



Theale C of E Primary School Prospectus

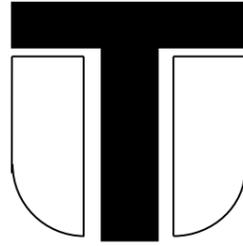


Theale C of E Primary School *"The children come first"*

Theale Church of England Primary School is a village school for children aged 3 to 11 years. The school provides a warm and happy atmosphere and an exciting, stimulating learning environment and opportunities.

The educational philosophy of Theale C of E Primary School is based on the view that every child is regarded and valued as an individual person with academic potential, needs and aspirations; a person who can make a distinct contribution to the life of the school. We hope that the care and concern shown for our children will instil in them both self-respect and a sensitivity for the needs and values of others and of the world around them.

A good rapport between pupil, teacher and parents is the corner stone for security and success for each and every child. The years that the child spends in this school are formative years, when they discover themselves, their individuality, their abilities, their interests and their strengths. Their talents may display themselves in many ways. We will provide a vehicle for these talents to be nurtured, encouraged, developed and praised.



Theale C.E. Primary School
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Headteacher: Mrs C V Morley
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WELCOME TO THEALE C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL

This prospectus gives you basic information about the school. If you require more information please contact me at the above address, by telephone or by email.

We are very proud of the quality of education provided by our school. In particular we wish to highlight the happy working atmosphere within school which is an essential requirement for advancement of learning and achievement of potential.

If you are a parent who is considering applying to send your child to our school I would be happy to discuss any issues that concern you and invite you to look around the school.

If your child is about to join us for the first time we look forward to working with you as partners in helping your child to develop intellectually, socially and emotionally during these very special, formative years.

Catherine Morley
Headteacher

Aims and Philosophy

The importance of an individual child's education should never be underestimated. His/her education is the major factor in creating life opportunities. Theale CE Primary School with the help of all outside agencies will provide the best education that a child can receive.

The staff and school will be effective and enable children to reach the highest standards possible. The school will develop a child's knowledge, experience and imaginative understanding and create an awareness of moral values and capacity for enjoyment. This will give children the vital skills they will need in later life.

Every child will be regarded and valued as an individual person with academic potential, needs, problems and aspirations; a person who can make a distinct contribution to the life of the school.



The school will provide an exciting and stimulating learning environment where the children will be able to learn, create and experience and where their efforts are celebrated by being displayed.

The school will be well organised, efficient, and well resourced.

Parents, pupils and staff will create a warm and happy atmosphere in which the children will be willing to accept responsibility for their behaviour and their work.

Children will be encouraged to have an understanding, sympathy and tolerance for cultures and societies other than their own. The care and concern we show for our children will help them to develop both self-respect and sensitivity to others.

A good rapport between pupil, teacher and parents is the corner stone for security and success for each and every child. The years that the child spends in this school are formative years, when they discover themselves, their individuality, their abilities, their interests and their strengths. Their talents may display themselves in many ways. We will provide a vehicle for these talents to be nurtured, encouraged, developed and praised.

If a child lives with criticism, he learns to condemn
If a child lives with hostility, he learns to fight
If a child lives with ridicule, he becomes shy
If a child lives with shame, he learns to feel guilty
If a child lives with tolerance, he learns to be patient
If a child lives with encouragement, he gains confidence
If a child lives with fairness, he learns to like justice
If a child lives with approval, he learns to like himself
If a child lives with acceptance and friendship,
he learns to find love in the world.

Quotation from *The English Nursery School in the Hague*

The History of the School

The original school building dates back to 1833 when the school, under the direction of the Church of England Diocese of Oxford, provided education for the children of Theale.

West Berkshire Education Authority now maintains the school and provides for its running costs. The Church maintains its influence in the school by the appointment of Foundation Governors nominated by the Diocese with the support of Theale Parochial Church Council.

As the school has grown over the years there has been a need to extend the building to accommodate the growing number of children in the school.

After nearly two centuries our lovely school still stands next door to the church in the centre of the village and enjoys the respect and popularity of the local community. It has been extended to provide a hall, seven classrooms, a foundation unit, an ASD and LAL resource, a library and an ICT suite. There is a large playground, access to playing fields and a garden.

Recent Development

In March 2014 we were designated a Teaching School, a National Support School and our Head teacher a National Leader of Education. This is in recognition of our outstanding work in our school and as leading improvement in other schools locally and nationally.

Church School Status

Theale is a Voluntary Controlled Church of England Primary School. As a church school we teach explicit shared Christian values to our children, we try to show them the importance of being committed to a set of values by which we live our lives.

We spend the majority of our Worship time teaching about the Christian faith, beliefs and traditions including: knowledge of the Bible, Christian practices - celebrations in the church calendar and Christian hymns. We visit our local church regularly and on special occasions like Harvest and Easter, and our local vicar comes into school to lead worship each half term. We also teach children about people who have made an outstanding contribution to society.

Some of our assemblies teach the children about traditions and ceremonies in other faiths. The children are encouraged to have a tolerance for cultures and societies other than their own and to respect the beliefs of others. During worship and at other times of the day the children are given the opportunity to reflect and, if they wish, to pray. We say The Lord's Prayer together and our school prayer:

In our loving school,
Bring joy to everyone,
Let us all be friends,
Help us to respect and support each other,
Let there be happiness, kindness and friendship.

In our loving school,
We thank you for experience and education,
And opportunities to help us in later life,
Help us to use our abilities in the best way we can,
Let there be trust, friendship and courage.

Amen.



Whilst we warmly invite and hope that all children will join us for assemblies, you are entitled to withdraw your child from this part of the day. Please make an appointment to see the Headteacher if that is your wish.

Admission Arrangements

If you live outside the area normally served by our school you are advised to visit your designated school first. You are of course most welcome to look around our school as well, do feel free to make an appointment to be shown around and speak to our Headteacher.

The Planned Admission Figure is the number of children who may be admitted to the first year of entry in any academic year. The Planned Admission Figure for our school is currently 45.

Admissions Policy

We follow the Local Authority policy to take children at one point of entry. Children admitted at the start of the September term must be five years old on, or before, 31st August of the following year. These children will be taught the Foundation Stage curriculum. The LA will admit children in each school year up to, but not exceeding the school's Standard Number. If the number of requests exceeds the number of places available, the following criteria apply in order of priority:

1. Looked after children
2. Children whose home address is in the area served by the school.
3. Children who have siblings attending the school.
4. Children whose parents choose the school on denominational grounds.
5. All other applicants

If we do not have enough places for all the children in one of the above categories, priority will be given to children who fulfil more than one of the admission criteria. If there are still insufficient places, a final decision will be made on the radial distance from home to school. Parents of children who are unsuccessful in gaining a place will be informed in writing on the date laid down by the LA, and will be told of their right of appeal.

For further information on admission to our school please contact "Admissions" in West Berkshire on 01635 519780

Practical Information

If your child is starting at Theale Primary School there are a number of practical details you will need to know. If you have any further queries please ring the school on **01189 302239**.

School Hours

Morning session	08.45 - 12.00
Mid-morning break	10.45 - 11.00
Lunch time	12.00 - 13.00
Afternoon session	13.00 - 15.10

Children should arrive at 8:45. We ask parents to ensure that they bring their children right into the school playground in the morning and collect them from outside the classroom door in the afternoon.

Introduction Arrangements

The children in Foundation Stage all join our school in September of the academic year. In the term before your child is due to start school we will invite you and your child to come and visit us for a morning. The children will be able to spend time with other children who will be in their class and their teacher. Parents will also be able to meet the teacher to ask any general questions about school life.

School Meals

Many of our children enjoy school meals which are cooked on site by the company recommended by the Local Authority, ISS on a daily basis. We can offer a varied, nutritious menu including a hot or cold choice. If you would prefer your child to bring a packed lunch we would ask you not to include sweets or fizzy drinks. We are a nut-free school as some children have very severe allergic reactions to nuts.

School Uniform

The basic school uniform can be purchased from many high street shops. Items embroidered with the school logo can be bought from school at the start of each term.

We recommend that shoes are both practical and comfortable; trainers should not be worn in the classroom. High heels are not allowed. Sandals must be sturdy and provide some protection to the ankles. Jewellery, make up, unnatural hair colour, inappropriate hairstyles and nail varnish are not allowed.

The children should have plimsolls and/or trainers available every day in school. Kit should be kept in a clearly labelled bag. For health and safety reasons earrings must be removed for PE or Games lessons. It is the child's responsibility to remove them.

Please make sure that all clothing is clearly named.

Boys

Winter: Trousers – grey or black
Shirt or polo shirt – white (polo shirt with or without school logo)
Jumper or sweatshirt – maroon (with or without school logo)
Socks – grey or black
Shoes - black

Summer: As above or with black or grey shorts

PE kit: Black tracksuit (winter)
Shorts – maroon (from school office)
T shirt – plain white or with school logo
Trainers, gym shoes, socks

Girls

Winter: Skirt or pinafore dress (trousers if cold) – grey or black
Blouse or polo shirt – white (polo shirt with or without school logo)
Cardigan, jumper or sweatshirt – maroon (with or without school logo)
Tights – grey or black (or white socks)
Shoes – black

Summer: As above or yellow and white gingham dress
White socks

PE kit: Black tracksuit (winter)
Shorts – maroon (from school office)
T shirt – plain white or with school logo
Trainers, gym shoes, socks



Winter School Uniform



Summer School Uniform

Classroom Arrangements

Due to a recent increase of our admission figure, some classes will comprise of children in mixed age year groups. The children are organised in classes according to their needs and teachers are skilled at differentiating work accordingly. Each class has some dedicated learning support time allocated to them. Approximately 24 hours are spent each week on teaching. This does not include time spent on registration, collective worship (conducted daily) and breaks.



Special Needs

All children follow the National Curriculum. The schools policy for special needs includes arrangements for monitoring children with any learning difficulties. After consultation with the parents specific goals and individual programmes of work are set and progress is recorded. The child is supported from within the schools own resources. If a child continues to have difficulties after receiving extra support in school, professional help from others may be sought. Parents will be informed and consulted at all stages of their child's assessment.

The school is also aware that very able children also have special needs and these too will be individually assessed and where necessary, individual programmes will be introduced.

ASD Resource

The Theale Primary Autistic Spectrum Disorder Resource opened in Autumn 2005. The resource takes children from across West Berkshire, who have a diagnosis of ASD and have been referred by the Special Needs Panel. Children in the Resource are based in mainstream classes, but receive specialist support. They may also receive Speech Therapy, Occupational Therapy and Social Skills Classes. We are very proud of the way all our children work together and the warm happy ethos in our school.

Homework

All children are encouraged to read and share books with their family at home. Each child has a home reading record book, which comes back and forth each day, for the parents and teachers to fill in the titles and pages of books that have been read and to add comments.

In addition to daily reading, the children may be given additional tasks to do at home to support their learning. These may include English activities, Maths, investigation and research tasks. Children who have the opportunity to learn to play a musical instrument are encouraged to practise on a regular basis.

Parent/Teacher Contact

We hold two parents evenings every year, one in the first half of the Autumn term and the second towards the end of the Spring term. At the end of the Summer term you will receive your child's annual School Report.

In addition to these formal meetings, we would encourage parents to speak with teachers about any concerns regarding their child. Teachers or team leaders will be able to arrange a mutually convenient time within a short time span. The Headteacher is also available on most days; please make an appointment through the school office.

The Language and Literacy Centre

Within our school is one of two Language and Literacy Centres across West Berkshire as part of the Local Authority's provision for dyslexic children at Key Stage two. Children from across as many as twenty-four local schools visit us weekly to benefit from the expert staff and resources. Pupils attend the centre after a referral from the West Berkshire Special Needs Support Team.

Music

Music is an important part of school life; we have an active and talented choir who perform regularly and a gifted and talented steel pan orchestra. In addition to this there are many opportunities for all the children with regular school productions and music lessons. The school also offers after school opportunities which change on a termly basis.



School Activities

We like to take the whole school on trips that allow them to widen their horizons. Trips we have undertaken in the past include; visits to The Natural History Museum and St Paul's Cathedral and a trip to see Charlie and the Chocolate Factory. We also endeavour to take children out of school for class educational trips to really bring the curriculum to life. This will include many 'outdoor learning' experiences, such as lambing at Rushall Farm.

Certain school trips or activities may incur travel costs, fees, admission charges or insurance premiums. To cover these costs the parents will be asked to make **voluntary contributions** to the school funds. No child will be excluded if their parents have not made a contribution. However, if insufficient money is collected from the voluntary contributions to cover the costs of the activity or trip it may have to be cancelled for all pupils.

A **compulsory charge** can be made in the following circumstances:

- Board and lodging on residential visits whether they take place in or out of school hours. This charge can be remitted for some pupils where there are genuine cases of hardship.
- Optional extras/activities that take place wholly or mainly outside school hours, but which are not provided as part of the syllabus for a prescribed examination and are not required to fulfil statutory duties relating to the National Curriculum or to Religious Education.

Residential visits

A residential "Work Week" is arranged each year for the Year 6 children and the children in year four spend two nights away at Ufton Court.

Clubs and Societies

The choice and duration of our after-school activities depends on the goodwill of both the teachers and parents.

After school clubs we have also offered, have included netball, football, performing arts, art and craft, film making, gardening, sewing, Cycling Proficiency and cooking.

We do ask parents to let us know each term if there are any clubs they would like us to arrange and are always looking for more fun and exciting activities to offer. If you would like to run a club, please do speak to the Head teacher.

Parent help in the School

Subject to the appropriate safe guarding checks being made, we actively encourage parents to help with their children's education. We welcome any contributions, particularly with the following:

- in the classroom sharing ideas and skills (e.g. cooking/IT)
- shared reading
- after school clubs/activities
- minor repairs and gardening

Safeguarding Statement

Theale C of E Primary School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of our children and expects all staff, parents and visitors to share this commitment. Stringent checks are made on all staff and volunteers in school. All visitors are asked to sign into reception and may be asked to show identification. Penny Myers is our safeguarding governor. The Headteacher is the Designated Teacher responsible for the implementation of Child Protection Procedures. Please report any concerns to the Headteacher.

Additional information

Transfer to Secondary School

Theale Green has links with Theale C of E Primary School as the Secondary School to which most pupils will transfer in the September following their 11th birthday. However, children do go on to a number of different schools in the area and they make a visit to them in their final term and their staff come to visit them at our school. There is a thorough exchange of information to make the transfer as smooth as possible.

The School and Community

Our school has a special role as a focal point for the local community and in bringing together people of all ages. We invite local groups and individuals to attend our Harvest Service, our Christmas service and our Summer School Production. We care for our community and greatly appreciate and value the support it always gives us.

Parent Teacher Association

We have a busy PTA, the aims of this association are:

“To further home-school links and the education of all children attending school”

The PTA continues to raise much appreciated funds for facilities which cannot be provided within the financial resources available.

All parents and carers are welcome to either join or help the PTA. It doesn't need to take up a lot of your time and your help is invaluable. Please ring the School on 01189 302239 for a contact name and number.

Parent Council

We have a parent council which meets 6 times a year. This is made up of one or two parent volunteers from every class in the school. They meet with Mrs Morley, the Headteacher, to discuss current matters in school and future plans. If you are interested in being a member of the parent council please contact Mrs Morley.

Photographs by: Leigh Quinnell