



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

7th September 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the Autumn Term! I am excited to begin our Year 5 learning journey together and look forward to a fantastic year ahead. Children have returned from their summer holidays ready to learn and have settled back into school extremely well. I am also pleased to introduce the year 5 team working in our classroom this year, Mrs Boakes, Mrs Channa and Mrs Iqbal, who will be supporting the children throughout the year.

Our Year 5 curriculum is packed with exciting topics, stimulating activities, and enriching experiences. Below is a summary of what your child will be covering in the autumn term: *

	Autumn 1	Autumn 2
English	Alex Rider: Stormbreaker	There's a Boy in the Girls' Bathroom
Maths	Place value, addition and subtraction	Multiplication and division, fractions
Science	Properties of materials	Changes of materials
Computing	Coding	Online Safety
History/Geography	What is the legacy of the ancient Greek civilisation?	What is life like in the Alps?
Art/DT	Electrical Systems: Wobble Bots	Painting and mixed media: Portraits
RE and worldviews	Unit: Why do people have to stand up for what they believe in?	Unit: Why doesn't Christianity always look the same?
PE	Basketball and Gymnastics	Netball and Fitness
PSHE	Resilience, Zones of Regulation, Protected Characteristics	Protected Characteristics including Black History Month and Anti-bullying
French	The Olympics	The date
Music	Practical instrument handling Livin' On A Prayer	Classroom Jazz 1

*Subject to change

Important Dates:

Meet the Teacher – Wednesday 9th September, 5pm

Class Assembly – Tuesday 13th October

Trip to Ashmolean museum – Wednesday 14th October

Parents Evening – Monday 30th November and Tuesday 1st December



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English:

Our chosen texts for this term are Stormbreaker by Anthony Horowitz and There's a Boy in the Girls' Bathroom by Louis Sachar. We will use these narratives to cover Literacy aspects such as settings, character development, building 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 characterisation and settings in different narratives, the motivations and actions of characters and similarities and differences between authors' choices in different genres.

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. We will also have a focus on times tables and really consolidating their understanding of these to ensure these can be applied to more difficult areas of mathematics.

Science:

We will start the term by studying exploring the properties of materials and jobs they are best for progressing towards changing in materials. This topic will include processes of evaporation, condensation and boiling. We will also look at changes of state that can be reversed and how this idea relates to the water cycle. Key skills this term will include experimenting, investigating, measuring, fair testing, predicting, recording, presenting, comparing, observing, explaining and collaborating.

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 and Geography:

In History, we will be exploring ancient Greece by comparing the city-states of Athens and Sparta and investigating how they were governed. In Geography, we will be posing the question what it would be like to live in the Alps and looking at the similarities and differences to our local area.



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Art and DT:

In Art, we will be creating portraits using our drawing skills and begin to incorporate different media forms. In DT, we will use our knowledge of electrical circuits to create working motors and Wobble bots.

Equipment needed

All essential stationery will be provided by the school this year. Items needed are all added to the class wishlist below. We would be grateful if you support us with this.

Amazon Wishlist

Although the school provides all essential stationery and classroom resources, we would be very grateful for any donations from our Year 5 families to help support the classroom throughout the year. We have created an Amazon Class Wish List for those who would like to contribute, although items can be purchased from any retailer if preferred.

Donations of resources and other classroom essentials are always appreciated and help us maintain supplies while supporting the school's budget. Thank you for your kindness and continued support; every contribution, no matter how small, makes a real difference to our children's learning experience.

https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/1WQ50GXJTPLQ2?ref=cm_sw_em_r_un_un_WIX8xfNaubu5j



	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.



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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.

Home learning:

Sent out: Thursdays.

Due in: the following Tuesday.

Two pieces of home learning will be set on top of weekly spellings

It could consist of:

- Maths
- English: writing task/reading comprehension/SPaG
- Science
- Topic

Online: TTRS and Spelling Shed assignments – Weekly

Home Expectations

This year, the children will be required to use their reading journals more consistently. Children will be expected to read daily at home and that be recorded in their reading record to be checked. Children will bring home an Accelerated Reader book as their reading book this year, which they can complete a quiz on when they have completed it and bring it back into school. Children will also be expected to use Times Tables RockStars at least 3 times a week to develop their fluency in their times tables.

We will also be using Spelling Shed to teach spellings; this will give the children opportunity to play games to practice their spellings at home. All of the log in information for these will be kept in their reading record, hence the importance of having their reading record both in school and at home every day. Assignments are set weekly and are expected to be completed as part of their homework.

Walking Home:



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In Year 5, children are able to walk home alone. A permission slip has been sent out and this must be completed before any child will be allowed to leave the school grounds unaccompanied.

If you have any questions, please reach out through the school office. I will be happy to help.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Marikani

Year 5 Class Teacher



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Year 5 Autumn 1 Timetable 2026-2027

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8:40 -9:00	Registration Morning task - change for PE/Handwriting	Registration Morning task – Arithmetic	Registration Morning task – times tables/number bonds	Registration Morning task – Handwriting (Spelling practice)	Registration Spelling Test
9:00 – 9:30	Reading	Reading	Reading	Reading	Assembly
9:30 – 10:30	PE Coach Charlotte	English	English	English	English
10:30-10:45	Assembly		Handwriting lesson		Spelling lesson
10.45-10.55	Break	Break	Break	Break	Break
11:00 – 12:00	Computing Mrs Heritage	Maths Miss Iqbal	Maths	Maths	Maths
12:00 -1:00	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
1:00 – 1:10	Mastering Numbers	Mastering Numbers	Mastering Numbers	Mastering Numbers	Change for PE
1:10 – 2:10	Maths	Music	Art/DT	Science	History/Geography
2.:10– 3:10	English	RE and Worldviews			PE
3:15	Home time	Home time	Home time	Home time	Home time