

Autumn Term Newsletter

December 13th 2024



**BROOKTHORPE
HALL SCHOOL**

Message from the Headteacher

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been an incredibly busy term at Brookthorpe Hall. Our curriculum continues to develop with a greater focus on phonics delivery and reading. Similarly, I have been extremely pleased with pupils' engagement in maths and cookery. I must also take this opportunity to welcome Jurell Williams to the Brookthorpe team. Jurell is our Sports Co-Ordinator and has fostered a love of physical activity with so many pupils through his PE lessons and lunchtime activities. Pupils' enjoyment at The Wilderness Centre continue to grow and it was a delight to see pupils' excitement when they could play in the snow that fell earlier this term.



I must also thank everyone who attended our first ever Christmas fayre. Pupils had been busy designing Christmas cards, craft items, cakes and decorations to sell. The quality of many of the items was so impressive and it was wonderful to see pupils showing great enterprise skills when selling their items, managing transactions and confidently talking to customers! I must also thank Father Christmas for making a special visit to Brookthorpe at such a busy time of the year for him!

I was genuinely overwhelmed of the support with parents, pupils and staff celebrating what is very special about our school community. Finally, I would like to wish all of you a very merry Christmas with your loved ones and friends and we look forward to welcoming pupils back to school on Tuesday 7th January.

Kind Regards,

Jon Bell
Headteacher



Christmas Fayre 2024!

Wow what a way to launch our first Christmas Fayre at Brookthorpe Hall School!

Firstly, a huge thank you must go to Emma Watkins our Careers Lead who planted the seed of developing an entrepreneurial project for our young people to get stuck into.

[Watch this space for more projects to come!](#)

What was evident is that the values that Brookthorpe uphold were demonstrated to a high standard by all students, class teams and operational staff who, without them the fayre could not have happened!

We had the following activities and stalls run by students and their class teams:

- Cards and crafts stalls – Yew, Ash, Elm and Birch classes
- Guess the name of the teddy – Larch class
- Guess the weight of the cake – Palm class
- Guess the number of sweets in the jar – Pine class
- Tombola (Very, very popular!) – Oak class
- Drinks, cakes and games stalls – Cedar class
- Face painting – Emma P
- Santa's grotto

The purpose of the fayre was to raise awareness for and fundraise on behalf of two incredible local charities – The Spring Centre and Catch a Smile which are both based within the Quedgeley area of the city.

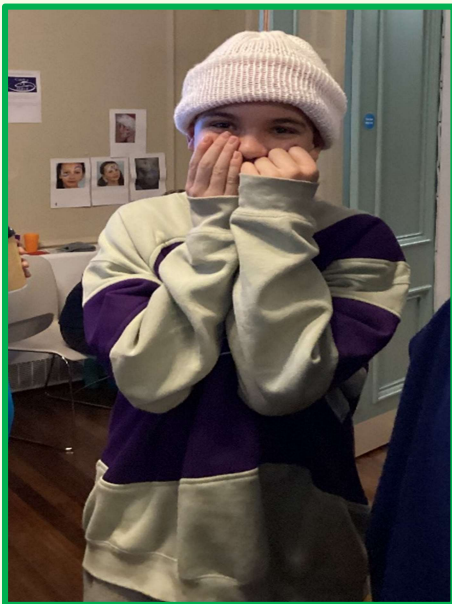


As a school, we have to date, raised a whopping:



£544.60!!!

Thank you all – students, parents, carers and staff for contributing to the fantastic total! The funds raised will be split equally to both charities. There was so much fun, laughter and memories made during our Christmas fayre which is clear to see in the photographs:



Pine Class



In Pine class this term we have been completing lots of work linked to the Harry Potter theme. In English we have been completing group reading of the book Harry Potter and the order of the phoenix. We have enjoyed watching the first part of the film too. The students were asked to write some different adjectives to describe Mr Dursley, and they came up with some amazing suggestions. In Art we have completed lots of Harry Potter themed Artwork, and we are also looking to complete a Van Gough 'Starry night' themed Harry Potter scene. For Science we are creating some magic potions and Slime.

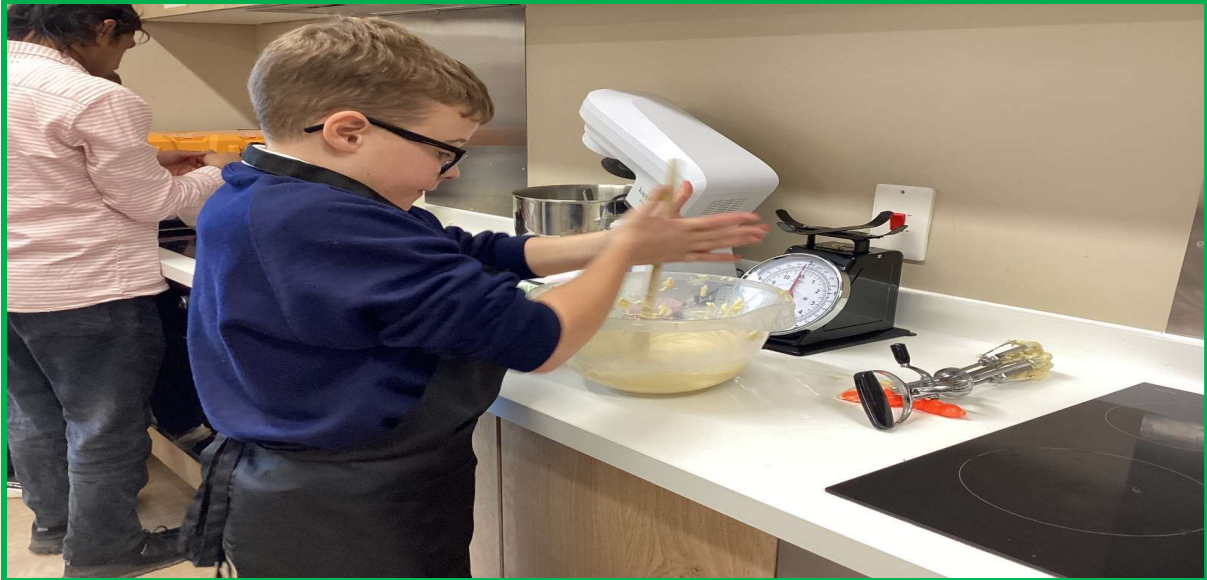


The students are continuing to enjoy their sessions with Forest Green Rovers, and we are very impressed with their improving skills, and teamwork in the sessions. This term they have been taking part in a lot of activities in pairs, working on their communication skills, passing the ball to each other in different practice drills.

Pine Class



We have been very creative in our cooking lessons, creating different cupcakes and biscuits, delicious!!!



Pine class created some amazing work to raise awareness of the importance of Children In Need and Anti Bullying week. Well done Pine class.

(Robyn – Pine Class Teacher)



Yew Class



Yew class have been extremely busy learning all about Harry Potter for our English lessons. They have collectively made a 9 ¾ platform which is proudly on display outside the classroom. During these lessons it is teaching us to understand how sentences are constructed and how to identify and use different types of sentences accurately, and for effect.

We have also been busy making salt dough Christmas decorations for both the Christmas fayre and to take home. All of Yew class are really starting to show their craft skills whilst having fun!

(Jenna – Yew Class Teacher)



Larch Class



Larch class have been busy creating scenery for their “Name the Teddy” stall at the first ever Brookthorpe Hall School Christmas fayre. The Teddy itself is rather large, and he or she is brown and white and very soft and fluffy.

(Hazel – Larch Class Teacher)



Oak Class



Oak have been doing some really creative work during computing and making their own graphics. Student have used a variety of shapes and lines to create some beautiful designs, with it culminating with the pupils designing their own festive gingerbread designs. They will attempt to make these in their forthcoming food technology lessons.

(Toby – Yew Class Teacher)



Palm Class



Palm class have had a busy week making lots of fun decorations for the Christmas Fayre next week.



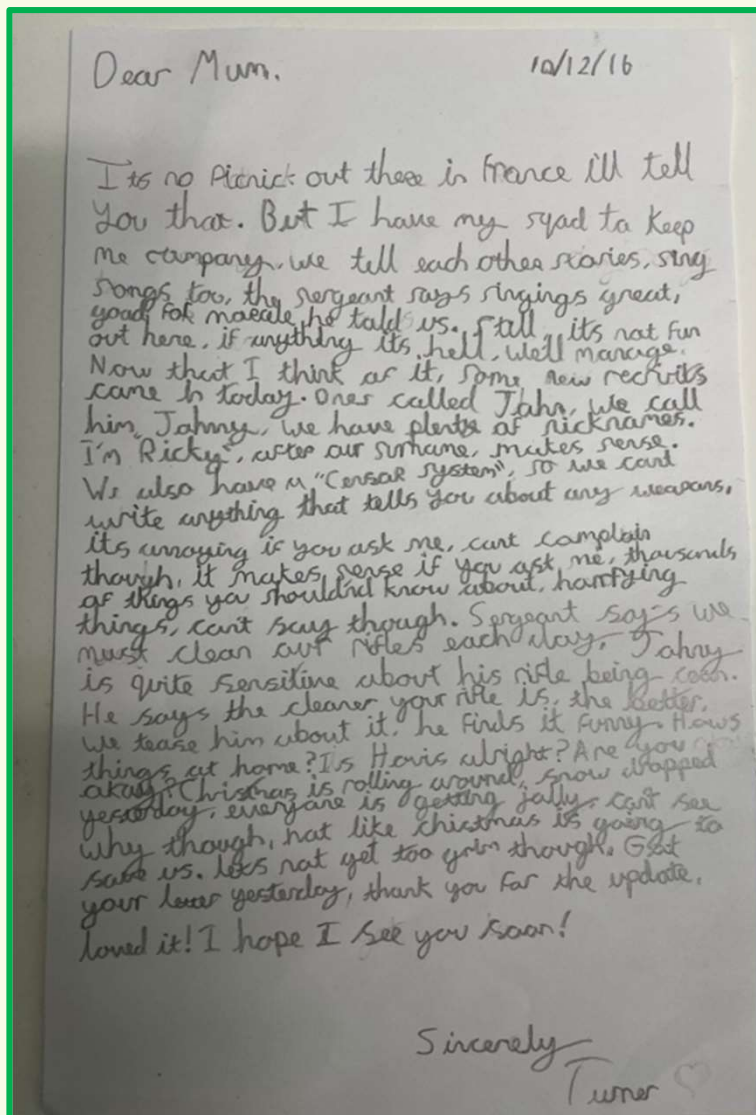
Upper Phase English



In the Upper Phase we have been reading *Private Peaceful* by Michael Morpurgo. Students have learnt about life in the early 1900s, and the horrors of trench warfare in World War One. We have read examples of letters from soldiers during World War One and students have created their own letters from the front. We have also looked at persuasive speeches and identified speech techniques. Students had a go at writing their own speeches.

The Brookthorpe book collection is increasing. Students are welcome to borrow books to take home and read. Well done to Jack, Theo and Turner for borrowing multiple books!

Letter by Turner in Cedar class



Louise Taylor (Head of English)

Upper Phase Maths



This term the school has transferred its curriculum from White Rose Maths to Oak National Academy, the reason behind the switch was because Oak National Academy will provide a more interactive, diverse and fun maths curriculum for all our young people to complete. Both Upper and Lower phases of the school have begun this and feedback from teachers has been positive, and they can really see students engaging in their maths lessons more!

In Upper phase students have been deepening their understanding of integers and how we can say the same integers in many different ways, we have had some great discussions and a lot of fun doing this! Coming up over the next few weeks students will be progressing onto Exponential and Fractional Integers/Place Value and understanding how they are linked.

Students who have really been thriving in maths are Theo, Sam, Shay and Jonah.

Some of our students have also been completing modules for their Functional Skills Level 1 qualification, the quality of work by all of them has been exceptional and students are really finding an enjoyment in learning about the functionality of maths and how it can relate to so much in the outside world...yes even algebra. Students have been strengthening their fundamentals so far and will now progress onto formulae and fractions in the upcoming weeks.

A special mention to the following students for their effort in Functional Skills maths go to: Amelie, Evie, Lewis C and Lewis J.

Russell Beacham (Head of Maths)

Outdoor Education

There's been a lot of amazing things happening at the Wilderness Centre over the last few weeks and everybody has got involved fantastically well which has been really great to see - despite some unpleasant weather at times!

- In November we had brilliant fun in the snow - snowball fights, sledging and a very well-made snowman.
- We've had some brilliant teamwork whilst metal detecting with people trying out the big metal detectors, the pin-pointers and being the vital diggers. Best find so far goes to Ash class who found a mysterious wrought-iron triangle which, according to Wilderness Centre staff, could be up to 200 years old!
- The Upper Phase classes tried Crate Stacking and there were some fantastic efforts, with Hugh managing a terrifying 21 crates high!

I'm really looking forward to next term and have lots of new activities planned. Thank you all for your efforts over the last few weeks!

Ed Farrow (Head of Outdoor Education)



Neurodivergent Affirmative Behaviour Policy



OFG have recently produced our new Neurodivergent Affirmative Behaviour Policy and will be launching next term. A summary of our new policy is below:

As part of our ongoing commitment to fostering a safe and nurturing environment for all our young people, we are excited to introduce our children's version of the Neurodivergent Affirming/Trauma-Informed Behaviour Policy. This policy represents our approach, focusing on empathy, support, and collaboration rather than traditional punitive and sanctions-based measures.

We have reviewed the evidence base, consulted with our lived experience groups, and engaged young people in the design process. Your child will have their own version of this policy to support them at school, and we are carefully monitoring their wellbeing as we transition to this new policy; the initial impact has been overwhelmingly positive.

Within school, the safety and well-being of your child is paramount. We are dedicated to creating a positive and supportive atmosphere where every young person feels valued, cared for, and included. With this in mind, we have developed a behaviour policy that aligns with trauma-informed and neurodivergent affirming practices.

We proactively plan adaptations to support learning and behaviour in light of neurodivergence and the impact of trauma. Key aspects of our policy include:

- **Understanding and Support:** We are committed to understanding underlying needs and helping students recognise their emotions and behaviour, fostering self-awareness and personal growth.
- **Positive Reinforcement:** We celebrate achievements and talents, recognising and praising young people for their efforts and accomplishments.
- **Learning from Experiences:** Instead of punitive measures, we focus on natural and logical consequences, encouraging students to learn from their experiences and make amends when necessary. This approach is consistent with restorative justice principles, preparing children for their future.
- **Safety and Support:** In situations where safety is a concern, we prioritise the well-being of all students involved. Our approach involves supporting students through difficult emotions and collaboratively finding solutions for future situations.

Neurodivergent Affirmative Behaviour Policy

In addition, children are actively involved in developing and providing feedback on school values and reward systems, ensuring their voices are heard in shaping our community. Every child will have their own copy of the Children's Behaviour Policy.

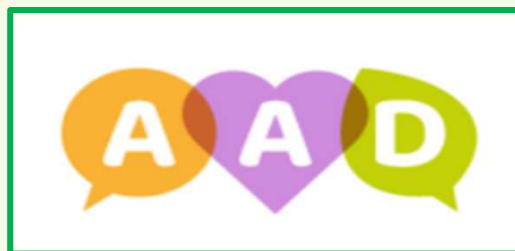
Your support and collaboration are invaluable as we continue to implement this new policy. We believe that by working together, we can create an environment where every child feels supported, understood, and empowered to thrive. We invite you to engage in open and transparent discussions with us and your child, sharing any insights or concerns you may have regarding your child's well-being and behaviour.

Please feel free to reach out to us with any questions or feedback. We value your partnership in ensuring the success and happiness of your child and our school together.

Thank you for your continued support.

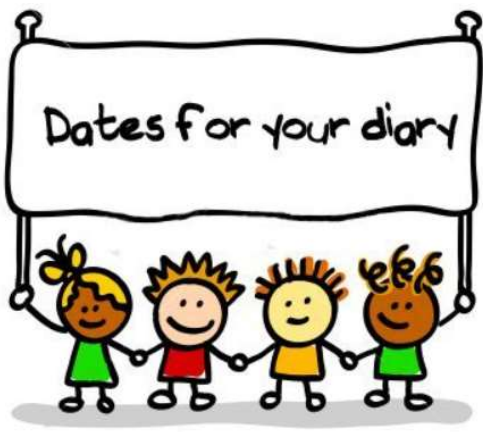
All pupils will be told about our Neurodivergent Affirmative Behaviour Policy at the start of next term.

The first area which pupils and parents/carers will be asked for feedback is around our new rewards procedure which we will share at the start of the new term



End of Term Reports

All parents and carers will receive end of term reports within the next week. Reports will be posted directly. Teachers will be in contact at the start of the new term to arrange a meeting to discuss the report during the week commencing 13th January.

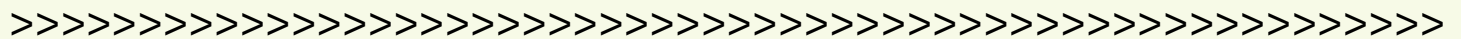


Term Dates

Term 1: Mon 2nd Sept – Fri 25th Oct 2024	40 days
Term 2: Mon 4th Nov – Fri 20th Dec 2024	35 days
Term 3: Tuesday 7 th 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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