

Autumn Term Newsletter

October 18th 2024



**BROOKTHORPE
HALL SCHOOL**

Message from the Headteacher

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to our second Brookthorpe Hall newsletter this academic year. Since our last newsletter pupils have really begun to settle into their new classes, adjust to their new timetables and establish positive relationships with pupils and staff alike. It has also been wonderful to regularly receive positive feedback from everyone about pupils' weekly visits to the Wilderness Centre. These visits are already becoming a very important feature of our wider curriculum for so many pupils and I am looking forward to see this develop for different groups of pupils across the next few terms.

I am also delighted to welcome Louise Waller, Assistant Headteacher for Curriculum, to the Brookthorpe Hall team. I know that many of you will already have met or spoken to Louise and I am delighted that another experienced senior leader has joined our team. In the short time that she has been at Brookthorpe, Louise is already working very closely with teachers to ensure that pupils make good progress with a particular focus on phonics and reading for pupils of all ages.



As we near the end of our first term, I would also like to give a very special mention to our new pupils who joined us in September. I have been so impressed with how quickly many of you have quickly attended school everyday, made new friends and work so well with the adults in your classrooms. I am very proud of you all!

Pupils will be asked this week which end of term trips they would like to enjoy in the final week of term. Maya has worked very hard with the team to provide an exciting range of trips for pupils to select. They range from visiting Birdland, Forest Green Rovers or climbing for lower phase pupils. Upper phase pupils will be able to select a virtual reality experience, climbing or Forest Green Rovers. There will also be the opportunity for pupils to enjoy arts and crafts at school. I am looking forward to seeing pupils enjoy the wealth of experiences available on all these trips and experiences.



Kind Regards,

Jon Bell
Headteacher



The ASPEN class is settling in well and has already engaged with an exciting curriculum.

We have been getting to know one another by completing One-Page profiles and exploring the Zones of Regulation, with support from the Clinical team.

In art, we have been exploring nature and have created some beautiful collages.

In geography, we have been studying maps and our place in the world, which has provided valuable insights into the differences between cities, towns, and villages.

In science, we have been examining electrical circuits and have learned to identify the components necessary for generating electricity.



In mathematics, we have been investigating the number system up to 10 using various concrete materials.

In English, we have been focusing on fairy tales, reading numerous books, and utilising AI to help us collaboratively write a story based on the students' ideas.

Overall, it has been an exciting start to the year, and we look forward to a rewarding year ahead.

(Jamila – Aspen Class Teacher)



Larch Class



Larch class have been lucky enough to move into a newly decorated classroom in September!

Everyone is already feeling at home and each pupil has their own notice board. Our cosy area includes a space capsule tent and a relaxing glow light.

Larch class have already enjoyed their forest school days with Ed. They have made superb dens and enjoyed tunnelling. The professional equipment which they use is a hit with Larch class. They look like real adventurers.

Our theme this term is "Little red riding hood". The pupils have enjoyed being read to as well as watching the cartoon version. Many pupils have noticed how the wolf tries to trick the main character. We are also exploring a range of fairytales. The class favourite is "The gingerbread man".

Pupils are enjoying the new Thursday afternoon reward time. It allows pupils to visit their friends who are in other class, have a choice of activities and develop their social skills. As a team we are proud of our pupils, and we appreciate the efforts they are making with their work.

(Hazel – Larch Class Teacher)



Pine Class



The students in Pine class have had an amazing time this term with Ed at the Wilderness Centre. They have taken part in lots of fun activities such as den building, going through the tunnels and going around the adventure equipment, they also had amazing teamwork last week when they took part in a scavenger hunt. Of course, Ellie's team one by managing to find all the items on the list, but also completing a bonus challenge of finding as many leaves as possible.



Forest Green Rovers have been amazing with their football training sessions, which provide students with the ideal situation to work on their social skills and work together in their teams. The students have achieved lots of stickers for their efforts so well done everyone.



We had a very interesting Science lesson using cauliflowers to replicate our brains, the students were then asked to paint the area of the brain that helps us with our emotional regulation onto the cauliflower. Everyone had great fun with this activity. In Reading Eggs and Maths seeds the students have been working hard through their maps and have earned lots of certificates.



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Our theme this week has been 'How to train your dragon' linked to the film, and the students have produced some beautiful work which is displayed on our class board.

(Kathryne – Pine Class Teacher)





Yew class have been busy making story boxes in art to go with their own fairytales that they are writing in English. We have been learning the story Little Red Riding Hood and talking about other fairytales. They are extremely proud about what they have created and so they should be! They have worked hard and put a lot of effort into making them. They have all been creative with their ideas and this shows in their amazing work. Well done Yew class!!

(Jenna – Yew Class Teacher)



Oak Class



Oak have been expressing their creativity in a variety of ways. We have been exploring lots of different topics through the medium of model making. Pupils have been able to make plasticine models of our planetes, which when cut showed a cross-section of the different layers within our planet. We have also developed a 'bug club' in which pupils have been creating their own habitats and bug hotels, researching the needs of a variety of different ecosystems to ensure that the insects they create.

(Toby – Yew Class Teacher)



Palm Class



New pupils in Palm class have made a tremendous start to their first term at Brookthorpe Hall School. Pupils in the class have begun to make good use of their new learning spaces, get to know key staff and really enjoy using the new outdoor play equipment. We are looking forward to new learning experiences in the new term!

Upper Phase English



This term we are working with traditional stories to understand how writers create setting, build characters, and invent engaging plots. This week is the gruesome story of Odysseus and the Cyclops. Students have created their own storyboards while listening to the audiobook. They have practised making different types of sentences and they have built a vocabulary bank. They will soon be ready to write their own dramatic Cyclops tale!

I have asked students to have a reading book with them during the day. Please do bring one from home, or choose one from the book box in Birch classroom. I plan to build up a small library for all students to access: watch this space!

Louise Taylor (Head of English)

Telling my story!

odysseus is on his way back after 10 years of war.	They found a cave full of animals, cheese, milk and a fire. They sat down to eat.	Then a cyclops comes and eats one of the men and goes to sleep.
Then, when he comes back, they gave him wine so he got drunk.	They blinded him and he felt his way around to find his boulder and moved. They got out under the sheep.	odysseus and his men were free! but our hero had to tell the cyclops his name!

Excellent retelling of...

Theo's storyboard produced in English lessons in Cedar class

Upper Phase Maths



We have had a very positive start by all students in maths so far this term at Brookthorpe Hall. For our curriculum we are following White Rose Maths and for those students aged 14 and above we are in the process of putting them through their Functional Skills Level 1 Maths qualification. All students completed a baseline assessment at the beginning of the year, and I could not have been prouder of the effort and resilience they showed in completing these. Students studying the Year 7 maths curriculum have been focusing of Sequences so far this term, we have more specifically looked at Linear and Non-Linear sequences and from next week, we will be moving onto predicting terms in a sequence using algebra. Those students studying the Year 8 curriculum have been focusing on ratio and scale and have been able to use ratio notation to help them divide ratios into given amounts. Again, the next step for the students will now be to show ratio in algebraic form "1:n". The Functional Skills students have been mastering their non-calculator processes for Place Value and the 4 operations, they are able to use these processes to answer exam-style questions and problem solve.

I would like to give a big shout out to the following students for excellent work and attitude in maths so far this term; Amelie, Isabelle, Theo, Lewis, Lewis, Shay, Andrzej and Zeph.

Russell Beacham (Head of Maths)

Upper Phase Art



Elm, Birch and Ash classes have enjoyed creating art in the style of Keith Haring. We studied this interesting and altruistic artist, his work and style during our unit on Graffiti Art. Throughout his career, Haring devoted much of his time to public works, which often carried social messages. He produced more than 50 public artworks between 1982 and 1989, in dozens of cities around the world, many of which were created for charities, hospitals, children's day care centres and orphanages. His projects include a mural created for the 100th anniversary of the Statue of Liberty in 1986, on which Haring worked with 900 children; a mural on the exterior of Necker Children's Hospital in Paris, France in 1987; and a mural painted on the western side of the Berlin Wall three years before its fall.

Haring also held drawing workshops for children in schools and museums in New York, Amsterdam, London, Tokyo and Bordeaux, and produced imagery for many literacy programmes and other public service campaigns. Haring set up the Keith Haring Foundation to provide funding and support to AIDS research, charities and education. He sadly died at the age of only 31

Amanda Parker (Upper Phase Teacher)



Outdoor Education



The groups heading to the Wilderness Centre each week have had brilliant fun and learned a lot with a whole host of different activities. We've had fascinating mushroom walks through the Forest of Dean, worked on our teamwork whilst den building, and pushed our resilience exploring the tunnels.

We've also been tending the garden on site, clearing it of weeds and getting ready to plant some seeds and see what we can make grow!

I've been really impressed with every group and have seen a lot of progress, each week the students gain more trust and independence, and they will all be moving onto bigger and more challenging activities in the coming weeks. Well done everyone!

Ed Farrow (Head of Outdoor Education)



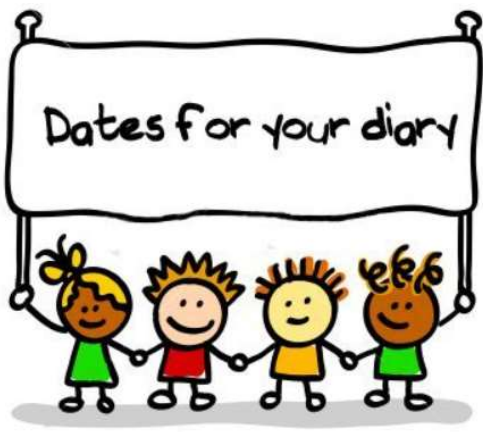
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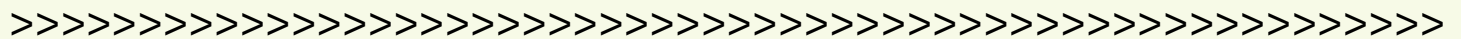


Term Dates

Term 1: Mon 2nd Sept – Fri 25th Oct 2024	40 days
Term 2: Mon 4th Nov – Fri 20th Dec 2024	35 days
Term 3: Mon 6th Jan - Fri 14th Feb 2025	30 days
Term 4: Mon 24th Feb – Fri 11th Apr 2025	35 days
Term 5: Mon 28th April – Fri 23rd May 2025	19 days
Term 6: Mon 2nd June – Mon 21st July 2025	36 days

INSET Days

- Monday 2nd September 2024
- Tuesday 3rd September 2024
- Monday 6th January 2025
- Friday 11th April 2025
- Monday 21st July 2025



Christmas Bank Holidays	25th December 2024 Bank Holiday 26th December 2024
New Year Bank Holiday	1st January 2025
Good Friday	18th April 2025
Easter Monday	21st April 2025
Early May Bank Holiday	5th May 2025
Spring Bank Holiday	26th May 2025
Summer Bank Holiday	25th August 2025



BROOKTHORPE HALL SCHOOL



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