

Spring Term Newsletter 2

July 2026



**BROOKTHORPE
HALL SCHOOL**

Message from the Headteacher

This edition of our newsletter celebrates pupils' achievements and successes throughout the summer term. As you will see, it has been an exceptionally busy term with many highlights that contribute to our inspiring curriculum and inclusive community.

I am incredibly proud that pupils in our upper phase are now successfully sitting functional skills exams in reading, writing and mathematics. This is the first time that many pupils have been asked to sit formal examinations under strict rules. Our exams officer and many teachers have been genuinely impressed with pupils' resilience and support of each other before and after each exam. We are also pleased that pupils across our lower and upper phase are now achieving AQA unit awards in a variety of curriculum areas. We are now looking forward to our pupils taking GCSE examinations in the new academic year.

Mental Health Week

An important feature of our wider curriculum is to support pupils' mental health. Indeed, we held our first ever mental health week which provided opportunities for pupils to participate in a wide variety of wellbeing activities including creative challenges and yoga. We were also delighted that the 'Let's Talk Well' charity also visited during this week. The success of this week has encouraged us to hold termly wellbeing events for pupils.



Summer Fayre and BBQ

On behalf of all staff and pupils, I would like to thank all parents who joined us for our Summer Fayre and BBQ. It was wonderful to see our entire school community come together and enjoy time together. I also need to thank pupils, and staff who supported, who ran stalls as we raised an amazing £308 for the James Hopkins Trust and Frampton Hedgehogs Charity.



End of Year Goodbyes

The end of the academic year is always a time for us to say farewells to staff and, for the first time at Brookthorpe Hall, Year 11 pupils. Firstly, I must say that we are immensely proud of Amelie and Evie who are both leaving us and we wish them the very best as they both transition to exciting post-16 settings. On behalf of pupils, and their parents, in Acorn Class, I need to thank their teacher Bethany Partridge who will sadly be leaving Brookthorpe Hall. Beth has worked tirelessly to develop our EYFS provision and nurtured positive relationships with our pupils and families. Our PSHE Lead, Emma Prendergast, is sadly leaving us after working with pupils across all key stages and organising several PSHE events this academic year. I would like to wish both Emma and Beth the very best for the next exciting chapter of their careers.

Finally, I would like to thank you again for your continued support and I hope that everyone has a restful and relaxing summer. See you on September 3rd. Jon Bell - Headteacher



Acorns have had a fabulous end to the year, despite some very warm days!

In English, we have looked at different types of writing based on books we have read. We have created our own postcards, letters and instructions. We particularly enjoyed the book 'You Can't Call an Elephant in an Emergency'.



All the boys have done a fantastic job with phonics this term and all made massive progress in their final phonics assessment of the year. Well done!

In maths, we have looked at a variety of topics, including length, height, volume, money, and multiplication and division. We have continued to enjoy cooking and have worked on following simple recipes to make lots of different foods



Our topic this term has been 'People Who Help Us'. We were lucky enough to have visits from some local police officers and Little City, who set up a role play city in our hall.



We have also practiced some life skills such as brushing our teeth and using first aid while learning about these different jobs.



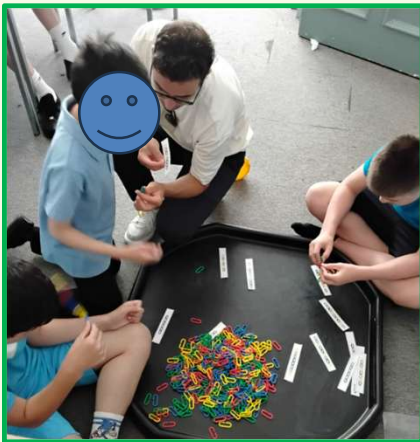
Larch Class



Last half term learning in Larch was centred around the book we were reading in English, *The Hodgeheg*. We enjoyed the story and getting to know the characters; Max, Ma, Pa, Peony, Pansy, Petunia and Uncle B. The story gave us the opportunity to build our own zebra crossing and practise crossing the road safely. We also built spiky spaghetti hedgehogs, learned the life cycle of a hedgehog and the habitats they live in. We even went outside on a bug hunt, we pretended to be hedgehogs sniffing out snails, slugs and worms - we made sure to be safe and hand the poison to an adult!

This half term we read *Owl Babies* and *The Tear Thief*. We explored feelings and emotions within the stories but our favourite thing was learning suffixes. We had a choice of several root words and played around with adding/changing their suffixes to make real words and some very silly words!

We have worked hard in Maths completing some Independent Learning, Learning with Laura sessions and some practical tasks at the Tuff Tray each lesson. We are now more confident measuring with a ruler and adding up money to reach different amounts. We really like copying and building patterns using multilink cubes and chain links too.



In Science we have carried out lots of Sensory Experiments; colourful water wheels, water worms, dissolving packing peanuts, making spinning tops and an old favourite, Sink or Float which gave us an opportunity to practise accurate results recording.

We all participated in Mental Health Awareness Week in Term 5, learning how important it is to take care of our minds. We spent some calm time painting, drawing, playing games with friends, listening to stories, thinking about emotions and relaxing. Term 6 involved the Summer Disco, Summer Fayre and BBQ and a visit from Little City - *we've been busy and we're definitely ready for the Summer Holiday!*



This term, Oak Class has had a fantastic end to the school year and should be incredibly proud of everything they have achieved. Throughout the year, the pupils have shown resilience, determination and a growing confidence in their learning.

In English, we explored the powerful novel *My Name is Not Refugee*, using it to develop our reading, writing and discussion skills while learning about empathy, kindness and the experiences of others around the world. The children produced some thoughtful pieces of writing and demonstrated a mature understanding of the themes within the story.

In Maths, we continued to build confidence across a range of topics, including number, fractions, measurement and problem solving. The class worked hard to apply their mathematical skills in different contexts and showed increasing independence.

Across the wider curriculum, pupils enjoyed a variety of engaging learning opportunities, developing their scientific enquiry skills, exploring historical and geographical topics, expressing their creativity through art and design, and continuing to build their social and emotional understanding through our Zones of Regulation work.

As we come to the end of another successful year, I would like to thank all of the families for their continued support. It has been a pleasure to watch every child grow in confidence, independence and resilience. We are incredibly proud of everything Oak Class has accomplished this year and wish everyone a safe, happy and relaxing summer break.



Palm Class



It has been a hot and busy term in Palm. The students have worked hard and stayed motivated. They have coped well with changes and even responded well when lessons have been relocated outside in the shade. As a result, students have learnt to learn in many different ways, and they have worked together as a real team to achieve their goals.

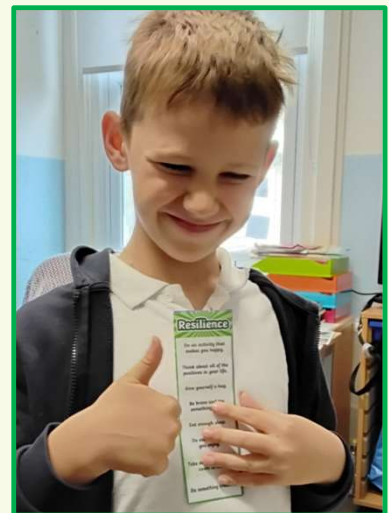
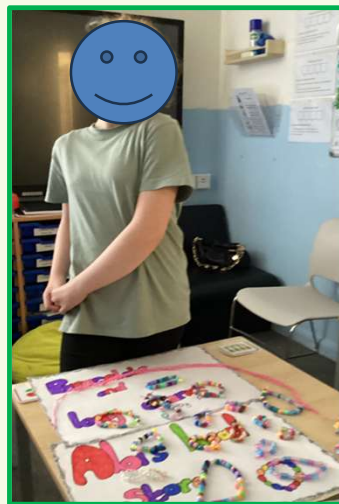
In English students have been studying the text “The River”. This text covers the emotions of a young boy growing up. Students have been able to empathise with the young boy “Rowan” and they have used their knowledge to write advice to Rowan.

Students also enjoyed watching the short film “The Bridge”. They have created their own voice overs as well as telling the story of the bear. Students have had success with their phonics by completing stage three and moving onto the more challenging stage for.

Maths lessons have taken on a new structure with students completing a daily arithmetic challenge. This has encouraged independent thinking as well as helping to develop confidence. Some students have even started to write down their problem-solving methods. This is great practice for future qualifications.

At the end of lessons, students have been enjoying using the bespoke learning lab. This is based on the handwriting programme, and it includes lots of fun and practical activities.

Abi needs a special mention for working hard to create her own bracelet shop in preparation for the summer fayre. It's great when a pupil does something for the school community.



A huge “Thank you” to everyone in Palm class. You have worked hard, stayed positive and been a lovely group of young people to teach!

Hazel (Palm Teacher)

Leanne (LSA)

Pine Class



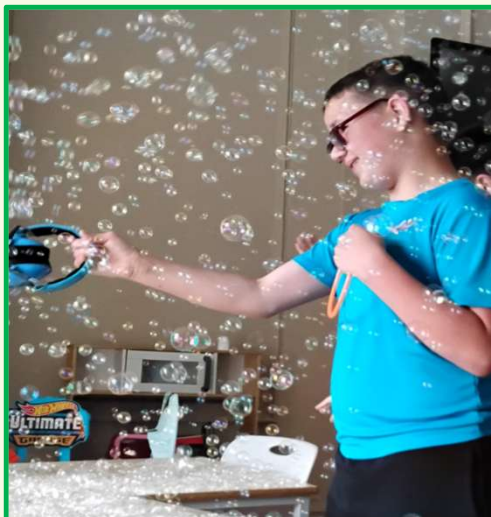
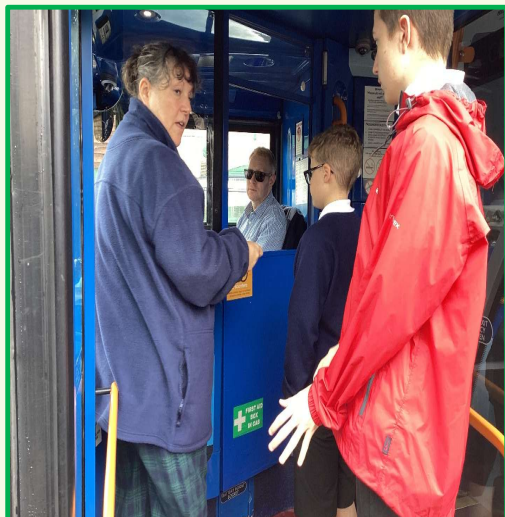
In Pine this term, we have been very busy.

As part of our English curriculum, we have been looking at the book 'Podkin One-Ear' and have completed lots of written work based around the story. The students really enjoyed the plot. In Maths, we have been focusing on multiplication and Division whilst learning our times tables.

This term the students enjoyed their reward trip to Mulligans and they also visited the Cotswold Water Park and Beach for their Outdoor Education reward trip.

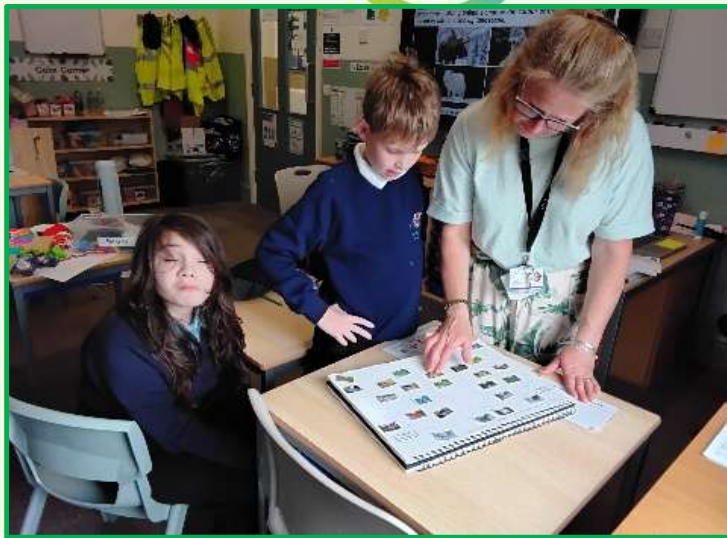


This term the students also took part in their Independent Living Skills AQA Award. The students were tasked with planning their bus journey from Brookthorpe to Stratford Park, looking at bus timetables and researching the route online. Then, they had to purchase their bus ticket and travel on the bus safely. When we arrived, we then walked over to Tesco and completed some shopping in preparation for the Summer Fayre. At the end of the shop the students would then scan the shopping and pay using the school card. This is to support the students to learn the appropriate skills to live independently within the community.





We've had a busy but fun-packed term this term with lots of new things to learn about. In English, we have been reading 'The Hodgehog' by Dick King Smith, and much of our other learning has been focused around this as well as the world around us. We looked at Road Safety and made a joint poster to show what we had learnt and to tell others about how to cross the road safely. We also made predictions about the book and how the hedgehogs may have crossed the road safely.



Art and Design has also been important this term as we made lots of things for the Summer Fayre linked to the world around us. We planted sunflower seeds as we have been looking at plants in Science, learning about what each part does and why it is important. In DT, we made bug hotels to sell as well as pinecone hedgehogs, giving each one of them a name just like those in the book. We even thought about our pets by making bone shaped dog treats in Cookery sessions, and then designing packaging for them to go in.



Upper Phase Maths & Science



Maths

First of all, what a fantastic year we have had in the maths department at Brookthorpe Hall school this academic year. For the first time in the school's history we have been able to offer exams and qualifications to allow our students to achieve qualifications. Every student has begun their journey through the Pearson Edexcel Functional Skills pathway from Entry Level 1 right the way through to Level 2. Our results from this year have quite frankly been outstanding and as Head of Maths I couldn't be more proud of each and every student.

Over the course of the academic year we have moved our way through the "Number" topics where students have really managed to strengthen their mental maths and also pick up new ways of working out calculations, Napier's bones multiplication method is definitely the process the students have taken to most. After we completed the number topics we moved through to measure, shape and space where students have been able to have more practical and visual approach to their learning, developing and utilising the skills they have learnt in the Number topics and applying it to shapes and conversions. This area of Functional Skills showed our learners how much they see maths in everyday situations. The final area of coverage for this academic year was handling data and statistics where students had to learn how to not only draw graphs/charts but also interpret what they are telling us. This was great to teach and see how students were able to have in depth discussions surround a simple bar or pie chart.



Almost every student sat at least one exam this year and the way they have taken to the rigid rules and expectations of the exam can only be commended. Students have understood the importance of them and as a result have seen positive outcomes from these exams. The tenacity and resilience of each student to improve this year has been incredible to see.

Russell – (Head of Maths/Science)

Carina, Michaela, Sue, Cat, Claire and Emma K (Learning Support Assistants)

Upper Phase Maths & Science



English

In Cedar and Elm, students worked towards their Functional Skills qualifications. Big congratulations to Amelie and Evie for securing their Functional Skills Level 2 and big shout out to Zeph, Jack T, Jack Y, Theo and Shay for huge progress with Functional Skills Level 1. Next year, students will work towards Level 2 Functional Skills or English Language GCSE.

In Ash and Birch, students followed the classic story, I Am David. They learnt about the post war era in Europe and the plight of refugees displaced by war. Students continued to build fluency and increase vocabulary in reading. They also wrote stories and diary entries from the perspective of the main character.

After studying poetry techniques in Birch, three students were entered into the OFG 100-word poetry competition. Sam, Dalton and William wrote some excellent poems and William's poem was published in a poetry book. Congratulations, William, for winning the competition with your beautiful poem about a peregrine falcon!

Louise – (Head of English)

Carina, Michaela, Sue, Cat, Claire and Emma K (Learning Support Assistants)

Ocean

What will wander into my massive mouth today?
Every day, something different comes my way.
Will it be a battered battery
Leaking caustic acid in the sea?
Lighting its fire secretly
Burning inside my belly.
Metal cans and bottles are tossed my way,
From the many beach parties today.
They do not realise as I eat it all
I'll spew it out later so they feed me more.
But little do they know, as me, they taunt,
I will return and them I will haunt.
I crave food but not the junk they give
Please help me to live.

The Peregrine Falcon

I live on sea cliffs and craggy rocks and watch my prey intently.
Swooping majestically through the air, I devour small animals who hide in the grass.
I am a predator.
I am scary.
I will eat mice to survive.
I will get my claws on you.
I have razor talons and a cry that pierces the air.
I will eat you if you are smaller than me.
Nobody is faster than me because I am at the top of the food chain.
If you have food then I will target you and get revenge.
Your food will be mine.

Upper Phase Wider Curriculum



Computing

The focus within computing in this final term has been looking at the development of fundamental digital skills and how these skills can be applied within the world.

Our lower phase have been working hard to improve their typing fluency through following a self-paced touch typing programme. We have also looked at how digital technologies can help with learning in different subjects, for example practicing concepts such as times tables and number bonds through online Math activities. There has also been an opportunity to revisit block-based programming which we visited previously in the academic year, and our students have been applying the skills they had already learnt, as well as picking up some new skills, to attempt to design and create their own functioning Maze Game.

Our Upper Phase started this term looking at Video Game development and created their own version of the game Flappy Bird, exploring how sequences within programming can be used to achieve desired effects. Our second focus was then looking into how digital media can be used to promote a cause that our young people feel passionately about. The students have the opportunity to research a topic of interest to them, explore copyright law and how to avoid plagiarism. We have since used that research to plan and begin to create a Blog Post promoting each students own selected topic.



PSHE Update

During the Summer term, students have received teaching on Self Care and Relationships and Sex Education. Students have done so well with their learning and have engaged with a vast array of topics.

Last half term, we celebrated Mental Health Awareness Week. We had a variety of activities, including walking/running a daily mile which Jurell completed with each class. Additionally, we had a guest speaker come in from Gloucester Let's Talk, who gave students some coping strategies for how to deal with anxiety and talked about mental health and what it might look like. We also spoke about how to protect our mental health and look after our well-being. On top of that, our clinical team organised some fun games including setting up a bubble machine which was a real hit, and Emma W, our Careers Lead, brought in her collection of crystals and spoke to students about energy healing; a method used to help promote positive wellbeing. Students loved their week full of activities and got so much out of it.



This term, our focus has been on relationships, healthy and unhealthy, and sex education. Students have been resilient with the topics in discussion and have asked some brilliant questions. Students have acted maturely, appropriately and respectfully which is beautiful to see. We have been using resources from an accredited platform, called PSHE Association. Students have enjoyed the lessons this term and have shown great progress in their knowledge over the course of the lessons.

I am delighted with the progress students have made across the year with their PSHE. Their abilities to socialise, communicate with others and ask for help has come on in leaps and bounds. Their attainment and engagement with their work have improved astronomically and they should all feel proud of themselves.

Well done everyone!

Emma Prendergast (PSHE Lead)

Physical Education Update

This term in PE, students have been focusing on athletics and fitness testing. They have developed a range of athletic skills while learning the importance of fitness and how it supports performance and overall health.



As part of their learning, students took part in a variety of fitness tests, including activities that measured speed, endurance, strength, and agility. They carefully recorded their results, allowing them to monitor their progress throughout the attempts they gave each activity. It has been fantastic to see students challenge themselves, show determination, and celebrate their personal achievements throughout the term.

Outdoor Education

So, the second year of Outdoor Education at Brookthorpe has come to a close and it has been another really successful year! There's been a lot of highlights across the school and I hope that all students have enjoyed their time out and about with me since September. Thank you to all the parents and carers for making sure that their children have come to school properly equipped to head out in pouring rain or high temperatures!

Some recent highlights for Lower phase definitely include the water balloon games, the slip and slide, and recently our trip to the Cotswold Park and Beach! We've also been keeping an eye on the beavers in the Forest of Dean and will be checking on them in September. Next year Lower Phase can look forward to more adventures and a lot more Forest School activities. Well done to everyone in Lower Phase!

Upper Phase have been trying a lot of new things this year, starting with Geocaching, followed by map reading and hiking in the Forest of Dean and culminating this year in our oldest students having an amazing time at Aquaventure in the Cotswold Water Park. Next year we'll be taking part in the NICAS climbing award, some students will undertake their DofE Bronze expedition, and we will be sending a small cohort to the OFG ski trip in Italy - lots to look forward to!

Well done again to all the students, and a huge thank you to all the staff, parents and carers whose support has helped make this year so successful! See you in September!

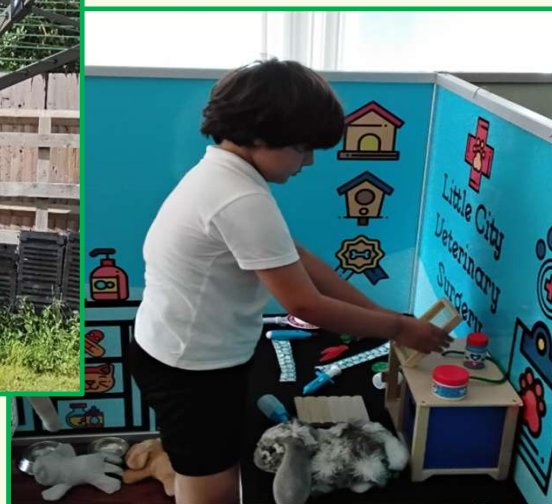
Careers Education

We have had a busy year in Careers Lessons , learning new Independent Living skills, such as how to use a washing machine and tumble dryer. How to hang washing out on the line using pegs and folding clothes. Yew Class have been learning about different washing symbols found on clothing through playing symbol Bingo. Next year we will be introducing Preparation for Adulthood lesson, which will include the above, travel awareness and training, personal independence, communication, and self-advocacy along with other home living skills.

Upper Phase students have continued to work on The Incredible Futures Careers Curriculum with many students completing up to Module 4. Pine Class Students have completed Module 3 and Oliver, and Eddie from Oak Class have completed Module 1. We will continue with the Curriculum September along with introducing Primary Careers Curriculum 'Growing through Life'.

September we will be introducing NCFE Level 1 Award in Employability Skills , 2027/28 Level 1 Certificate and in 2028/29 a Level 2 Award . These qualifications work alongside the work the students have already been doing in The Incredible Futures Curriculum which are AQA Awards.

We have had our first 2 students attend Work Experience at Cotswold Trail Riding Centre, Evie, and Hugh. Evie leaves us this year and would a career in working with animals, Hugh will continue learning to ride and his work experience in September. They have both become competent riders and have enjoyed supporting other students in their riding lessons, getting the horses ready and grooming them. We look forward to continuing our working relationship with the Riding Centre in September.



Careers Education

During Mental Health week we did a couple of sessions on different crystals what they are and used for and a few mindfulness techniques, this was an interactive session where the students enjoyed holding the crystals and asking questions.

The allotment this year has become popular with students growing, sunflowers sweet peas, tomatoes, and runner beans. We have a sensory patch with lots of different herbs in. We will continue to introduce more students to the allotment in September.

We had our end of term school disco, where the students interacted with Zak the DJ asking for their favourite songs, we had new music and 80's disco it really was varied.



Our Summer Fayre and BBQ was held together this year due to the heatwave; it was an amazing event which the students enjoyed getting involved in by making things and voting on what inflatables they wanted. Are very proud of what they have made, and they enjoyed discussing what they would like to do. We raised £308, which will go towards the school, Wild Hogs Rescue Centre from Frampton and James Hopkins Trust.



We will be receiving training on how to use our Immersive room and QT robot in September where our students can use the technology to help build social, emotional and communication skills. The immersive room brings scenes to life and uses 360-degree projectors, surround sound, and lighting to surround students in a virtual environment, to be used for careers and virtual lessons.

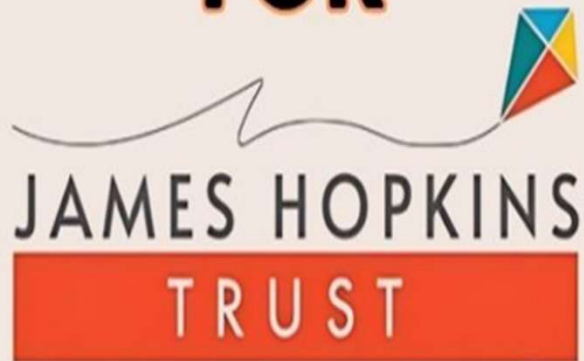


BROOKTHORPE
HALL SCHOOL



WEAR ORANGE DAY

FOR



Nursing Respite Care for Children in Gloucestershire
Registered Charity Number 1183110



BIRTHDAY



SCAN TO
DONATE



Safeguarding

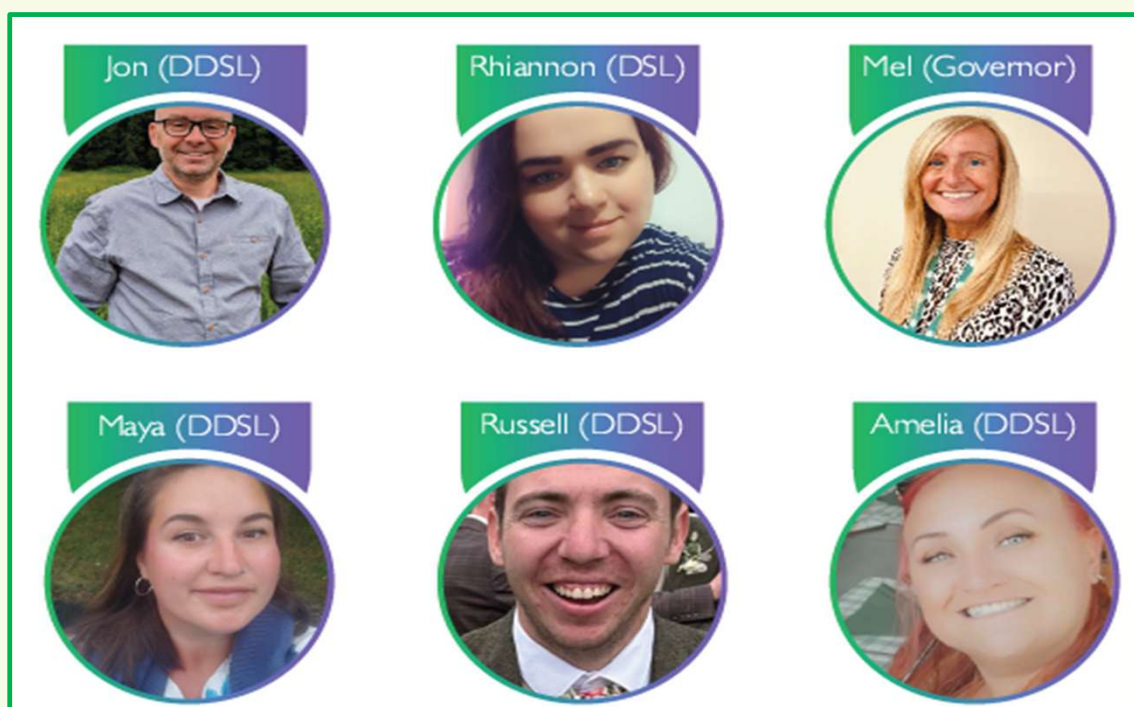
Hello from the Safeguarding team,

It has been a busy year for the safeguarding team at Brookthorpe!

- We have grown in numbers as a team and looking forward to continue our strong working relationships with our families.
- We have been working hard to strengthen staff knowledge around the following subjects through continuing professional development – Harmful Sexual Behaviours/Language, Online Safety, County Lines and Gangs.
- Partnership working with our PSHE Lead Emma Prendergast in developing and delivering successful face to face and virtual parent/carer Relationship, Sex and Health Education workshops in preparation for term 6.
- Collaborating with our clinical team to develop a process and resources to ensure our learners with limited verbal communication have a voice to share any worries and concerns.

To continue to support your students and yourselves with any worries and concerns, we would appreciate if you could take 5 minutes to complete our safeguarding survey to ensure we are shaping our safeguarding provision with your invaluable input.

[Brookthorpe Hall Parent & Carer Survey](#)



Safeguarding

As the summer holidays are fastly approaching I would like to take this opportunity for you to explore below in one place the activities and events that are happening in your local authorities. These activities are catered for SEND individuals.

Gloucestershire: [Summer Support and Fun for families with SEND in Gloucestershire](#)

Worcestershire: [Worcestershire SEND local offer](#)

South Gloucestershire/Bristol: [South Glos Life - Directory of services ; Bristol Local Offer](#)

Oxfordshire: [Oxfordshire short breaks, playschemes and activities](#)

Rhiannon (DSL) will be contactable for emergencies/significant concerns over the summer holidays and is contactable via:

safeguardingBHS@brookthorpehallschool.co.uk or 07976 714631.

We look forward to welcoming you back for the 2026/2027 academic year. 😊

Rhiannon (Designated Safeguarding Lead)

Clinical Team Update

As another academic year comes to an end, the Clinical Team would like to say a heartfelt thank you to all families for their continued support. We welcome any feedback you may have regarding the clinical provision as we are always open to further improving our clinical offer. This can be sent to therapy.team@brookthorpehallschool.co.uk.

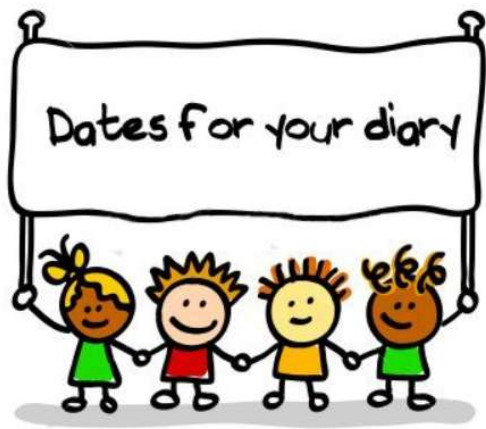
The summer holidays are much more than a break from the school routine. They provide valuable opportunities for children to explore new environments, discover new interests and develop physical, social and communication skills through everyday activities.

We understand that navigating the summer holidays and accessing the community can sometimes feel overwhelming for children and families. Changes to routine, busy environments and varying sensory demands can make outings challenging. We have therefore created a pack of resources to offer ideas and help you to feel more confident exploring new experiences in ways that are enjoyable, achievable and meaningful for your child.

The pack highlights the unique developmental benefits of an activity and provides tailored communication strategies to support your child every step of the way. We appreciate there is a lot of information in the pack, and not all of it may be applicable for your child, however we hope each families finds something useful. This pack will be sent out via email to all families.

We wish you all an enjoyable summer break and look forward to welcoming our students back in September.

Hollie (Clinical Lead)



Term Dates: 26/27

Term 1: Tuesday 1st Sept – Fri 23rd Oct 2026

Term 2: Mon 2nd Nov – Fri 18th Dec 2026

Term 3: Mon 4th Jan – Fri 12th Feb 2027

Term 4: Mon 22nd Feb – Thurs 25th March 2027

Term 5: Mon 12th April - Fri 28th May 2027

Term 6: Mon 7th June – Wed 21st July 2027

INSET Days 26/27

Tues 1st Sept 2026

Wed 2nd Sept 2026

Mon 19th July 2027

Tues 20th July 2027

Wed 21st July 2027



BROOKTHORPE HALL SCHOOL

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