Welcome to Reception



Tuesday 22nd September, 2026

2.30pm

Reception Staff

- Mrs Harman & Mrs J Wright– Class Teachers
- Mrs Bayliss & Mrs Kemp - Teaching Assistants
- Miss Lee, Mrs Bell, Miss Reeves– Learning Support Assistants
- PPA for Hedgehogs and Otters (Wednesday Morning) – Mrs J Varley and Mrs F Thompson

Reception Topics

- We have started this year with the topic 'Marvellous Me'. Children have shared their treasure boxes and we will be comparing themselves with their friends, thinking about how they are all special. We will be learning about their families and how they have changed since they were babies.

Some topics link themselves to real life objects and we will invite the children to bring in object from home and this will be communicated via Tapestry.

The Early Years Foundation Stage

The Early years foundation stage curriculum consists of:

3 Prime Areas:

- Personal, Social and Emotional Development
- Physical Development
- Communication and Language

4 Specific Areas:

- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding of the World
- Expressive Arts and Design

All Taught through play based learning

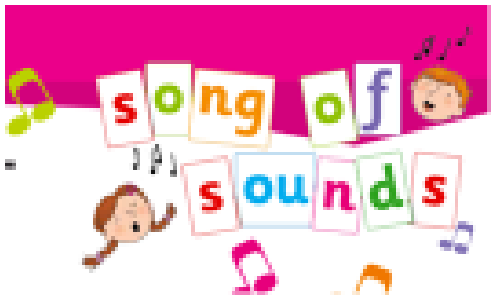
Characteristics of effective learning

Playing and exploring (engagement)

Active learning (motivation)

Creating and thinking critically (thinking about their own learning)

Phonics



What is Song of Sounds?

- Multi-sensory with kinaesthetic, auditory and visual activities that reinforce skills through a variety of learning styles making it ideal for pupils with English as a second language
- Song is integral to the programme to help children remember every phoneme, a highly active approach with whole-body actions and lots of games to aid learning
- Carefully differentiated, contains support and challenge tips to cater for every child in the classroom
- Bring phonics to life with a fresh, lively, hands-on approach to teaching phonics with engaging, interactive activities that reinforce learning

Reading



Here at Holbrook, we want to foster a love of reading from an early age. Your child will be bringing books home from school weekly. They will be:

- A picture book – to share with an adult
- A 'felicity phonic reader' – to read to an adult (once they are beginning to blend sounds to read words)

Felicity Phonics books



- These are selected for your child by their teacher
- Initially these may be wordless books.
- Later on, they will contain decodable words that your child should be able to read independently
- Encourage your child to attempt to sound out the words by themselves and to **read the book several times over a few days**, in order to build up their fluency and familiarity with the words.
- If your child is struggling with recognition of the sounds, or blending the sounds together to read the words, please inform your child's class teacher via the Reading Diary.
- All reading should be recorded in Reading Diaries. Please include books you have read to your child as well as any school books they have read to you.

Reading Diaries

- Diaries are for your child to share the range of texts they are reading at home with their teachers.
- Please record their reading by writing the date, author and title.
- You may wish to write a comment about your reading.
- Try to read daily. This could include texts your child has read themselves as well as texts you have shared together. i.e. bedtime stories.
- Please ensure the diary and phonic reader is in school **every day.**
- The teachers will check the diaries regularly but this diary is for you/your child to write in.
- The diary will move with your child through the school so please look after it! Replacements will need to be paid for through the office.

Changing Books

- An adult in school will read with every child at least once each week
- Children will have the opportunity to change their Phonic reader once they have read with an adult in school and have shown they are secure with it
- If they wish to change their book more frequently, they may. Please leave their reading diary in the book change box for your class, with the phonic reader tucked inside so we are aware! However, please ensure they have read the book several times and are secure with it
- It is important that children are also read to and have the opportunity to share books above their reading level. However, they should only be asked to attempt to read/sound out words with phonemes they already know
- Picture books may be changed whenever the children wish. They will do this independently in the classroom

Handwriting at Holbrook

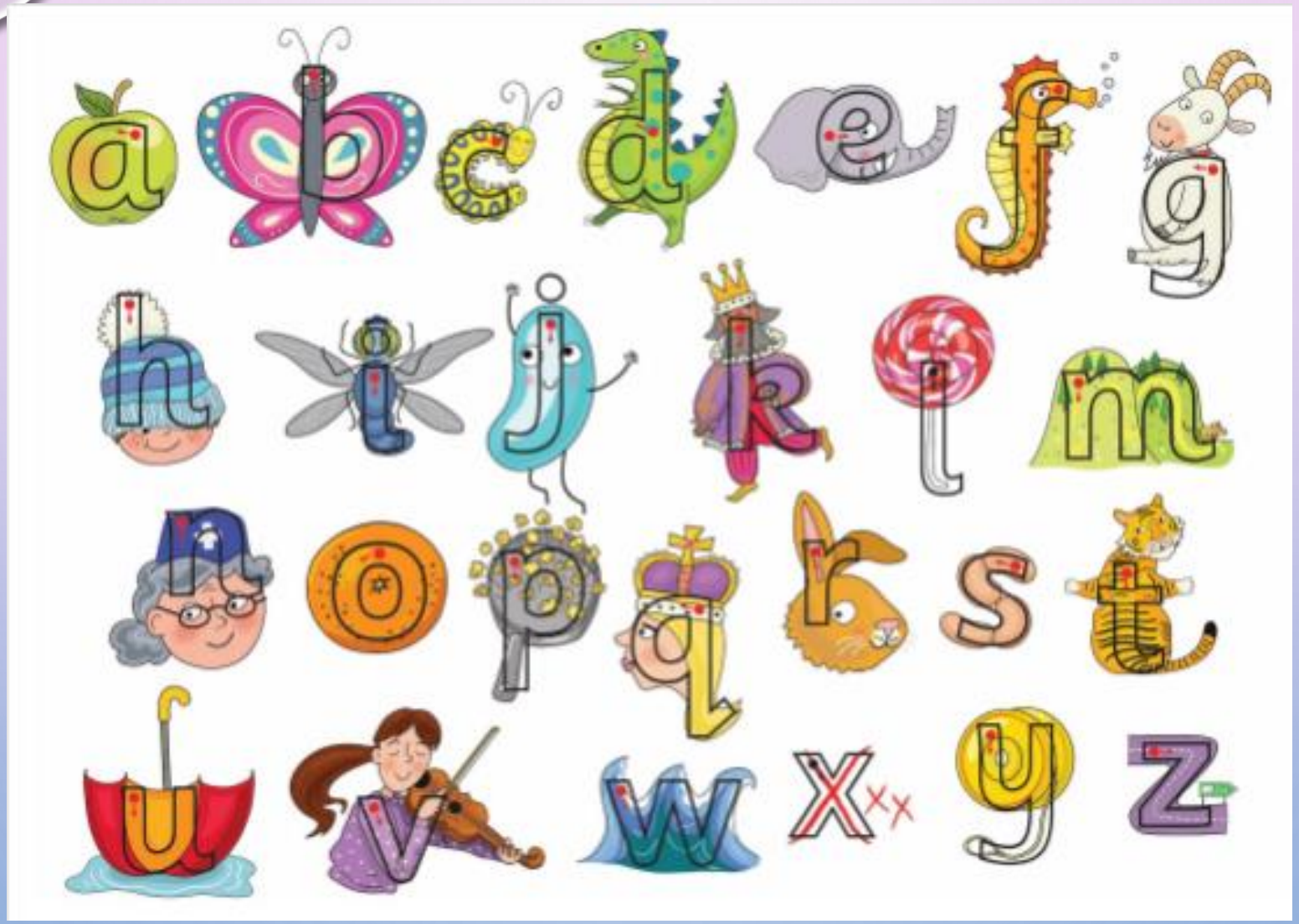
At Holbrook, in Reception we use a pre-cursive style of handwriting, which includes exit strokes which the children then build on in Years 1 and 2.

In Reception, our focus is on developing fine-motor skills and strength before introducing formal handwriting.

We use Song of Sounds to support our handwriting. Links and resources will be added to Tapestry.

Letterjoin website – demonstrates the correct formation - home login available – will be added onto Tapestry



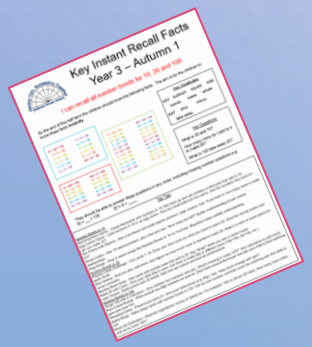

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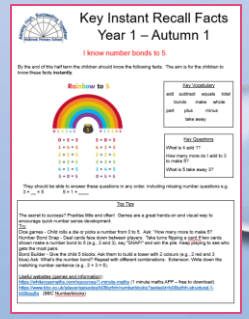
Maths - Instant Recall Facts (KIRF's)

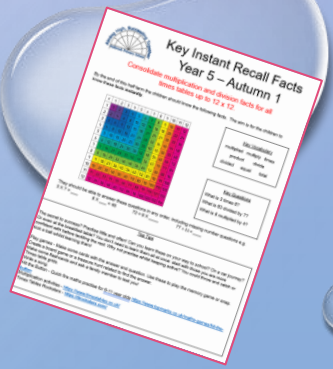
- KIRFs are sets of key mathematical facts that children need to know off by heart so they can recall them quickly and accurately. These facts play an important role in helping children become more confident and efficient when working with addition, subtraction, multiplication and division.

- Each half term, your child will be given a new KIRF sheet.

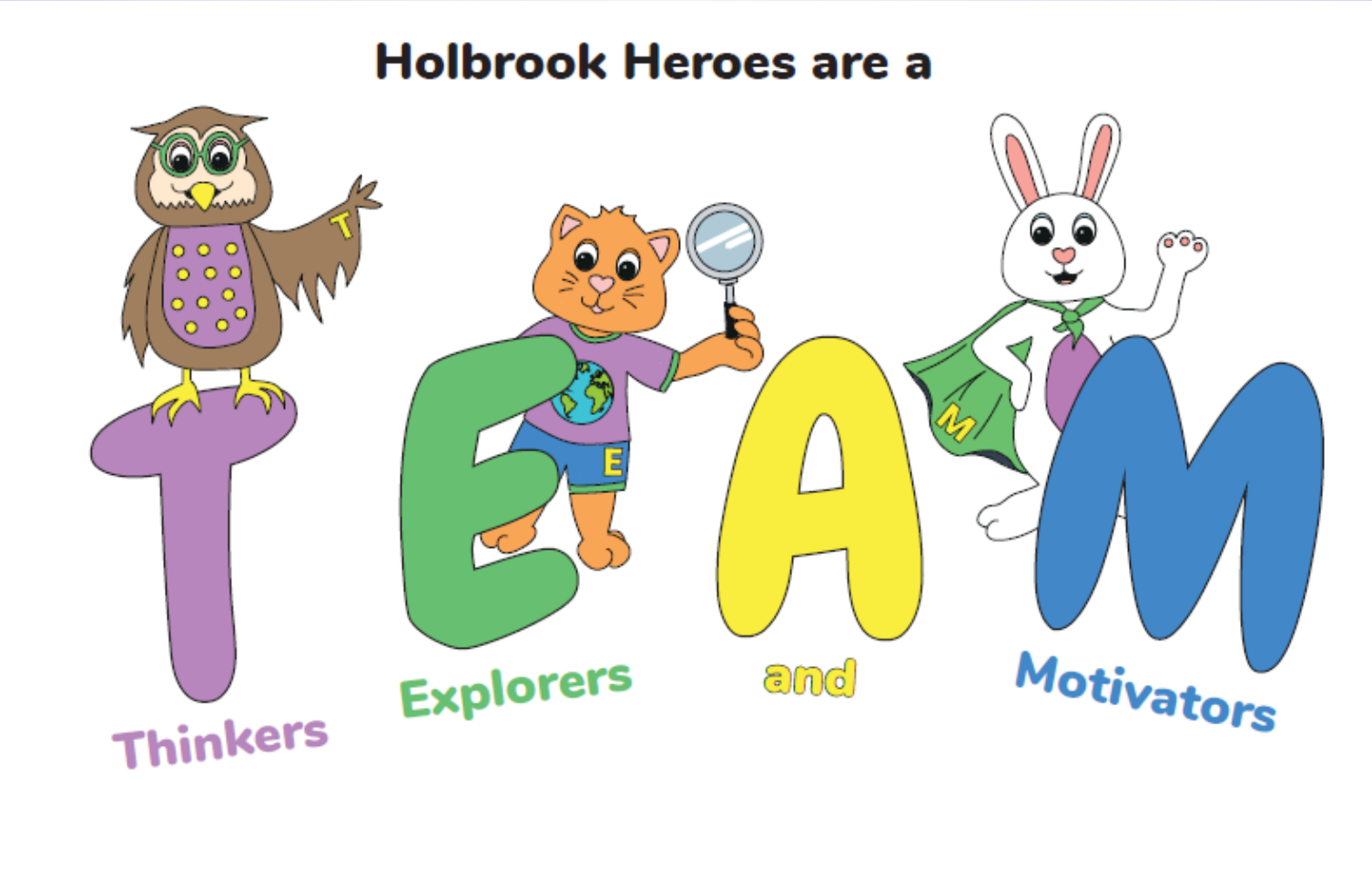
- To get the most benefit, they should be practised frequently in short bursts rather than in long sessions.







LEARNING SKILLS



The ZONES of Regulation®



BLUE ZONE

Sad
Sick
Tired
Bored
Moving Slowly

GREEN ZONE

Happy
Calm
Feeling Okay
Focused
Ready to Learn

YELLOW ZONE

Frustrated
Worried
Silly/Wiggly
Excited
Loss of Some Control

RED ZONE

Mad/Angry
Terrified
Yelling/Hitting
Elated
Out of Control

Animal Adventure Prickles and Otto





- Each Friday a child will get the opportunity to bring home Prickles the hedgehog or Otto the otter for the weekend.
- Record your adventures together on Tapestry which will be shared with the class the following Friday.
- Please bring them back on Monday.

Supporting at Home



- Observations from home uploaded to Tapestry
- Phonics - (The Song of Sounds song link will be uploaded via Tapestry)
- Letterjoin – log in details will be on Tapestry
- Every Friday we will share the sounds/phonics/handwriting focus from that week at school on Tapestry – great opportunity for you to practise at home
- Additional resources and weblinks will be added to Tapestry.

Uniform

- Correct uniform please
- Coat in school everyday
- **NAME EVERYTHING PLEASE!**
- Lost property trolley will be by the office
- Long hair should be tied back – school colours for hair bands please!
- No toys in school please.
- Please note that although we encourage children to put an apron on, this don't necessary stay on or cover everything!
- Wednesday – PE - Wear kit to school.

(Earrings – please take them out on PE days. Freshly pierced ears can be covered with plaster tape – please do this before school)

- Thursday – Outdoor learning (starting from Thurs 1st October)

Outdoor learning - Thursdays from 1st October

Children to come to school wearing

- **Long sleeves**
- **Long trousers/leggings**
- Sensible footwear/wellies they can do up themselves
- Wellies can stay in school if you wish
- Outdoor coats etc. suitable for weather on the day i.e. puddlesuit, waterproof coat/trousers, warm coat, gloves, hats, sunhat….

- **NAME EVERYTHING!**

- Bring school uniform in a named bag for the afternoon.

Snacks and Drinks

- Water bottle in school everyday please - **water only** due to allergies (Bring additional drink which could be juice if packed lunch)
- Nut-free school due to severe allergies
- Fruit and veg scheme in school
- They may bring a mid-morning snack consisting of a piece of fruit or raw vegetable. **Children should <u>not</u> bring any sweets, biscuits, crisps or drinks at break-times please**.
- Cool Milk - free before 5th birthday, order online
- No sweets –(Including birthdays)
- Hot lunches

Communication with Parents

- Communication via any adult on the door each morning
- Tapestry
- Notes on the window/board at the door
- Emails: Hedgehogs@holbrookprimaryschool.com
  otters@holbrookprimaryschool.com
- All absence requests need to go to the office (form on website)
- Letters/ParentMail
- Parent Consultations after half term- dates to follow

Thank You!

A very big THANK YOU to all of you for your support. The children are settling in really well and we hope you are as proud of them as we are!