



**BROOKTHORPE
HALL SCHOOL**

Options Autism



Part of Outcomes First Group

Monday 7th September 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to a new school year.

It has been wonderful to welcome pupils who were with us last year back to Brookthorpe Hall yesterday. Indeed, pupils returned with smiles and excitement about seeing each other again. Many were also eager to re-connect with staff and, in many cases, see their new classrooms and areas. Our priority at the start of this term is to re-connect with pupils and establish new relationships with new teachers and Learning Support Assistants.

I am also delighted to welcome new families and pupils joining out Brookthorpe Hall family in the weeks ahead. I am delighted to inform you that several new pupils will be joining us on either Monday 7th or 14th September. I know that everyone across our school community will do everything to support our new pupils on the next chapter of their learning journey.

Classes, Teachers and Learning Support Assistants

It is my pleasure to welcome Gemma Harris to our teaching team. Gemma will be the class teacher for Palm Class and I know that everyone in our school community will warmly welcome her to Brookthorpe Hall. Our classroom teachers are allocated as follows:

Upper Phase:

Class	Tutor	Email Contact
Ash	Catherine Lenagan	Catherine.Lenagan@brookthorpehallschool.co.uk
Birch	Louise Taylor	Louise.Taylor@brookthorpehallschool.co.uk
Cedar	Russell Beacham	Russell.Beacham@brookthorpehallschool.co.uk
Elm	Toby Subryan	Toby.Subryan@brookthorpehallschool.co.uk

Lower Phase:

Class	Teacher	Email Contact
Acorns	Hazel Loveridge	Hazel.Loveridge@brookthorpehallschool.co.uk
Larch	Laura Mellor	Laura.Mellor@brookthorpehallschool.co.uk
Oak	Jenna Thompson	Jenna.Thompson@brookthorpehallschool.co.uk
Palm	Gemma Harris	Gemma.Harris1@brookthorpehallschool.co.uk
Pine	Robyn Fulford	Robyn.Fulford@brookthorpehallschool.co.uk
Yew	Jenny Bell	Jennifer.Bell@brookthorpehallschool.co.uk



Wilderness Centre

Our outdoor education curriculum at the Wilderness Centre with Ed Farrow will continue from week commencing Monday 7th September. Classes will be visiting the Wilderness Centre on the following days:

- Monday: Pine, Oak and Acorns
- Tuesday: Ash and Birch
- Wednesday: Larch, Yew and Palm
- Thursday: Cedar and Elm

We believe that our outdoor education lessons are an integral aspect of our curriculum offer as it helps pupils develop their communication skills, teamwork, confidence and resilience. It is also lots of fun!

Therefore, we would strongly encourage all pupils to attend on their allocated day. If pupils refuse to attend, however, they cannot remain in their usual classroom as staff will be supporting at the Wilderness Centre. Therefore, one of the following options will be discussed with parents and carers:

- A pupil will join another class and participate in their learning activities throughout the day
- Parents and carers may decide that this is not appropriate for their child and might choose to discuss how their child could access learning at home for that given day

Due to capacity of staffing, we can no longer offer 1-1 support for pupils not attending the Wilderness Centre. I would like to thank you in advance for your support in this matter.

Forest Green Rovers

Forest Green Rovers' coaching sessions will now commence on Friday 11th September. Pupils will be asked if they would like to participate in the football coaching sessions and will be supported by staff from the FGR Community Team and classroom Learning Support Assistants (LSA). Pupils preferring to not participate will engage with a chosen preferred activity in their classroom with an LSA.

Mobile Phone Policy

Following new guidance from national government, pupils are not permitted to use mobile phones throughout the school day. Therefore, we have implemented a slightly revised procedure relating to digital technology.

All pupils will now be asked to hand their digital devices to the classroom teacher when they enter the classroom each morning. Classroom teams will then place devices in a lockable box and then place inside a locked cupboard in the classroom. Pupils' devices will then be returned to them at the end of the day.

Please find a contract relating to this change in process which will kindly ask pupils, parents and carers to sign and adhere to.



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Parent Communication

Following careful consideration, teachers will no longer be providing weekly communications to parents. Instead, we will soon be using Class Dojo as a more immediate and interactive platform for teachers and parents to directly communicate. Further details relating to Class Dojo will be shared with you in the near future.

Our termly newsletters will continue as normal.

Term Dates and INSET

Our school term dates are as follows:

Autum Term 2026

- Term Starts: Thursday 3rd September
- Half-Term Holiday: Monday 26th to Friday 30th October
- End of Term: Friday 18th December

Spring Term 2027

- Term Starts: Monday 4th January
- Half-Term Holiday: Monday 15th to Friday 19th February
- End of Term: Friday 26th March

Summer Term 2027

- Term Starts: Monday 12th April
- Half-Term Holiday: Monday 31st Mat to Friday 4th June
- End of Term: Wednesday 21st July
- INSET Day: Monday 12th April and Wednesday 21st July

I am genuinely excited about the year ahead and look forward to celebrating pupils' achievements and progress with you over the next year. Also, I look forward to talking to you at forthcoming whole school events as we work together to support all pupils at Brookthorpe Hall School.

Yours faithfully,

Jon Bell
Interim Executive Headteacher
Brookthorpe Hall School
Jonathan.bell@optionsautism.co.uk

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