HOLTSPUR SCHOOL & PRE-SCHOOL

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:

Tuesday 8th September – 11+ Practise Test – AM
Wednesday 9th September – Meet the Teacher – 5pm
Thursday 10th September – 11+ Test – AM
Tuesday 15th September – House Captain Elections
Wednesday 23rd September – Macmillan Coffee Morning – Timing to be confirmed
Friday 25th September – Individual and Sibling Photographs
October – Black History Month
Monday 30th November and Tuesday 1st December – Parents Evening
Thursday 3rd December – World War II Enrichment Day

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to Year 6! Please let us begin by saying that we are incredibly excited to have the pleasure of teaching this cohort and are determined to enable every child to reach their potential. The Year 6 team cannot wait for the year to begin and include: Mrs Leer (Class Teacher), Mrs Cox (Class Teacher), Miss Cook (Teaching Assistant pm), Mrs James (Teaching Assistant am), Miss Harris (Teaching Assistant am) and Coach Charlotte (PE Teacher).

The Year 6 curriculum offers a wealth of stimulating and engaging learning experiences, both within the classroom and beyond. Alongside academic quality, we also nurture the qualities of independence, resilience, and responsibility to ensure pupils are fully prepared for the exciting journey into secondary school. The Autumn term promises to be a season of challenge, growth, and discovery, and the following overview will give you a glimpse of what lies ahead for your child*:

	Autumn 1	Autumn 2
English	**Focus: Private Peaceful and The Piano** Letter Writing Narrative 1st Person Narrative with flashbacks	**Focus: Goodnight Mr Tom** Non-Chronological Report Biography Diary Entry
Maths	Place Value & Number (+,-, x, ÷)	Fractions & Number
Science	Evolution & Adaptation	Electricity & Circuits
Computing	Internet Safety	Coding
History	World War I	World War II
Geography	Migration: Why does population change?	
Art/DT	Art: Painting St Paul's Cathedral	D&T: Shelters and WWI and WW2 Cooking
RE	Islam – Beliefs and practice	Christianity - Christmas

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PE	Tag Rugby Gymnastics: balance/counter balance	Ball Skills: reaction and response Netball
PSHE	Anti-Racism Curriculum & Being Me in My World	Celebrating Difference
Music	Happy (Pop / Motown) Classic Jazz (Jazz / Latin Blues)	Benjamin Britten (Western Classical) You've Got A Friend (Music of Carole King)
French	Classroom Routines	Clothing

*subject to change

English:

During the Autumn term, we will be focusing on class novels that complement our World War I and World War II topics – Private Peaceful by Michael Morpurgo and Goodnight Mr Tom by Michelle Magorian. These powerful texts will not only inspire cross-curricular writing, thoughtful examination, and exploration of plot, characterisation, and setting, but will also complement our History focus on life during the World Wars. At the end of the unit, the children will compare Goodnight Mr Tom with its film adaptation, considering how stories can be transformed across different media.

We follow the 'Process Approach' across the school to ensure that the teaching of the English curriculum is creative, engaging, and inspiring. We ask for your support in this approach by not sharing the class text with your child until it has first been experienced together in school. Similarly, if your child has not yet seen the film version of Goodnight Mr Tom, we kindly request that you avoid watching it until the class have completed their study. Daily SPaG lessons will continue to strengthen key writing skills, and as part of Year 6 expectations, children will be encouraged to edit their work rather than erase mistakes—using pens that cannot be rubbed out.

Reading remains a vital part of your child's learning journey. Children are expected to read daily to extend their language and comprehension skills, and we encourage them to explore a wide variety of books and genres. Reading records will be checked weekly on Tuesdays, and may include entries for our Accelerated Reader scheme.

Mathematics:

In Maths, we will be following White Rose's spiral curriculum, which revisits and builds upon key concepts throughout the year to deepen understanding. We will begin the term with Place Value, including reading, writing, ordering, and comparing numbers to at least one million, negative numbers and Roman numerals. As the year progresses and SATs draw nearer, we will adapt the topics to ensure pupils have developed a broad and secure understanding of the curriculum in readiness for the tests. Wherever possible, mathematical learning will be related to real-life problem-solving situations, helping children to apply their knowledge with confidence.

Children are expected to be secure in their times tables up to 12 × 12 and the corresponding inverse operations (for example, 6 × 12 = 72, so 72 ÷ 6 = 12). Learning will be carefully differentiated to suit each child's needs, with groupings informed by Year 5 test results and ongoing teacher assessments. These groups may change as the year progresses to ensure every child is appropriately supported and challenged. A strong grasp of mathematical

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vocabulary will be key to success in Year 6, particularly when tackling multi-step word problems and applying rules such as BIDMAS/BODMAS.

Science:

We begin the year with a fascinating study of evolution and inheritance. The children will explore natural selection, investigate the impact of habitat on living organisms, and gain an introduction to human ancestry. They will then delve into the life and work of various scientists including Charles Darwin, examining their ground-breaking theories and their significance. As part of this unit, the children will be encouraged to question, research and debate all aspects of their learning.

After half term, our focus shifts to electricity and building circuits. The children will design and construct increasingly complex circuits, learning to diagnose faults, test variables, and make predictions based on their observations. This hands-on topic encourages experimentation, problem-solving, and critical thinking, helping the children see the real-world applications of scientific principles. Throughout the term, science lessons aim to inspire curiosity, encourage independent inquiry, and deepen understanding across the Year 6 curriculum.

French

In French, the children will develop their understanding of French phonemes and learn how to apply them to reading, writing, and speaking, practising words such as couchon. Through songs, games, and conversation exercises, they will build vocabulary, construct simple sentences, and develop listening and comprehension skills. These lessons aim to make language learning enjoyable while helping children communicate confidently and explore French culture.

Computing:

This term, we will begin with a unit on internet safety—an essential focus for Year 6 as they gain greater independence online, including when using mobile phones and other devices. Pupils will learn how to use technology safely, respectfully, and responsibly, understand what constitutes acceptable and unacceptable behaviour, and explore various ways to report concerns about online content or contact. The children will have Computing with Mrs Leer on a Thursday afternoon.

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

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and Anti-bullying; this also ties in with Black History Month.

Geography and History:

In Geography and History, our learning will be closely linked to our study of World War I and World War II. The children will explore countries across Europe (including Russia) learning their capital cities and the nations they share borders with. They will also develop a clear understanding of key geographical terminology and investigate the reasons why migration occurs. As part of their wider learning, Year 6 will take a leading role in the Remembrance Service (further details will be shared closer to 11th November). Later in the term, we will celebrate our History topic with an enrichment day, giving the children the opportunity to bring their learning to life—more information will be shared nearer the time.

Art and DT:

We will begin by studying famous works of art, learning how to interpret their meanings, explore how artists convey feelings or tell stories through their work, and create a final piece of art inspired by our research. Children will work with paint, experimenting with primary, secondary, and tertiary colours, and develop their skills through sketches and detailed images connected to our World War I topic.

In the second half of the term, our D&T work will tie in with our World War II learning. The children will design and create a recipe inspired by food from the time of the World Wars, exploring historical context as well as practical cooking skills. Please can all children bring an old T-shirt or painting apron to keep in school for all Art and D&T sessions; adult-sized T-shirts that slip over the head and fully cover the uniform work best.

Uniform Expectations

Year 6 are the role models for the rest of the school, so uniform is adhered to as follows:



	Expectations
School Uniform	Grey shorts or trousers; grey skirt or pinafore dress; white shirt or blouse; white polo shirt (with or without

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	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.

Home Learning:

Sent out: Thursdays.
Due in: the following Tuesday (unless otherwise specified).
Autumn term: **3** pieces of homework will be sent out, consisting of:

- Maths
- Comprehension or Grammar or Punctuation

As well as either:

- Science
- Topic

In addition, pupils are expected to read and record the pages they have read in their reading record, parents need to ensure that this is kept up to date but not to complete it on the child's behalf. Reading records must be sent to school, alongside their home learning every Tuesday, for staff to sign. We will also award house points if completed daily, so it is worth their effort!
Spellings will be issued on a Thursday together with the main home learning tasks. These will be tested the following Friday (not the day after!)

Daily Routine:

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The morning will begin at 8:40am where a morning activity will be waiting for them on their desks. Children will need to bring water bottles every day.
We will put the weekly timetable on the Year 6 page on the website and whilst we endeavour to stick to the timetable there may be occasional days when changes occur unexpectedly.
The weekly timetable is attached at the end of this letter but is subject to change dependent on events and changes.

Walking Home:

In Year 6, children are able to walk home alone with your signed permission. We will send out a permission slip that needs to be completed before this can happen. If children are walking home alone, they are allowed to bring a mobile phone with them to increase their independence, but this must be handed in to the teacher at the start of the day to be kept safely in the office, and will be returned to them at the end of the day to walk home.

Trips/SATs/CRS/

Our first trip will be a visit to a local church near Christmas. Further information will be sent to you after the October half-term.

SATs week will be **10th – 13th May 2027**.

The residential trip has been booked for a week in June, further information regarding the trip will be sent separately.

The **virtual information session** for CRS is scheduled for **Monday 28th September @ 16.30** and will be held at school for you to view or a link will be sent out closer to the time for you to join elsewhere.

https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/IEXRE97W42I4?ref=cm_sw_em_r_un_un_ICHyzVQ8CsDpl&sclybrkr=65b16f13

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. 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 6 Amazon wish list link is:

https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/IEXRE97W42I4?ref_=wl_share

The Year 6 Team are thrilled to be welcoming your children to their final year at Holtspur! We are so excited to provide them with a fun, engaging, stimulating, and safe learning environment as they begin this important chapter. If you have any questions that are not answered in this letter, please do not hesitate to contact the Office in the usual way—your queries will always be responded to as promptly as possible.

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We can't wait to work in partnership with you throughout this year!

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Leer, Mrs Cox, Miss Cook, Mrs James, Miss Harris and Coach Charlotte

Year 6 Timetable - Autumn Term*

Year 6 – Autumn 1 – 2026 – 2027*

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8:40 - 9.00	Registration Arithmetic & 1:1 reading	Registration Arithmetic & 1:1 reading	Registration Arithmetic & 1:1 reading	Registration Arithmetic & 1:1 reading	Registration Arithmetic & 1:1 reading
9:00 – 9:30	Reading	Reading	Reading	Reading	Assembly (9:00 - 9:20)
9:30 – 9:50	Punctuation and Grammar	Punctuation and Grammar	Punctuation and Grammar	Punctuation and Grammar	Spelling
9:50 – 10:30	Writing	Writing	Writing	Writing	Writing
10:30 -10:45	Assembly				
10.45 -11.00	Break	Break	Break	Break	Break
11:00 – 12:00	Maths	Maths	Maths	Maths	Maths
12:00 -1:00	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
1:00 – 1:10	Free Reading	PE (Coach Charlotte)	Free Reading	RE	Free Reading
1:10 – 2:00	Music		PSHE	Library 1:45-2:00	Art
2:00 – 3:00	Geography		Science	Computing	French
3:00 - 3:15	Class Reader	Class Reader	Class Reader	Class Reader	Class Reader

*subject to change