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Dear Parents/ Carers,

We hope you had a chance to relax over the summer and spend quality time with family and friends. It's been wonderful to see the children return to school with such enthusiasm and maturity. We are incredibly proud of how they've embraced the responsibilities of Year 6, setting a fantastic example for their peers and demonstrating leadership across the school.

As we look ahead to the coming year, we're excited about the opportunities for learning, enrichment, and personal growth that lie ahead. Our aim is to ensure that every child makes the most of their final year at Theale Primary, while feeling well-prepared for the transition to secondary school.

As you're likely aware, this is the year the children will sit their end-of-primary SATs. While we may have mixed feelings about these assessments, they remain a significant part of how both children and schools are evaluated by the government. Our curriculum continues to reflect high expectations, particularly in English and maths, and we are confident that this cohort will rise to the challenge.

We are committed to helping every child reach their full potential, not only in terms of academic achievement but also in developing the skills and confidence they'll carry with them into secondary school and beyond.

Please find below an overview of the topics that the children will be learning about within each subject area.

Subject	Overview
Maths	- Place value. - Negative numbers. - Addition and subtraction. - Multiplication and division. - Volume and Measure - Fractions, decimals and percentages.
English	- Autobiographies and biographies. - Setting & character descriptions. - Poetry for effect and emotive poetry. - Reading skills and strategies. - Grammar, punctuation and spelling.
Science	- Inheritance and Evolution - Light – movement of light and explaining shadows.
History	Maya Civilisation 2000 BC – 250AD
Geography	Rainforests - focus on the Amazon Rainforest, layers of the rainforest and deforestation.
Art/DT	- Rainforest- using clay to create tiles, observational drawing. - DT Project- using felt to create a Christmas ornament
Modern Foreign Language - French	- Greetings, revisiting basic personal information, asking and saying how you are feeling. - School subjects and extended opinions on these - Numbers 1-60 - Telling the time - Daily routine - Describing rooms of the house - Jobs, professions and future aspirations - Christmas church traditions in France vs. 'la laïcité' - French phonics – eux; ou; faim; soif; oid; au; é; revision of ç; oi; g; endings of opinion - adjectives (cile; ant; ile); silent 'h'; ll

RE	Christianity: How can the arts express religious beliefs about God? How significant is it that Mary was Jesus' mother?
Music	Opera & Oratorio: Understanding the difference between opera, oratorio, operetta and musicals, voice parts, arias, recitativo and chorus, understanding vocal scores and dynamic markings
Life Skills	Life Skills – the election process, local and national leaders, the House of Commons and House of Lords, Parliament.
Computing	- Online safety and citizenship. - Programming and evaluating algorithms to achieve a planned outcome.
PE	- Gymnastics – paired and small group work incorporating balance and counterbalance - Football skills – small team games, peer refereeing, developing speed and accuracy. - Netball skills – match technique, developing accurate passing and movement - Tag Rugby – mini-games, strategy and team values.

Homework

Homework will be set every Monday and is due the following Monday. Each week, children will be assigned 20 minutes of online practice for both times tables and spellings, using Times Table Rockstars and Spelling Shed. We greatly appreciate your support in encouraging the children to practise these key skills regularly. In addition, we ask that children read at home every day, ideally with an adult, to support their fluency, comprehension, and enjoyment of reading.

Specialist Teaching

We are fortunate enough to have many specialist teachers across the school. In Year 6, the children will have drama, dance and music on Thursday afternoon, taught by Carrie, Claire and our new music teacher, Miss Lynch. Madame Bastable will teach French language and cultural studies on a Wednesday afternoon. In addition to this, teachers from across the school will be teaching the children in their areas of interest and expertise.

Outdoor Learning

Children will continue to take part in outdoor learning sessions once every three weeks, on Friday mornings. To ensure they are comfortable and prepared, children will need to bring:

- A suitable coat
- Hat and gloves, where appropriate
- A change of shoes, ideally wellies that you're happy for them to get muddy
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Class teachers will do their best to remind children when their outdoor learning week is approaching. However, if unsure, children are welcome to bring the required items just in case.

PE

The children will have PE on alternate Mondays, as well as a weekly dance lesson with Claire. Please ensure that your child's PE kit is in school all week to allow for any timetable changes. Within their PE kit, the children should have shorts, a white t-shirt and plimsolls for indoor PE and tracksuit bottoms, a sweatshirt and trainers for outdoor PE. They should also have a change of socks. This is especially important for girls who will need to change out of tights for PE. Can I please also ask that, for safety reasons, any earrings are removed for all PE activities as soon as possible after any initial piercing. Only during the 'healing period' will children be allowed to wear tape to cover these.

Uniform

Thank you for returning your child to school looking so presentable. The smart appearance of our children is often noted by the public. Due to health and safety requirements, it is school policy that all children whose hair is long enough should have it tied up. We also request that children do not have any unnatural colours or extreme styles, for example no stripes or shapes cut into their hair please. Please also note that children should not wear makeup or nail varnish to school. This is in line with our school's uniform policy.

Water Bottles

We would like to take this opportunity to remind you of the school's policy on water bottles. Children are kindly requested to bring a labelled bottle containing water which they will have access to throughout the day. We ask for water instead of drinks such as squash, as they can be very sticky when spilt and can cause damage to books and equipment. Having water readily available also helps to support our Healthy Schools initiative. The children may, however, have a separate drink of squash or similar (no fizzy drinks or energy drinks please) in their lunchbox. Thank you in advance for your support in this matter.

Mobile Phones

We are aware that an increasing number of children now have mobile phones. We would like to remind you of the school's expectations regarding children's mobile phones on site.

If your child needs to bring a phone to school, it must be switched off and placed in their bag before they enter the school gates. Upon entering the classroom, phones should be handed in to the class teacher. They will be returned at the end of the school day, but must not be switched back on until the child has left the school site.

These rules are in place to safeguard all children and have been clearly explained to them in class.

Please note that mobile phones are brought into school at the child's own risk. The school cannot accept responsibility for any loss or damage that may occur.

We hope that you will find this information useful. Should you have any questions, please get in touch with us via the school office. Here's to an inspiring and fulfilling term of hard work, success and exciting opportunities!

Best wishes,
Yours sincerely,

Lydia Parsley and Frances Jones
Year 6 Class Teachers