



# Thomas Bullock Church of England Primary Academy **NEWSLETTER** 18<sup>th</sup> December 2020

 Diocese of Norwich  
Education and  
Academies Trust

Dear Parents, Carer and Friends

We hope this final Newsletter of 2020 reaches you and your family in wellness and full of Christmas spirit and cheer.

To finish off our term, I would like to begin by sharing this half-term's value of giving thanks. Christmas is a time of reflection on all that we have and can give. The most important thing being an opportunity to share gratitude.

Therefore, thank you Thomas Bullock. Thank you pupils for courageously coming into school each day, being resilient to change and adapting quickly. Thank you for developing new relationships with a number of new pupils that have entered our school and showing kindness. Thank you for showing bravery in a time when we could instead have shown fear in the face of the unknown. Thank you parents and carers for your trust. For trusting our safety measures, trusting our systems and giving us space to creatively develop learning opportunities and not breach bubbles. Thank you for supporting us by not sending unwell pupils in school and continuing to teach them about hands, face and space at home. Thank you for trusting your teacher's decisions, knowing they have our pupils at the heart of everything. Thank you for wearing masks onto our site each day, following our guidance, not coming into the school and not congregating and chatting with friends and neighbours. It is this which has meant we have been able to continue to be a safe site for our staff, teams, community and pupils. This has helped us to not close bubbles and to keep your children in school this entire term.

Thank you for your support, kindness and care. I feel blessed to work in a school community where each and every family is so compassionate of the school and allows us to put your children at the heart of all we do.

We are sure you will join me in giving fond farewells to Mrs Lowe and Mrs Ives. Mrs Lowe who has been working in year 6 one day a week will remain on supply with us so you should still see her in school. Mrs Ives has been a class teacher and our SENCO at the school for just over nine years, we will all miss her and wish her every success and happiness for the future. We know that you will welcome Mr Wade, Deputy Headteacher and Year 6 teacher into the school and we are excited that we will see even more of Mr Ward. Mrs Wall and Mrs O'Sullivan will continue as SENCO so please do continue to contact us for all of your SEN needs.

As we enter Christmas, I think back on the year we have each endured. It has been a year of trial, to confound, sadden, grieve and surprise. But yet, we have overcome. The development and current dispensing of the vaccine gives us renewed hope for a well 2021.

*Wishing you a delightful, peaceful and restful Christmas and Happy New Year*



## **Parent Café**

Our next parent café will be held Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January at 2pm. If you are interested in taking part, a live virtual link will be shared with all parents via email at 1pm. Please feel free to log in. If you cannot attend but have any specific questions or ideas, please feel free to submit these to the office before 12pm on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January to be shared at the meeting.

## **Modern Foreign Languages Day**

### **Upper KS 2 (Yrs 5 and 6)**

On European Languages day, pupils in school enjoyed, a range of French, German, Spanish even Russian language lessons. They developed an understanding of traditions and tried food linked to the different cultures. They all thoroughly enjoyed this day!

### **Lower KS2 (Yrs 3 and 4)**

The children tasted Buche de Noel (Yule Log) and Chocolat Chaud (Hot Chocolate) played French word bingo and made French Christmas cards, they learned numbers to 10 and how to greet people.

### **KS1 and Early Years**

**The children** enjoyed learning about Christmas around the World! Reception explored Christmas traditions; baking gingerbread and tasting mince pies. Year One looked at Christmas in France and Germany; tasting Stollen and having a Gingerbread house competition that judged by Mrs Ward where Eva, Theo and Alfie won! Year One also learnt how to say 'Merry Christmas' in French and German...don't forget to ask them to show you! In year Two, the children explored Christmas in Germany and France; tasting stollen and learning 'Jingle bells' in French. A great time was had by all!

## **St Nicholas Church Dereham Service**

We have been thoroughly enjoying The Reverend Canon Paul Cubitt's special services over the Advent period and he warmly invited Thomas Bullock pupils in Years 3,4 and 6 to be a part of the Carol service this Sunday (due to be online from Saturday) and years 1,2 and 5 in the Christingle service due to go out on Christmas Eve. We certainly hope you enjoy these services with your family and look out for our pupils singing and some of the Year 6 pupils sharing readings.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCJPHvhuoBXwdMKXex3hoqig>

## **Carol Service**

Over the past few weeks the children have been learning a range of traditional Christmas carols. Therefore, we will be sharing a recorded version of our Carols from our carol service on our website and social media pages. We hope you enjoy them! <https://vimeo.com/492421506>

## **Nativity**

Ark class have worked really hard to learn the traditional Nativity story to perform as their Christmas play this year. They used their perseverance when learning their parts and the different roles they were playing. A great time was had by all as they learned the performance and their Christmas songs. We are all really proud of them and enjoyed watching the show! Link: <https://vimeo.com/491216524>

## **Christingles**

On the last day of term the children made their Christingles to take home. We would like to thank a couple of parents, Tanya and Heidi, for arranging the donations of all the oranges and sweets from Tesco, Swaffham. Thank you!

## **Student Council**

On Monday afternoon Mrs Taylor held a student council meeting accompanied by Mrs. O'Sullivan and virtually joined by our Governor, a former Headteacher, Mrs Bennett-Mills.

The pupils shared things they have enjoyed since September- Year 3 discussed the new Behaviour System and chart, "Children know to stay on the green face and when they don't they have to reflect if they are moved to yellow." Year 5 discussed the new interactive classroom boards, explaining it makes learning faster as they can see things written on the board and they can work on the touch screens. Year 1 and 2 shared that they really liked the new play area outside. Year 6 shared the resource packs, making organisation easier as everything is theirs to look after and use.

They also came up with a wish list - Year 5 explained they would like a play area similar to the KS1 playground, which had climbing frames, slides and swings. Year 4 requested a little outdoor reading and library seated area. "As the outdoor classroom cannot be shared daily, it would be nice to have somewhere to read outside." We all discussed adding some new books to the library and even maybe an online library?

## **Thank you ...**

A huge thank you to the kitchen staff Debbie and Moira on Christmas Lunch Day, they prepared and cooked, not just for our school but another too, over 300 lunches – just amazing! Also to our lunchtime staff who set up the hall in true Christmas style and along with the staff served lunch to all the children.

We could not be more grateful for FOSS and the parent community. In the last few months you have completed 'Bags to School' drop offs, fundraising dress-down days, a huge raffle and reindeer food and hot cocoa. We are truly grateful to the ever amazing FOSS family for supporting our school with their energy and time.

## **Returning to school**

Unless there are further announcements over the Christmas break, school is due to resume at 8:35am for KS2 and 8:45am for KS1 on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January, 2021. Please be reminded that we should be in our winter uniform and dressed appropriately for all weathers so we can continue outdoor learning throughout Winter. Please also be reminded of the uniform expectations these are on our website and in the school prospectus.

## **Contact Tracing**

To aid the timing of contact tracing, Mrs O'Sullivan will be in school Monday 21<sup>st</sup> to answer phones and handle any positive or suspected cases. Following this date please email any information to Mrs O'Sullivan on [head@thomasbullock.dneat.org](mailto:head@thomasbullock.dneat.org).



# CELEBRATIONS!

## Shining Lights of the Term showing kindness, courage and thankfulness

- Ark Class** **Hadley** for always being so polite and thoughtful to others in the class. Hadley has super manners and is very helpful to others. A fantastic term!  
**Imogen** for always being determined to do her best. She has shown great progression in her phonics, reading and writing. Imogen is always a kind friend and is always looking out for others. A wonderful term!
- Oceania Class** **William** for always being so polite and thoughtful to others in the class. William is always willing to help and always uses his manners.  
**Harriet** for always being so polite and thoughtful, using her manners and always being polite to adults and her friends.
- Asia Class** **Ben** for always being polite and thoughtful to others in class. Ben has super manners, he is kind and caring. He always comes to school with a smile on his face.  
**Hana** for having fantastic manners and showing care and consideration to her peers. She is always kind and helpful to children and adults in her class. She is a brilliant role model!
- Africa Class** **Tigga and Max J** both who always come in with a smile on their faces, ask for lunch politely and always uses their manners when we give out equipment or help them in class! Well done and thank you!
- S America Class** **Oscar and Lexi** have both been extremely polite and respectful to others in the class this term. They have also shown excellent perseverance in their work. Well done!
- Europe Class** **Willow and Finley** for their wonderful good manners and their willingness to help others.
- N America Class** **Ben and Lucas** for an excellent attitude to learning and making good progress this term. Well done!

**Whole School Attendance Autumn Term 96.76%**

## Good to be Green all Term!

In line with our new positive behaviour policy we had a termly draw for a Smyths Toy Voucher, during our celebration assembly. With nearly 170 entries from children who were on Green all term we are proud to announce our winners are;

**Rosie from Asia Class (yr 2) and Elliott from Europe Class (yr 5)**



# PHOTOS FROM THE WEEK



Europe Class (Yr 5) - Anglo Saxon Village as part of their topic work:

