on deep questioning, engaging activities and a breadth of knowledge enabling children to compare the beliefs and views of others.

PSHE:

We mainly follow the Jigsaw scheme in PSHE, however this term we will be focusing on our new school value of resilience alongside the Zones of Regulation to support children's ability to self-regulate when things get tricky or challenging. After half term we will be celebrating difference, talking about how to respect each individual at school, how we can stand up for ourselves and for others and make new friends in lessons about Protected Characteristics and Anti-bullying; this also ties in with Black History Month.

History:

Our key question for this term is 'Would you rather live in the Stone, Bronze or Iron Age?' The children will be diving deep into Prehistory and discovering the history of mankind. We will be studying key discoveries such as Skara Brae and the Amesbury Archer in order to learn about settlements, technologies, diets and trade.

Art and DT:

In DT for the first half term, we will be following the Kapow resource and our topic will be 'Constructing a Castle'. In the second half term, we will turn our attention to Art and be looking at work by Georgia O'Keeffe to inspire our own volcanic landscape.

P.E.

PE will take place on a **Monday** with coach Charlotte and a **Friday** with Mr Hicks. Children will need their indoor and outdoor kit for both days.



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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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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: Thursdays.

Due in: the following Tuesday.

- One piece of English and one piece of Maths will be sent home weekly alongside weekly spellings and times tables practice.
- Children will also receive a grid homework sheet. Children will be able to select one of these each week to complete alongside their English and Maths homework.

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

Support Our Class Wish List:

Due to ongoing budget constraints, each class has created a wish list of useful items to support learning. If you're able to help, please visit the link to view the list—items can be delivered directly to school, or sourced independently. Our current priorities are glue sticks and whiteboard erasers. There is no obligation to contribute, but any support is greatly appreciated and helps us focus school funds where they are needed most.



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https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/J9F8C6LZHOU1?ref_=wl_share&scrlybrkr=af7e6b3e

Yours sincerely,
 Mr Hicks

Class timetable*:

**subject to change.*

Year 3 weekly timetable

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8:40 - 9:00	Registration Times Tables & 1:1 reading	Registration Times Tables & 1:1 reading	Registration Times Tables & 1:1 reading	Registration Times Tables & 1:1 reading	Registration Times Tables & 1:1 reading
9:00 - 9:30	Spelling	Reading	Reading	Reading	Assembly
9:30 - 10:30	Computing	English	English	English	English
10:30 - 10:45	Assembly	Class Reader	Class reader	Class Reader	Class Reader
10.45 - 10.55	Break	Break	Break	Break	Break
11:00 - 12:00	PE	Maths	Maths	Maths	Maths
12:00 - 1:00	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
1:00 - 1:10	Handwriting	Handwriting	Handwriting	Handwriting	Handwriting
1:10 - 2:10	Maths	Science	Art/DT	Humanities	Music
2:10 - 3:10	English	French	RE	PSHE	PE