

Theale C of E Primary School

Englefield Road, Theale, RG7 5AS

Telephone 0118 930 2239 E-Mail: office@theale.w-berks.sch.uk Web: www.thealeprimary.co.uk

Further Information

Location

The school is situated on Englefield Road in Theale Village which is 4 miles west of Reading, close to Junction 12 on the M4. Theale is a medium-sized village offering a range of local services. Its close proximity to the A4 and M4 makes it an ideal base for commuting to Reading and London. Access to open countryside is gained with a few minutes walking. The school serves a mixed catchment area and pupils encompass a broad social and economic background.

School Buildings and Site

The original building was opened in 1833, had additions in the 1960s and 2000s and was located next to Holy Trinity Church. We have recently relocated to a brand new, purpose-built school on Englefield Road. We are very proud of our beautiful school, and the learning environment that it provides. Whilst we are no longer next door, we retain close ties with Holy Trinity Church.

Our school has an excellent local reputation and was very well-regarded in our Ofsted and SIAS Inspection.

School Staffing

We currently have 14 teachers plus the Headteacher and a Deputy Headteacher. Each class benefits from some support from a Teaching Assistant. Additional learning support is provided for intervention groups, Library and ICT. We also currently employ 1 HLTA. The children benefit from specialist teachers for many curriculum areas including; dance, drama, French and art and music.

We also have 1 teacher and 1 part time admin assistant in the LAL. Our ASD resource has a Teacher in Charge, a teacher and 10 Learning Support Assistants, including 1 HLTA.

Many of our full time teaching staff have a main curriculum subject responsibility with additional responsibilities. The current management structure has the Headteacher, Deputy Headteacher, Assistant Headteacher followed by TLRs are given for Special Needs co-ordinator, EYFS and KS2 Team Leader. Administrative assistance is provided through the School Business Manager, a Secretary, a PA to the Headteacher and support staff. There is a full time caretaker and lunchtime carers. Cleaning, Catering and Grounds Maintenance are provided through external companies.

Organisation

Classes are organised and staff work together in Key Stage teams. Our classes have mixed year groups, except for Nursery and Year 6. We have 1 Nursery class, 3 Foundation Stage 2 (Reception)/Yr 1 classes, 3 Yr 2/3 classes, 3 Yr 4/5 classes and 2 Year 6 classes.

School Curriculum

There are policies and schemes of work for all areas to ensure coverage of the National Curriculum. Schemes have been developed on an annual or biannual cycle indicating skills, concepts, knowledge and progression. The teaching of reading has been the subject of a major impetus throughout the school. An individual reading scheme is in operation and children are timetabled to read frequently to an adult and in KS1 every day.

The school has very effective procedures for supporting pupils for special educational needs. The school encourages extra-curricular activities which include football, singing, art and craft, netball, dance and drama. Instrumental tuition is provided by visiting peripatetic teaching staff. We host our own trainee teachers and have also worked with Reading University to provide school experience for their teaching students.

The Governing Body

The Governing body meets formally twice a term. The Governing body is keen to ensure that it offers full support to the school and a number of governors are regular visitors. All Governors come into school at least once a year to experience a "school day".

Parental Involvement

The school values the contribution of parents to the education of their children at home and school. Parents are frequently encouraged to take an active part in the life of the school and in the classroom. A programme of events is held throughout the year which not only raises significant sums of money for the benefit to the school, but also offers social occasions for parents and the community which are organised by separate working groups.

We run a 'Family Learning Week' each year where parents work alongside the children throughout the day so they may experience their children's day. We also employ the use of ELSA and a Family Support Worker to provide help and guidance to children and families as required.

Secondary Transfer

Pupils transfer at the age of 11. The majority of parents choose to send their children to Theale Green Community School here in the village. There are well-established close liaison links with the school.

Community

Reflecting its historical tradition the school has a strong association with the parish church in Theale. Services are held in the church during the year and the school is involved in services where relevant. The Reverend Martin Davy takes school assembly regularly both in church and in School. The school fosters good relationships with local playgroups and nurseries. The school is regularly used for work experience for pupils from local secondary schools as well as nursing and PGCE students.

Berkshire

Our school belongs to the West Berkshire Education Authority based in Newbury. For further information visit the West Berkshire website at www.westberks.org.

Professional Development

The school is committed to encouraging the professional development of its staff.

Theale Language and Literacy Centre

The LAL Centre caters for pupils with specific learning difficulties. The Centre is provided by the Education authority and serves 24 schools in the area. It is one of ten centres throughout the county and is one of two in the West Berkshire Council. Specialist teaching is provided in small groups by the teacher in charge. Attendance is decided through recommendation by Educational Psychologists and a Support and Review Panel, which meets termly.

Theale Primary ASD Resource

The Resource opened in September 2005. It currently caters for 10 children on the autistic spectrum. The Resource caters for children from across West Berkshire with a diagnosis of ASD, who have the ability to access a mainstream curriculum, if their ASD needs are met. Children admitted to the Resource have a range of complex learning and behavioural needs.

Ofsted Inspection

The school underwent an Ofsted Inspection in October 2012. The feedback was very positive with the school achieving an outstanding rating. The Ofsted Report can be accessed via the Internet at www.ofsted.gov.uk. Following this, a very successful SIAS Inspection took place in March 2013. A copy of this report is available in school.

Berkshire Teaching Alliance In September 2014 the school was designated as the lead school in The Berkshire Teaching Alliance, our Headteacher, a National Leader in Education and some senior staff as Specialist Leaders in Education.