

## Curriculum Enrichment and Cultural Capital

At Theale C of E Primary School, we aim to provide the best academic, creative, spiritual and emotional education that a child can receive. We strive for excellence in all that we do and our ambitious curriculum enables children to discover and study their passions to the highest level and allows them to progress to the best institutions in the world.

We are committed to the development of our children in the fullest sense. We succeed in combining academic excellence with an outstanding range of opportunities through our innovative and exciting curriculum.

### Cultural Capital:

At Theale Primary School, we recognise the vital role of cultural capital in shaping our students' academic success and personal development. Cultural capital refers to the essential knowledge, skills, and experiences that students gain through education and life, which help them engage fully with society and achieve their potential. It includes exposure to arts, literature, history, and wider societal values, providing students with a broader understanding of the world. Our aim is to ensure that all students, regardless of their background, have access to these enriching experiences. By embedding cultural capital throughout our curriculum and wider school activities, we strive to bridge opportunity gaps and equip students with the cultural awareness, confidence, and knowledge needed to succeed both in school and in life.

### Enrichment:

Enrichment at Theale Primary School refers to the broad range of additional activities and opportunities that enhance students' learning beyond the academic curriculum. These activities, which include clubs, educational visits, workshops, performances, and extracurricular programmes, are designed to promote personal growth, creativity, and critical thinking. Our enrichment provision encourages students to broaden their horizons, explore new interests, and develop important skills for life. By offering a wide variety of enrichment experiences, we aim to support the holistic development of our students, helping them to become well-rounded, confident individuals capable of thriving both inside and outside the classroom.

## The Theale Primary School Offer

It is the role of the school to ensure that children experience the awe and wonder of the world in which they live. To support this, we ensure that every child has the opportunity to:

- Perform on stage at The Hexagon every year in KS2
- Take part in a school service at least twice a year
- Learn to play guitars, violins and steel pans
- Be a member of a choir
- Learn poetry by heart
- Compete in sports day annually
- Learn to swim
- Take part in a 3-day history themed residential

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- Take part in a 5-day adventurous activities residential
- Visit the Houses of Parliament
- Represent the school
- Learn to take part in debates and discussions
- Learn to speak another language
- Attend school trips to broaden horizons
- Take part in a competition

At Theale Primary School, our curriculum extends beyond the national curriculum. In addition to our core curriculum we offer a variety of enrichment opportunities and expanded learning initiatives.

Core Curriculum	Enrichment Opportunities	Expanded Learning Initiatives
This forms the core of our curriculum, outlining the knowledge we teach to children and the structured sequence of learning across all subjects.	These opportunities are available to all children, with some specifically offered to select groups. They include a diverse range of before and after-school clubs, chances to represent the school in sports, performances, and competitions, as well as various leadership roles.	We provide a broad range of experiences and opportunities, both during and beyond the school day. Our expanded learning initiatives are designed for every child and include activities such as educational trips, outside speakers and our bespoke 'Culture Connoisseurs' curriculum.

### Core Curriculum

We are committed to the development of our children in the fullest sense. We strive to ensure our children are happy and successful and grow during their time with us to be ambitious and resilient. Our talented teachers inspire and motivate children to encourage scholarship, intellectual curiosity, independent thought and effective learning habits. We aim to combine academic excellence with an outstanding range of opportunities through our innovative and exciting curriculum.

Our specialist teacher model, which has been developed over 17 years, is embedded securely. Our curriculum is bespoke for our children. Written and designed by subject specialists, content is chosen by experts in their field who have higher level qualifications, passion and deep subject knowledge. They understand the substantive and disciplinary knowledge required to develop expertise and its progression and have ambitious aspirations for all the children- a deep belief that children must achieve the highest standards. This ensures the curriculum is challenging for all students. Careful adaptation to provide support and scaffolding as well as extensions, means our most vulnerable learners experience a high level of success. The following are our curriculum drivers:

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Outstanding Scholastic Achievement	Excellence in the Arts & Wider Curriculum	High Ambition Equity & Inclusion	Knowledge Rich Curriculum & Cultural Capital
Specialist Curriculum Leaders	Resilient Confident Learners	Secure Reading Mathematics & Life Skills	Positive Learning Environment

## Expanded Learning Initiatives

### School Production and Services

Each year, every child, regardless of their needs, is given the opportunity to perform in 3 services to parents. In the Autumn term, children participate in a Harvest service which takes place to parents, carers and family members at the local church. At Christmas, we then produce 2 nativities for FS2/Y1 and 2/3 and a Christmas concert for Year 4/5 and 6. These are performed in our purpose built school hall. At Easter, we produce another service at the local church.

These services play a vital role in developing our children's self-confidence and self-esteem as well as build upon skills taught in their weekly performing arts lessons.

In the summer term, our children are given the unique experience of performing on stage at the Hexagon theatre in Reading to 900 people. Supported by professional musicians, our children have performed productions of Annie, Chitty Chitty Bang Bang, Oliver and Peter Pan, to name a few. This experience is something which our children remember well beyond their time with us and provides valuable experience and skills to support our children if they wish, as many do, look to pursue performing arts further.

### Collective Worship

Our comprehensive collective worship programme is designed to support pupils' spiritual, moral, social, and cultural development, while providing clear guidance on what is right and wrong. We promote our school's core values and celebrate effort, positive attitudes, and success. The programme includes termly British Values and "No Outsiders" assemblies, weekly "God's Storyteller" assemblies, hymn practice, and Good News celebration assemblies. These assemblies, support our delivery of the 9 protected characteristics as well as embedding British Values into our school culture.

### Educational Visits, Experiences and Visitors

At the heart of our curriculum is a rich variety of educational visits, hands-on experiences, and school visitors. We firmly believe that carefully selected opportunities outside the classroom can bring learning to life, deepening students' understanding and engagement with the curriculum. These experiences not only reinforce key concepts but also provide real-world context, allowing children to make meaningful connections between their lessons and the world around them. Whether it's an educational trip, a themed workshop, or an inspiring guest speaker, these opportunities enhance learning, spark curiosity, and foster a love for discovery.

See below for some of the visits our children have recently been able to experience:

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Year 6	Osmington Bay Residential
Year 4/5	Ufton Court Residential
All Years	Warwick Castle
Year 6	Parliament
Children from Y1-Y5	Horse Riding
Y4/5 and 6	Hexagon Theatre (Production)
Children from FS2/Y1	Christmas Tree Farm
G&T Dance and Brass children	Nutcracker Ballet @ Royal Opera House
Foundation Stage	Bucklebury Farm
Y3-5	Englefield Countryside Day
All Years	Visits to Church
Year 4 and Year 6	Swimming @ Bradfield College

### Visitors

At Theale Primary School, Visitors play an invaluable role in enhancing the life and work of our school, making meaningful contributions across various areas. Through talks and workshops, on a wide range of subjects, they provide pupils with unique access to real-world experiences and specialised knowledge. These visitors help to forge connections between the school and the wider community, allowing pupils to engage directly with artists, musicians, authors, healthcare professionals, and many others. We are committed to inviting a diverse range of guests, ensuring pupils benefit from a broad spectrum of perspectives. Recent examples include:

Di Hughes (First Aid Training)
Bucklebury Farm (Farm animal and deer talk)
Learning with the Lords (Lord Hampton and Lord Mann Q & A session)
Gerry O'Sullivan (Head of MFL @ Theale Green) language learning at secondary school
Mr Griffiths (poet) shared his own poetry with children

### Culture Connoisseurs

Our Culture Connoisseurs curriculum is a unique and dynamic morning activity that immerses students in a diverse range of cultural elements, designed to build their cultural capital—broadening their knowledge and appreciation of the diverse and rich world around them. Through engaging with music, art, language, and inspirational figures, taught on a 2-year cycle, students develop a deeper understanding of human creativity, history, and achievement. helping them explore the beauty and depth of music, art, language, and inspiration from around the world and across history. Each day, students are introduced to a different cultural element. Also, as part of our morning work, in order that our children can be articulate and have the tools to express themselves well we teach some more complex and challenging vocabulary, this is in addition to subject specific vocabulary that is also taught throughout all out lessons.

### Learning Lunches

Our Learning Lunches are designed to transform lunchtimes into enriching learning experiences that expand our children's minds and nurture essential social skills. During these lunches, we introduce a thought-provoking topic of discussion, often accompanied by an informative video, sparking curiosity and encouraging

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pupils to engage thoughtfully with new ideas. Each session includes a moment of reflection, where children can express gratitude, fostering a sense of appreciation and mindfulness in their daily lives. To create a vibrant, culturally enriching environment, pupils enter and exit the lunch period listening to a piece of music that holds cultural significance. This exposure deepens their understanding of the world through music. Our Learning Lunches are carefully crafted to turn mealtime into an opportunity for intellectual and personal growth, all within a supportive and inspiring setting.

## Enrichment Opportunities

### Leadership

At Theale Primary School, we are dedicated to preparing our pupils to become global citizens and future leaders who make a positive impact on the world around them. We emphasise the importance of giving back to both the school and the wider community and actively create opportunities for children to do so. Our pupils take pride in contributing positively to our school community, and we offer a wide variety of leadership and volunteering roles at Theale Primary. These opportunities include:

- School Council
- Play Leaders
- House Captains
- Prefects
- Arts Council
- Sports Ambassadors

### Clubs

Our extra-curricular programme provides a rich array of opportunities for children to discover their talents and broaden their interests. We ensure that every child, including those with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), has access to these activities, fostering an inclusive environment where everyone can thrive. Our diverse selection of clubs complements our broad and balanced curriculum, offering experiences that encourage growth across a wide range of interests. Activities include various sports, gymnastics, dance, foreign languages, singing, and coding.

The enthusiasm for our clubs is remarkable, with a very high take-up rate. Last academic year alone, we offered over 30 clubs with total enrolments exceeding 558. While some children choose to participate in multiple clubs, over 201 children (63% of our pupils) attended at least one club last year.

### Gifted and Talented

Our Gifted, Talented, and Enrichment Programme for Years 4, 5, and 6 is crafted to inspire students by nurturing their existing talents and providing opportunities to explore new areas of interest. Children are selected to participate in focused groups, allowing them to immerse themselves in a subject area they are passionate about or curious to develop.

Students may choose (or are selected) from an array of enriching subjects, including dance, drama, art, sports, history, the outdoor environment, JDO(Global Embassadors), STEM, and brass. Each programme is

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designed to stretch and challenge further pupils in an area they are skilled or interested in pursuing, encourage creativity, critical thinking, collaboration, and resilience. With guidance from specialised mentors and educators, children have the chance to deepen their knowledge, refine their skills, and pursue new talents in a supportive and stimulating environment. Our goal is to empower each student to reach their full potential, fostering confidence, curiosity, and a lifelong love of learning.

In addition to our core Gifted, Talented, and Enrichment Programme for Years 4, 5, and 6, we offer further opportunities beyond the regular timetable for students to explore and develop their talents. These additional offerings include specialised subjects such as Latin, where children can engage with new languages and cultural insights, as well as other targeted workshops and experiences that nurture high-achieving students' interests and potential.

These expanded opportunities are designed to broaden our students' horizons, introducing them to new fields and ideas while fostering a spirit of academic exploration and personal growth. Through both structured and flexible programmes, we ensure that each child has the chance to flourish, connect with others who share their passions, and build skills that will serve them well into the future.

### Representing the School

We believe it is essential for children to have the opportunity to represent the school if they wish, and we are committed to providing a wide range of avenues for them to do so. Through participation in competitions, events, and community activities, pupils can develop confidence, teamwork, and a sense of pride in representing their school. Our offerings include sports tournaments, academic challenges, arts showcases, and charity events, ensuring that every child can find an area that resonates with their interests and strengths.

These experiences allow our pupils not only to showcase their skills but also to connect with peers from other schools, build resilience, and foster a strong sense of community and school spirit.

Event/Competition	Details
Newbury Show (Art Display)	Each year, we proudly present a curated selection of artwork from our Gifted and Talented artists, as well as pieces from children of all ages across the school. This exhibition provides a wonderful opportunity for our students to showcase the incredible work they create under the guidance of our specialist art teacher, Mrs. Lockhart. We are thrilled to announce that, in 2024, our students' exceptional artwork received recognition at the show, a testament to their creativity, skill, and dedication. This annual event highlights the diverse talents within our school community and celebrates the artistic achievements of all our young artists.
JDO	As part of our Gifted, Talented, and Enrichment Programme in Key Stage 2, a select group of students represents our school through the JDO project. This initiative enables the school to work with schools around the world through collaborative projects and using technology. Through collaborative projects and shared experiences, our students broaden their worldviews, develop global awareness, and cultivate friendships that extend beyond borders.
Man Made Dance	To encourage more boys to explore dance, we select a group of Year 5 and 6 boys each year to take part in the <i>Man Made</i> dance project. This initiative offers them the opportunity to work with professional dancers and choreographers, receiving expert tuition and guidance throughout the programme. The project

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	culminates in a live performance at the Corn Exchange in Newbury, where the boys showcase their hard work and talent. This unique experience not only builds confidence and skills in dance but also fosters a deeper appreciation for the art form, encouraging boys to engage with movement and creativity in new and exciting ways.
Choir	Every child at our school is part of a choir, fostering a love for music and teamwork from an early age. Our choirs have the opportunity to perform at a variety of events across the community, including <i>Music for Youth</i> , singing at Oxford Cathedral, and entertaining elderly community members. They have also performed at our annual Christmas fete, sharing their talents and spreading festive cheer. These performances not only showcase the children’s musical abilities but also help to build confidence, a sense of community, and a deeper connection to the world around them.
Football	We participate in a range of football matches for both boys and girls, competing with schools across the district in friendly matches and tournaments. These opportunities not only allow our children to showcase their skills but also teach them the importance of teamwork, respect, and good sportsmanship. Through these experiences, our pupils learn to value fair play, resilience, and collaboration, both on and off the pitch.
Steel Pans	Children in our Gifted and Talented Steel Pans group have had the opportunity to perform at a variety of community events, including the village fete and school fetes. Their performances not only showcase their musical talents but also foster a strong sense of community. Additionally, our students take part in the Steel Panning Festival, where they have the chance to perform alongside other talented musicians and further develop their skills in a vibrant, collaborative environment.
Base Art Gallery visit	Our Gifted and Talented artists recently attended an art exhibition at the Base Gallery, where they participated in a workshop called ‘ <i>Touch To See</i> ’. This unique experience allowed them to engage with tactile art, exploring new ways to express their creativity. Following the workshop, our students had the opportunity to meet other participants, share their work, and receive valuable feedback on their tactile creations. This event not only enhanced their artistic skills but also provided them with insightful perspectives, further inspiring their artistic development.
LAMDA	Our Gifted and Talented Drama group works diligently each year in preparation for their LAMDA examinations, showcasing their dedication and passion for performance. We are incredibly proud of our outstanding track record, with our students consistently earning distinctions year after year. Their hard work, commitment, and talent are reflected in their exceptional results, making the LAMDA exams a highlight of their drama journey and a testament to their growth as confident and skilled performers.