

Spring Term Newsletter

14th February 2025



**BROOKTHORPE
HALL SCHOOL**

Message from the Headteacher

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we near the half-way mark of the academic year, I have been extremely proud of pupils' achievements and the progress that is being made across so many parts of our curriculum. It is a real pleasure to now see that reading and phonics is being taught across our Lower Phase classes. Indeed, reading is quickly becoming a real bedrock of our curriculum for all pupils, and I must thank parents of Lower Phase pupils for supporting reading at home and completing journals alongside school staff. Last week, I was genuinely impressed with how pupils in our Lower Phase participated in a live interactive workshop with Josph Coelho (author of 'Our Tower'). There are more details about this wonderful event later in this newsletter.



(Lower Phase pupils participating in National Story Telling week)

Our Maths curriculum is also going from strength to strength. While our Upper Phase classes are working towards Functional Skills qualifications, Lower Phase classes are now following appropriate schemes of learning ranging from maths seeds to National Oak Academy. A number of pupils are now also engaging with personalised sessions to ensure that they make rapid progress.

All classes are now following a co-ordinated PSHE programme that is being delivered by Emma (PSHE Lead) and Upper Phase pupils are now beginning to receive bespoke careers education and preparation which is led by Emma W (Careers Lead).

I continue to be very proud of our vibrant enrichment curriculum that includes PE, football coaching with Forest Green Rovers and weekly outdoor education sessions for all pupils at The Wilderness Centre. It certainly feels that our entire curriculum is now taking shape and making a real difference for all pupils. I can't wait to share further developments in future newsletters.

Kind Regards,

Jon Bell
Headteacher



National Storytelling Week

3rd-7th February

All lower phase's reading and writing lessons have been based on the theme '**Reimagine your world!**' Pupils have enjoyed reading Joseph Coelho's book, 'Our Tower' to create their own magical and mythical words.

All of our lower phase pupils participated in an online interactive session with Joseph to not only listen to the story but also develop and create their own magical stories that they will continue to write this term.

As well as engaging with the story in class, students took part in a live webinar with Joseph Coelho himself. Fuelled with hot chocolate and cookies, they concentrated for the whole session and contributed some interesting and insightful ideas.



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Next stop is World Book Day - watch this space for more fun next month!

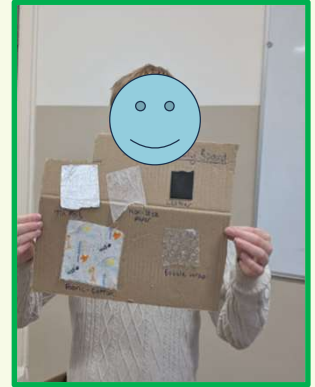
(Louise T – English Lead)

Larch Class



Larch Class have had an excellent half term and are fast becoming a Team of Scientists!

They have been on a treasure hunt to find different objects and explore what they are made of. They have made Feely Boards to start learning about textures and the different properties that different materials have.



They have also investigated a range of items by dunking them in water and then inspecting them for water droplets to see whether or not they are waterproof.

Many pupils in Larch have been participating in some great adventures at The Wilderness Centre. These have included climbing on the assault course and ropes, visiting caves and enjoying marshmallows around the campfire.....lovely!



We are proud of our pupils, and we appreciate the efforts they are making with their work.

(Laura – Larch Class Teacher)
Amelia and Katie (Teaching Assistants)

Oak Class



Oak class have had a fantastic first week together as a new team. They have each been given their own Dragon as a class pet, they have been incorporating this into their learning and ensuring they are being extra careful and responsible with them.



We have also been able to start working on Scratch Programming, with each pupil coding their own game character to be able to move around a screen! This is a great basis and foundation for the exciting games that they will make across the rest of the term.

Yew and Oak Class have enjoyed visiting the caves at The Wilderness Centre this term.



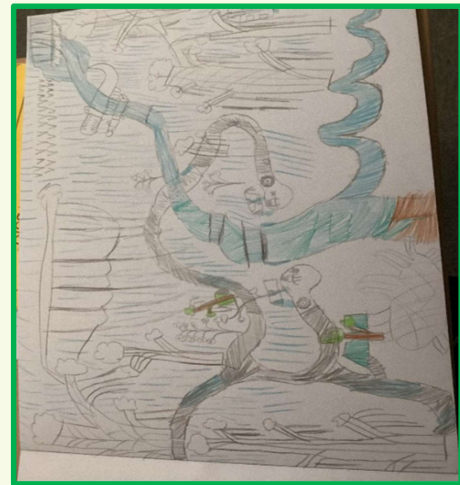
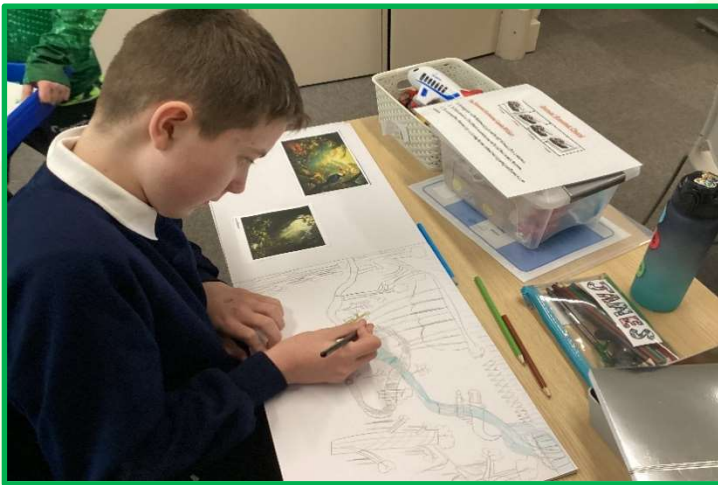
Toby - (Yew Class Teacher)
Sam and Leanne (Teaching Assistants)

Pine Class



In Pine class this term we have been completing lots of work linked to the Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone. In English we have been completing group reading of the book, and learning about the characters including the Dursleys, and Harry Potter himself. We have enjoyed watching the first part of the film too.

In Art, we have been creating our very own interpretations of a rain forest. The students produced some amazing work and stayed very focused on their task. We were especially impressed with James, who produced an amazing creation for his Rainforest.



The students are continuing to enjoy their sessions with Forest Green Rovers, and we are very impressed with their improving skills in Jurell's PE sessions. Jurell has been focusing on communication and getting the students to throw the ball to each other, which also supports their proprioception.



Pine Class



We have been very focused in our cooking lessons, this term focusing on our cutting skills. We were especially impressed with Archie's cutting ability, and he is going to be a star in our cooking lessons and hopefully be able to support and mentor the other students.



The students in Pine class have been amazing with their teamwork and helping others on the obstacle equipment. They are really enjoying their Wilderness sessions. They have taken part in lots of different activities from toasting marshmallows, to taking part in lots of team building activities.

Robyn (Pine Class Teacher)

Ellie, Manu, Sham & Michaela (Teaching Assistants)





Palm class have now moved to a different classroom upstairs. Both boys have settled into the new room and helped to make it look homely. We look forward to it being re painted during half term.

The boys have also helped to order new resources for the room. The current favourite is the set of wooden jigsaws and the glow eggs.

Every Monday the boys enjoy a cooking session with our clinical team. This week they made pizza. The pizza was so good it was munched for lunch and the parents didn't get a pizza delivery at home, which was a shame as both boys did an excellent job being pizza chefs.

A clear favourite of the week is music well being with Katie. The boys engage well in these sessions and arrive back at class relaxed and smiling. Due to their high levels of engagement, we now have a mini set of percussion instruments in the classroom.

Palm class have enjoyed National story telling week. Alongside the lower phase, the boys watched the live stream event in their classroom. Thank you for the hot chocolate, Louise and Kate.

Afterwards the boys made their own towers out of stickle bricks and art and craft activities.

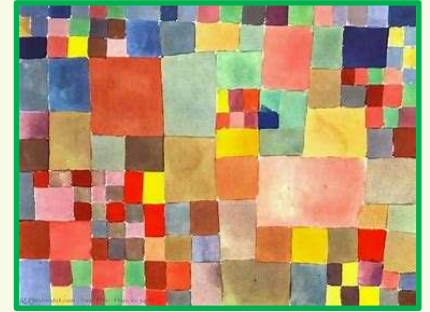
The boys have enjoyed meeting lots of new staff and visitors. The have been welcoming to everyone.

Have a safe and happy half term

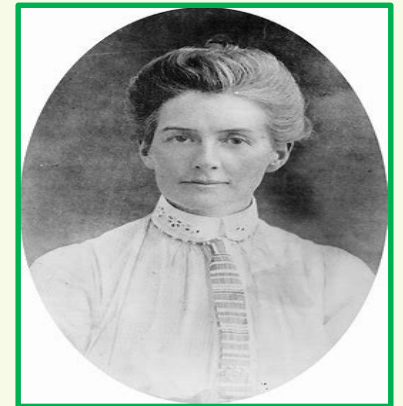
Best wishes Hazel and Monali



Art – we have been researching the famous artist Paul Klee and finding out lots of interesting facts about him and his work.



History – we have been learning about significant nurses throughout history. We have learned about Florence Nightingale, Mary Seacole and Edith Cavell. We have learnt that without these significant people, our hospitals wouldn't be the way they are today!



Science – we have been looking at everyday materials and their properties. We are excited to be carrying out some simple experiments in the coming weeks too.

Wilderness Centre – Yew and Oak Class have enjoyed visiting the caves at The Wilderness Centre this term.



(Jenna – Yew Class Teacher)

Upper Phase English



In Upper Phase, Ash and Birch have started an 'English through Cookery' module. Students are learning about healthy diets and understanding more about the food that they eat. Using this knowledge, they have created their own recipes, which they have cooked themselves in the school kitchen. Key English skills are embedded within this course and students have practised reading, writing and listening skills, as well as learning about etymology and spelling and grammar rules.

Cedar and Elm class have started a new text called 'Once' by Morris Gleitzman. Students have been learning about the events of the Holocaust and they have shown empathy towards the Jewish protagonist, Felix. This term, students are learning key reading skills by analysing quotations and using this as evidence to support their own opinions. They will use these skills to write an analytical essay on the presentation of the main character. Using BBC Teach and National Holocaust Day material, students have learnt about a key historical event, which has inspired some mature and insightful discussions.

Louise Taylor (Head of English)

Energy in Energy out 17.1.25

Can you write out these words?

- protein ✓
- carbohydrate ✓
- Saturated fats ✓
- Iron ✓
- vitamins X
- starch ✓
- energy ✓
- growth ✓
- repair ✓
- health ✓

I have chosen to include Peas in my plan because I like them. I have more vegetables in my meal because I wanted to make it healthier. I am intolerant to gluten so I've chosen to do gluten free pasta. My favourite food is pasta so I have included it to my meal. My favourite snacks are air so I have chosen to put it in my meal.

This is excellent. You have written clear sentences with correct punctuation.

MY Main meal 20.1.25

Ingredients

for the Sauce
 half a white onion
 a large handful of Peas
 a large handful of Sweetcorn

Utensils

Chopping board
 Knife
 2 Sauce Pan

Sauce

Italian Seasoning
 a garlic clove
 olive oil
 tomato Purée
 Paprika
 a small amount of water
 2 small carrots

for the Pasta

A large Handful of Pasta
 boiling water

- Chop the onion & carrot and fry them.
- Shove in the Peas, Sweetcorn and tomato sauce
- Add the Italian Seasoning & Paprika and tomato
- Add a small amount of water if needed.
- While the Sauce is simmering, start to boil the water off the Hob.
- When the water has boiled add the Pasta and wait until the Pasta is soft
- Then drain the water and put the pasta on a Plate
- Then Put as much Sauce as you want on the Pasta.
- then enjoy.

★ I'm impressed with the presentation of your recipe. You have followed the structure well.

How is character presented in chapter one?

young
 Hopeful
 brave
 respectful
 Kind
 Jewish
 innocent
 Na'ive
 my thought of what he looks Like.

The Author introduces us to Felix describing him as a kind Jewish boy, he is at the orphanage because he as the Author describes is a Jew and in 1942 it is very dangerous to be a Jew at this time.

When we first meet Felix in chapter one, the Writer present him as 'Jewish', 'I can stop being catholic and go back to being Jewish'. The Quote Shows that it is dangerous to be a Jewish. Felix has to pretend to be a religion.

Excellent effort analysing the character.

Upper Phase Maths



First of all, I want to commend all students for their efforts in maths over the last term. It has been great to see students progress in their maths ability and show greater confidence in the subject. There have been many successes in the last term, and I wanted to highlight those students who have really taken a massive leap forward:

Ash:

- Jack has made excellent progress in maths and continues to stretch and challenge himself with complex mathematical and computing work.
- Kelan's effort in maths has been fantastic this term and it has reflected in his confidence in lessons.

Birch:

- All of Birch class have made maths lessons an excellent environment to be a part of, they always put in 100% effort and the standard of work they are producing is well above their current age level.

Cedar:

- Excellent continued work from Lewis, Lewis and Lucas in maths, showing great attention to detail and producing some really high-level maths work.
- Theo has scored 100% in the last 2 end of topic assessments he has sat (well done Theo).

Elm:

- Shay, Andrzej and Jonah continue to work hard and produce excellent maths work and show their ability to retain information.

On the whole it has been a brilliant term for Upper Phase in maths.

Russell Beacham (Head of Maths)

Outdoor Education

Upper Phase:

The Upper Phase have been very busy at the Wilderness Centre over the past few weeks! Despite the sometimes teamwork weather, everyone has applied themselves fantastically and really worked hard on building their teamwork skills. The resilience everyone has shown in the wet and cold has been very commendable. A recent highlight is teamwork trips to King Arthur's cave in the Wye Valley, lots of areas to explore and scrambling challenges to take on! The police dog team also visited our upper phase pupils which was a positive experience for all involved.

Lower Phase:

The Lower Phase groups have also been brilliant in the face of the wet and cold and have risen to every challenge! There have been some really wonderful examples of teamwork and cooperation, most notably in Pine class. The lower phase groups have also really enjoyed exploring the caves but were a little more wary about creepy-crawlies! Here's hoping for better weather after half term!

Ed Farrow (Head of Outdoor Education)



Bench ball teamwork success, Oak & Yew

Last week's bench ball tournament in PE was all about fun, teamwork and sportsmanship as Oak and Yew class came together for a series of lively games. The hour was a hit with both students and staff, with teachers joining in to foster a sense of unity and excitement. Both classes displayed high energy and enthusiasm to the extent that staff across the school couldn't help but hear the roars of students cheering each other on, whether scoring or supporting their classmates.

Archery

In a unique intervention class activity, a few students took part in an exciting archery session that taught them more than just aiming and shooting- it highlighted the importance of taking turns and supporting one another. As part of their session students learned how to handle a bow and arrow focusing on technique, precision, and safety. But what stood out the most wasn't the target practice; it was how the students collaborated to help each other improve and celebrated not only their own success but others too.

Stopwatches and data gathering, Deacon's Muga challenge, PBs

The introduction of stopwatches into PE lessons sparked a new wave of excitement with the launch of Deacon's Muga challenge. Inspired by the opportunity to test and track the sprint speeds of both staff and students both parties eagerly took part in a thrilling time trial to test and beat their own fastest times. This on-going challenge not only encouraged participants to beat their own score, but others stood and cheered on those that took part. With the overwhelming number of participants this fostered the idea of data collection and now results are recorded for students to access motivating them to aim to beat their score.

Jurell Williams (PE Teacher)

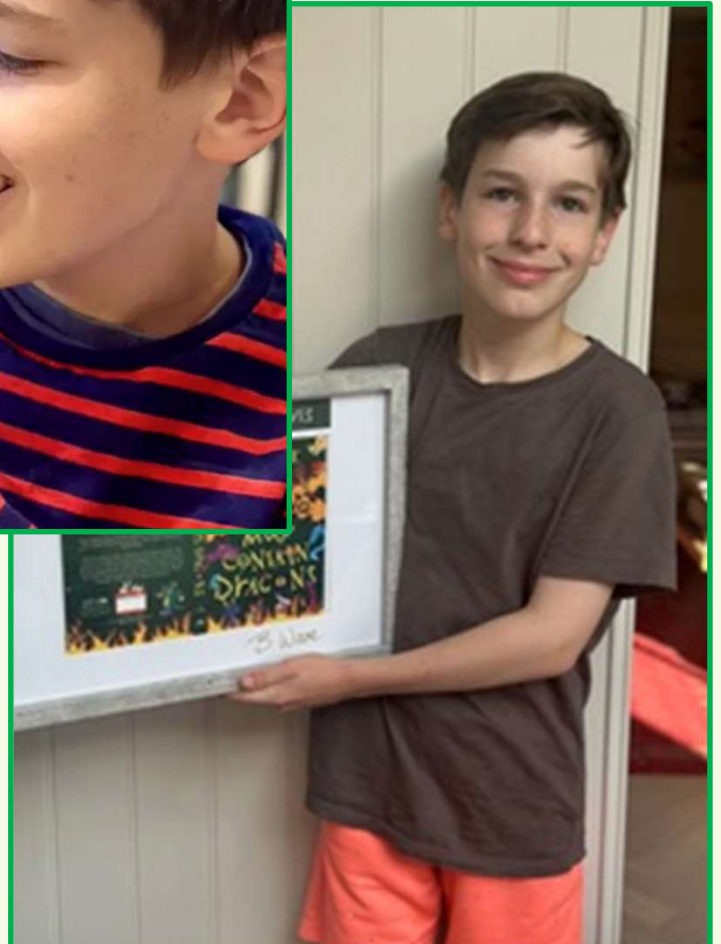
Our very own **SUPERSTAR** Illustrator



We are all extremely proud that Theo's amazing illustrations are going to be used in B.Ware's new book, '*WARNING! My Contain Dragons.*'

Theo is a very talented illustrator and has now appeared on BBC Radio Bristol to talk about the illustrations he did for this book. During his interview, Theo talked about his love of illustration and how drawing has helped him. Theo even managed to name drop Brookthorpe Hall during his interview!!

Well done Theo!



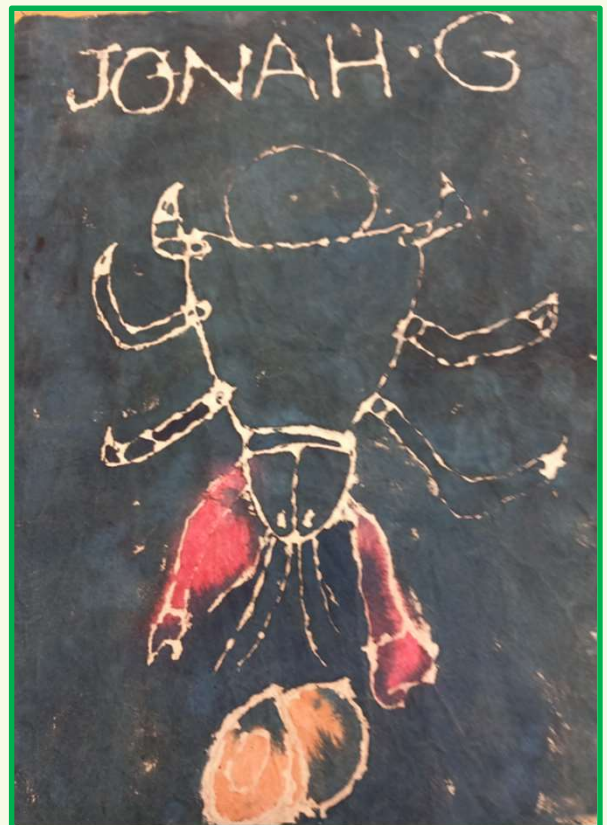
Upper Phase Art

Elm Class created beautiful Chinese lanterns and decorations to celebrate the Chinese Lunar New Year, which began on Wednesday 29th January and ends on Wednesday 12th February. This marks the change from the Year of the Dragon to the Year of the Snake. The celebration is also known as Spring Festival, with roots tracing back some 3,500 years to ancient China.

Our theme in Art this term is Asian art, encompassing e.g. India, China and Japan. Students learn about the history of Batik, originating from the Indonesian island of Java. The word batik comes from the Javanese words amba or bat (to write or to draw) and tik or titik (dots). A line image is drawn onto canvas and the design is traced over carefully with water-soluble glue. This is then left to dry, and a watered-down acrylic wash is applied. Once dry, the fabric is washed in warm water, dissolving the glue and revealing the negative image beneath. This technique is called glue batik.

Students are also taught a Watercolour and Felt-tip Paint technique. Hereby using a fine brush, a small amount of water and watercolour paint is applied to a water-soluble black pen line drawing. Care needs to be taken to not add too much water and only apply it where colour is being added! The students managed very well, and I am proud of their creations.

Amanda Parker (Upper Phase Teacher)



PSHE Update

The new PSHE curriculum is well underway, and students are adapting well to the newly designated lessons. Topics, such as British values and racism have been class-based thus far across the school. Some students may find these subject matters challenging, but it is important to embed such foundations early on to ensure the best outcomes for children. Each class has enjoyed the practicality of these lessons, including playing charades, acting our scenarios and participating in class-based discussions. Next term, I plan to incorporate topics including misogynistic language, discrimination and extremism into students' learning.

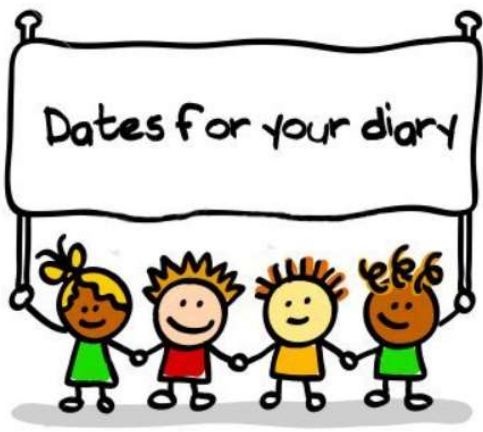
Emma Prendergast (Head of PSHE)

Forest Green Rovers Community



Some parents have asked if Forest Green Rovers could run SEND football sessions outside of the school day. We thought that this was a fantastic idea and approached FGR. The football club would be really interested in offering this opportunity to pupils and have asked interested parents to complete the form that can be accessed by scanning this QR code.





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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