

# Spring Term 3 Newsletter

April 23<sup>rd</sup> 2024



**BROOKTHORPE  
HALL SCHOOL**

## Message from the Executive Headteacher

As promised in our previous newsletter, we will be celebrating pupils' achievement in a fortnightly newsletter. I am pleased to share the second edition of our newsletter and update on you on changes being made at Brookthorpe Hall School.

My priority when I joined was to ensure that pupils are always safe and happy. Therefore, I am pleased to confirm that the collapsing wall has been totally replaced and the trampoline removed. Parts of the site are currently fenced off as we wait for landscaping to be completed as this will provide calming areas for our children to enjoy the outside areas. I am also very excited that new outside play equipment (including a gym, individual trampoline, swing and trim trail) will also be installed for children to enjoy in the coming months.

I have also been so impressed with the expertise, knowledge and commitment of our staff team across Brookthorpe Hall. Indeed, their knowledge of each pupil and how to support them to make social, emotional and academic progress is second to none. I would like to welcome Alice Horler (TA) and Lianna Williams (Pastoral Assistant) to our Brookthorpe Hall community.

Last term we have worked hard to permanently appoint experienced colleagues who will join the team in September:

- Sabrina Chowdhury: Assistant Headteacher
- Louise Taylor: Head of English
- Karen Steger: Head of PSHE and Careers
- Jamila Turner-Dell'Acqua: SEN Teacher

Also, I am pleased to inform you that a number of other colleagues are joining the team imminently:

- Sue Baldwin: HLTA
- Chloe Boothman: Examinations Officer
- Amelia Rose-Marshall: TA

### Coming Soon!

I am delighted to confirm that Forest Green Rovers' community coaches will be leading coaching sessions with pupils from next week. Also, a qualified Music Therapist will be working with identified pupils very soon to bring even more depth and variety to our curriculum. I will keep you updated with even more enrichment opportunities for pupils soon.

Jon Bell  
Executive Headteacher



## Class News: Hardwicke Class

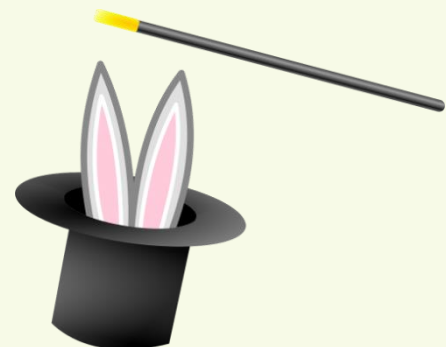
**Hardwicke Class** students had a challenging **Games Day** when they competed against the clock to complete fun activities like jigsaw puzzles, working on their **fine motor skills, logical reasoning, problem solving, patience and perseverance**. Pupils thoroughly enjoyed working together, with their teacher and TA. They also joined in games such as Snakes and Ladders, Uno and Spot It! **Board and card games** offer multiple ways to develop a number of **thinking skills**. For example, **problem solving, logical thinking and decision making** are developed through:

- Planning with a restrictive amount of choice
- Management and prioritising of limited resources
- Thinking ahead of the current turn
- Predicting what others may do
- Evaluating the advantages and disadvantages of different moves
- Staying ahead while remembering and adhering to the rules of the game
- Flexibility in playing the game differently each time



Another important benefit derived playing from board and card games is the unique opportunity that they offer to process sets of information simultaneously. This creates regular practice in working memory and information processing.

We finished the day with a fantastic demonstration of magic tricks, followed by the 'great reveal' and a practice session so we could delight and amaze our family and friends. Presentation skills, misdirection and manipulation are some of the abilities thus acquired!



**Hardwicke Class Teacher**  
Amanda

## Class News: Painswick Class

In Painswick class this term, we have been looking at the topic of Health for our PSHE lessons, and to link into this we have taken part in World Health Day, as part of our SMSC calendar of events.

World Health Day takes place each year on the 7<sup>th</sup> of April and is used to promote the benefits of good health and wellbeing worldwide.

In aid of the day the students took part in a healthy food tasting session, and some of the students also tried new foods that they hadn't tried before, which was an amazing experience for them.

The foods we tried included cucumbers, carrots, tropical fruits, they also tried Pearl strawberries, these are white in color, and are harvested for their sweetness, everyone enjoyed these. We also tried blueberries, raspberries, bananas, and kiwis.

To end the day, the students took part in a fitness session outside, to learn the importance of exercise alongside a healthy diet, to stay healthy.



Pupils have really enjoyed their PE sessions this term, where we have been focusing on group games to help support the students with their socialization skills when working as a group, so lots of turn taking, and listen to others in the group when they have an idea for a new game.

The lessons also support their gross motor skills by incorporating lots of different warm up exercises including star jumps, high knees and jogging on the spot.

This week we introduced the students to circuits and created different circuits for the students to take part in, in pairs, to present them with some healthy competition.



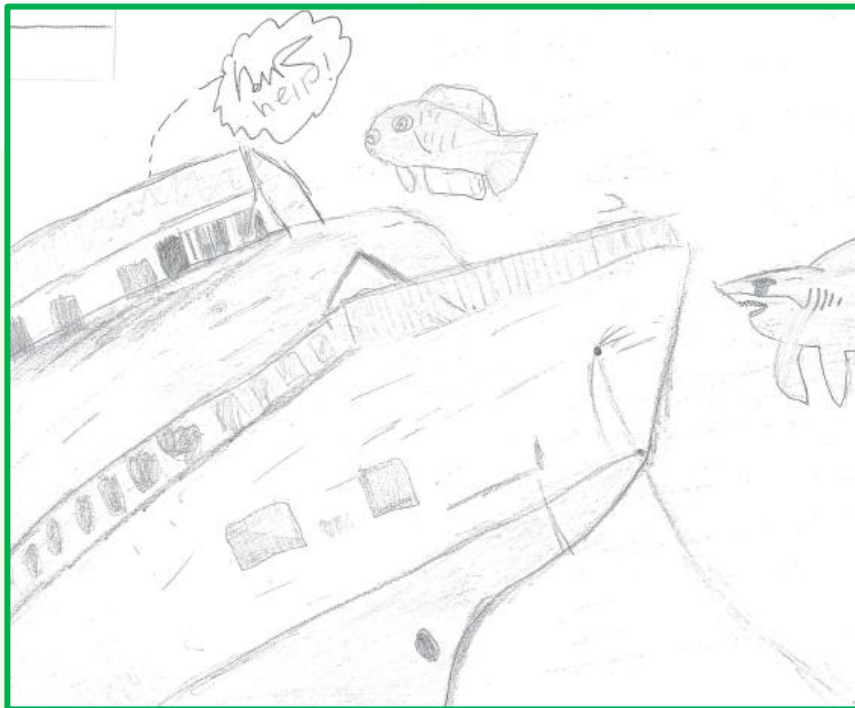
**Painswick Class Teacher**  
Ellie

## Class News: Upton Class

Upton class have had a busy start to the summer term. In class we are looking at different parts of grammar. Maths we are busy identifying different types of angles, right angles, acute and obtuse angles.

In science we are studying animals and their habitats. Shay has completed a beautiful drawing of a shipwreck whilst discussing the different types of sea life which could be found in this habitat.

On Friday Upton class enjoyed surprise trip to Stratford Park. The sun shone as did the pupils. There were many magical moments, pupils helping each other to climb the boulders, working together as a team and pupils even helping toddlers to safely get off the slide.



(A fantastic pencil drawing from Shay in Upton)

**Upton Class Teacher**

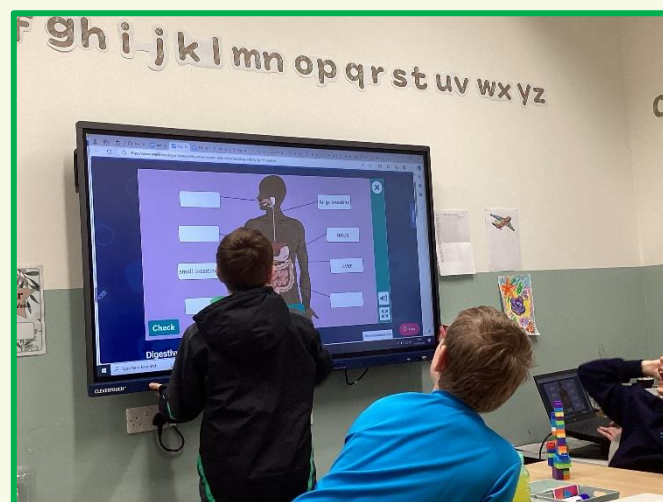
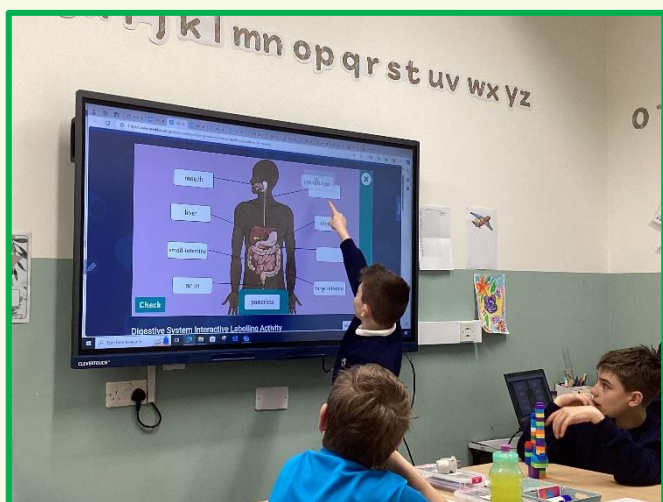
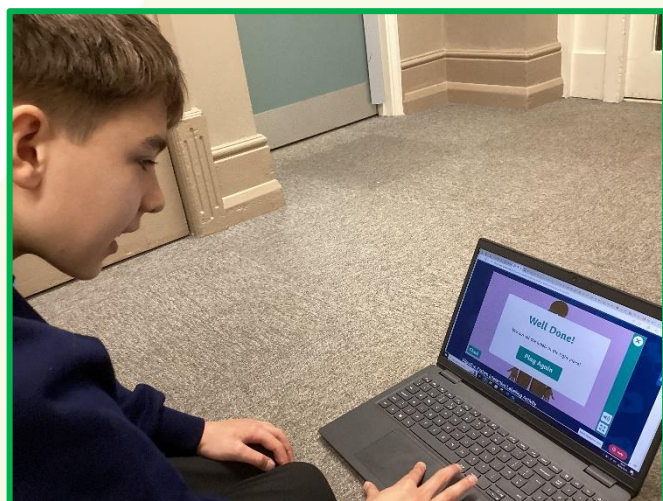
Hazel

## Class News: Brockworth Class

Brockworth class are learning about the Digestive System. It's a very fascinating topic where the children are engaged with theory and practical activities.

### Brockworth Class Teacher

Jenna



## Class News: Quedgeley Class

This term, Quedgeley Class are learning about their new topic, Ancient Egypt. Since coming back after Easter, students have enjoyed making Saboob bread which is an Egyptian flatbread, looking at Egyptian artifacts and making their own eco-systems in a bottle.

Students are also working towards achieving English and Maths Functional Skills and are developing on their personal self-care and wellbeing.

This term, we plan to visit Bankside School for horticultural activities and enjoy a school outing towards the end of each week to celebrate the hard efforts.



**Quedgeley Class Teacher**

Emma

## Class News: Stroud Class

This term Stroud class are studying Ancient Egypt in History. The students already have a fantastic base of knowledge on the topic which we are rapidly expanding.

The students have really enjoyed writing their names in hieroglyphics and this week they've been designing their own pyramids complete with traps, treasure and tombs!

Outside of the classroom, we've had two great trips to nearby parks to enjoy the good weather and everyone has behaved brilliantly whilst out and about.

**Stroud Class Teacher**

Ed







## Class News: Haresfield Class

The pupils in Haresfield have been very creative since returning after easter and have been keen to participate in activities that involve making things. This involves the creation of intricate marble run courses, baking sweet treats in the cooking room, or amazing pieces of artwork.



**Haresfield Class Teacher**  
Toby

### **Term Dates**

- Spring Bank Half-Term: Week commencing 27<sup>th</sup> May
- Term 6 begins on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June
- Term 6 ends on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> July

### **Message from our Clinical Team**

The Clinical team have had a busy week at Brookthorpe School. Ruby (Therapies Assistant) is very much enjoying building relationships with the students. The students have engaged positively with the touch typing and self-care groups this week. Hayley (Speech and Language Therapist/ Locality Lead) and Ruby were very happy with the level of engagement in the new 'building friendships' group. The students worked together to build some impressive tall towers. In the coming weeks Ruby will be sharing some photographs of the sessions using the class Dojo app. Fiona has continued to offer regular Psychotherapy sessions in her therapy space.

Hayley (Locality Clinical Lead)



# **BROOKTHORPE HALL SCHOOL**



## **Contact Details**

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