



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

CARING, INSPIRING, ACHIEVING

7th September 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to Year 1! We hope you all had a lovely summer break. We are very excited about the upcoming year and we are really looking forward to working with you and your children. If you ever have any concerns or questions, please speak to us and we will always do our very best to ensure these are answered swiftly.

In Year 1 will be Ms Browning (Monday - Friday) and the class Teaching Assistants are Miss McGuire (Monday to Thursday all day) and Mrs Duddley-Gritt (Friday all day). PPA time is Thursday afternoon when Coach Charlotte will deliver Forest School.

Subject	1 st Half Term	2 nd Half Term
Science	Materials	Seasonal Changes
Computing	E-safety	Welcome to Purple Mash/ Pictograms
History/ Geography	What is a Monarch?	How am I making history? What is it like here?
Art/DT	Art: Drawing-Exploring line and shape D&T: Structures - Stable structures	D&T: Mechanisms-Wheels and axles
RE and worldviews	Unit: How did the world begin?	Unit: What do some people think God looks like?
PSHE	Resilience, Zones of Regulation, Protected Characteristics	Protected Characteristics including Black History Month and Anti-bullying
PE	Games: hit, catch, run Gymnastics	Games: attack, defend, shoot Dance
Music	Hey You!	Christmas
Trips	Windsor Castle	Church visit

Important dates:

- Meet the Teacher will take place at 5pm on Wednesday 9th September
- Year 1 Phonics Workshop will take place at 9am on Friday 18th September
- Windsor Castle trip – Thursday 1st October (parent volunteers required)
- Diwali dance workshop -Friday 6th November
- Parents evening will take place on 30th November and 1st December
- KS1 Nativity will take place at 2pm on Tuesday 8th December
- Class assembly will take place in Spring term.



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Autumn term class timetable:

Year 1 Timetable – Autumn 1

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday (PPA pm)	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 – 10:30	Maths – White Rose	Maths – White Rose	Maths – White Rose	Maths – White Rose	Phonics 9:20-10:00
					Maths – White Rose 10:00-10:30
10:30 – 10:45	Assembly	Break	Break	Break	Break
10:45 – 11:00	Break	Daily Reading	Daily Reading	Daily Reading	Maths
11:00 – 12:00	English	Computing – Rona Heritage	English	English	English
12:00 – 1:00	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
1:00 – 1:15	Mastering Number	Mastering Number	Mastering Number	Mastering Number	Mastering Number
1:15 – 2:15	History/ Geography	English	Science	Forest School Coach Charlotte	Art / D&T 1:15 – 2:15
2:15 – 3:00	PE Coach Charlotte outdoor	RE and worldviews	Music 2:15 – 3:00		PSHE 2:15-3:00

(subject to change)

English:

In the Autumn term the children will be focusing on the following books within their English lessons. We will read a range of other stories alongside the ones below which will also be used during English lessons or as whole class reading books. Please do not read these texts at home before September if you haven't already done so as it would spoil the element of surprise! Thank you.

The English topic books are as follows:* -

- Supertato
- Eggbox Dragon
- The Jolly Postman



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We will be focusing on handwriting using the correct letter formation following Letterjoin. Year 1 will also be focusing on sentence structure using capital letters, full stops, commas and exclamation marks. In addition, we will also be using adjectives to describe nouns.

*Subject to change

Reading:

The children's reading books will be changed every Monday and Thursday and it is important you sign and date when your child has read a book at home so we can then change it. 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 as we try to hear children read if we have any spare time; children should also read at home every day with an adult. Please make sure that when they come to an unfamiliar word they use their increasing phonic 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 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. Remember to record what your child has read in the orange reading record book; this is important as we will change the home reading book when we can see it has been read. We do encourage you to read the books more than once with your child.

Parent Volunteers:

If you would like to volunteer to hear readers during an afternoon, please speak to Ms Browning who would be delighted to hear from you!

Phonics:

We teach phonics daily in phase groups, your child will know which group they are in when we start Read Write Inc on Monday 9th September. We follow the Read Write Inc scheme of work.

Library:

We visit the school library every week on a Monday 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 Monday when they can swap it for a new one.

Mathematics:



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In Maths we will be following White Rose Maths. We will begin the term with: Place Value within 10, addition and subtraction within 10, shape and place value within 20. Maths in Year 1 is very practical with the emphasis on forming digits and numbers correctly. Although the children will only be working with numbers up to 10 initially, emphasis is placed on the children being able to start using mathematical vocabulary to answer questions and deepen their understanding of different concepts. They may know the answers to certain questions posed to them but they need to be able to explain how they know it, which links to a greater depth of learning. We are also using Rekenreks to support number sense.

Science:

We will start the term by studying 'Materials,' and look at the different materials that we have around us and why they differ from each other. The children will complete various experiments where they have to predict and test their findings in order to find the most appropriate material for an umbrella. We will also look at how the seasons change throughout the year. The children will observe the trees in the playground to see how they change throughout the year. Children will participate in an end of unit test to help track their progress over the year.

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.

Art and D&T:

Please send a named large T-Shirt to school for practical activities involving paint and glue. This does not have to be a bought apron as an old collarless T-Shirt is fantastic at covering up their school uniform – generally, a man's T-shirt usually does the trick! T-shirts will be kept in school all year on their pegs.

Homework:



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Children should read each night. Additionally, we send home a homework activity grid which includes full details on how to complete the weekly tasks – this is a creative style of homework intended to excite further learning at home about something covered in class that week. The homework books will be handed out on Thursdays; homework can be returned in the book (if it fits). Please be as creative as you want to be and if an action shot or photograph of your homework is sent to school this is fine. Children receive a green card every half term if all homework is completed and handed in on time.

PE:

PE will take place once a week on Monday afternoon. On Monday, children will need to come to school wearing their PE kit. Children will also need to bring wellies and waterproof trousers and jacket in a bag for Forest School.

Cloakroom:

To help minimise the problem of over-crowding, coats and PE kits will be kept on the pegs. The children will be keeping their book bags in their trays in the classroom and water bottles will be placed in their trolley. If the children have too many key rings on their book bags, they won't be able to fit everything in their tray, so we request that you keep this to one small keyring/fob.

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.





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General:

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

Please ensure that children do not wear branded socks.

Messages for the day can be left (verbally or written) with the member of staff on the gate. Alternatively, please feel free to send an email to the school office and an adult will respond as soon as they can. If the matter is urgent, please indicate this in the email and state if you want to speak directly to Ms Browning. 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 the class teacher if you have any concerns, or wish to meet with me, and I can arrange a mutually convenient time to speak - either on the phone or in person.

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 Year 1 Amazon wish list link is:

https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/dl/invite/AQICAHgv7cct2SGZ58TbNYwiFrb-8NeSw0t4jGZKtponcl7CSwGzv_WcLJzgNjWe3Ecpjn9-AAAAKTCBjqYJKoZlhvcNAQcGoIGAMH4CAQAweQYJKoZlhvcNAQcBMB4GCWCGSAFIawQBLjARBAy9WbHCUnX9a1LYLJcCARCATFsbLymsthggqPf6fUdErJ8EWMiivUgdXR7_b3E6ggYCOsHX_PuDI238br-aW23CJbtRtMa3TBs-e9gcqw38gjJ4Ps_gk0xFpw8XdeU?ref=wl_share

We are all looking forward to working with you and your children this year.

Many thanks for your support,

Ms Browning and the Year 1 team