



Thomas Bullock Church of England Primary and Nursery Academy

"Let your light shine" Matthew 5:14-16

Headteacher: Mrs Shannon O'Sullivan



Pound Green Lane, Shipdham, Norfolk, IP25 7LF • T: 01362 820300 • E: office@thomasbullock.dneat.org • W: www.thomasbullock.dneat.org

16th December 2022

Dear Parents, Carers and Friends of Thomas Bullock,

On a further wintry day at Thomas Bullock we have enjoyed two wonderful services where we reminisced on 2022 and how we are so proud of our pupils' achievements and the way our school is developing and constantly evolving. This term has seen a change to our values-based learning. At the start of the year and end of last year our pupils and staff developed our vision of 'Let your light shine' further by incorporating 3 main values- A Light for Health, A Light for Learning and a Light for Growth. This half-term we have focused on Creativity and Responsibility- supported by regular visits in school and to church with Reverend Laura. However, Christmas is always a time for thankfulness and reflection as we enter a new year. So I begin with what we are thankful for.

Yearly, we are overjoyed by our school community- this begins with our parents/carers. Thank you, we are so appreciative of your continued support by attending school events, helping with home learning, practising times-tables, joining FOSS and reading daily too!

This year saw the opening of our school-based, teacher lead onsite Nursery. What a joy it has been to see this grow from 7 pupils to 18 in less than one-year. We still have capacity on some full days, mornings and afternoons if you are looking for a place from January. Please join us for our free stay and play sessions on Friday mornings as well.

I had the joy of sharing our schools' good practice with HT's and School Leaders across our trust in November on 4 separate afternoons. At each one our children were welcoming, kind, and learning was calm, engaging and interesting. Whilst we always aim to improve, our children are to be praised on their mutual and individual behaviour and attitude to school along with their willingness to work together and achieve well. This includes in sporting and academic pursuits where Thomas Bullock pupils consistently achieve well inside and outside of school.

As well, we could not be Thomas Bullock without the philanthropy of our wonderful benefactors of their time, financing and assistance. The fabulous FOSS, Thomas Bullock Trust and our wonderful Governors have shown huge initiative, ideas, support and challenge to continue our school improvements and I am very grateful to their teams for their support and energy. All of these offer our school their goodwill and precious time. We are so proud of our FOSS making the Education Awards finals too this year. We are truly grateful!

The end of term has been extremely festive at Thomas Bullock, made even more so with the snow! Over the last 2 weeks, we have held a live pantomime performance of James and the Giant Peach, FOSS held their annual Christmas Shop on Thursday and Friday, we had Christmas Jumper Day twice, our annual Christmas around Europe MFL Day, Y1 had a fabulous trip to see Santa at Holkham Hall and learn about the



Diocese of Norwich Education and Academies Trust Registered Office: 109 Dereham Road, Easton, Norwich NR9 5ES
Registered in England & Wales Company no: 8737435 Tel: 01603 880853 Web: www.dneat.org



history of Holkham Hall and its inhabitants. Our Ethos committee held a Christingle making event in school with members of our church community and a Christingle Service in Church- followed by a snowy walk home; an end of term Carol Service at Shipdham Church with our families invited. Our annual Christmas lunch, three amazing Nativity performances from Reception, Year 1 and Year 2, a Christmas singing and dancing performance in celebration assembly, Christmas forest schools and a wonderful party and magic show which was sponsored by FOSS for our children. As well as end of term gifts from FOSS.

It is important to also praise our pupils' excellent outcomes. Having completed Autumn assessments this term, collectively our pupils are above National in all year groups from Year 3 to Year 6. This follows our school being recognised for achieving Outstanding end of Key Stage outcomes last year- putting us in the top 20% of schools Nationally. Once again, I have been impressed again by the increased volume of independent work produced by pupils, with Stone Age dwellings, Roman and Greek ballista's (catapults), Shields, Viking Longboats- to name just a few- and other impressive learning on display in classrooms our school is abundant with creative learning on show!

None of the pupil achievements or creative events thus far could have happened without the support, direction and energy of our fabulous team of staff, teaching and non-teaching, and I am so grateful to them again this year. More than ever, everyone has gone above and beyond to ensure the children are happy, safe, extremely well taught and, valued. Our team believe in our pupils and community and this shows, everyday!

Finally, we would like to thank both pupils and parents for the lovely Christmas gifts, cards and messages; I know the staff, as well as myself, have been touched, as ever, by your kind words and generosity.

With blessings for a restful and wonderful Christmas and happy New Year.

Mrs O'Sullivan and the whole Thomas Bullock Team



Mrs Shannon O'Sullivan
Headteacher

