



Thomas Bullock Church of England Primary and Nursery Academy

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

Headteacher: Mrs Shannon O'Sullivan

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NEWSLETTER

15th March 2024

Dear parents, carers and friends of the Nightingale Federation

It was great to see our children dressed in red and undertaking the Red Nose Day activities today. During Celebration Assembly the children learnt why Red Nose Day is important and how our donations help people across Britain and charities around the world. **£238.29 has been raised!**



The children also enjoyed British Science Week this week, and took part in all kind of science related activities, more about this further down in the Newsletter.

Recent visits across the Federation

You may have heard that there have been lots of visitors in our schools recently. Last week, our Academy Group Executive Principal, Mrs Warner and Ms Darroch, who is our Federation SEND Governor, who is also a previous SENCO and DHT of a Breckland school, jointly visited both schools. The aim of the visit was to observe and monitor SEND provision across the Federation. In the morning, they met with Mrs Smith at Lyng School and in the afternoon, met with Mrs Carter at Thomas Bullock. Mrs Warner was very pleased with the excellence and high expectations driven by our SEN team and the pupils calm, engaging and purposeful learning environments across the Federation. We are very lucky to have two extremely well-qualified and excellent SENCOs.

Additionally, today we had a further visit at Thomas Bullock, where Mrs Carter and our school undertook a SEND review, held by an external body. Our effective work was praised and we will continue to work to provide an inclusive, safe learning environment with high expectations for all pupils.

Governor Meeting

Our next Local Governing Body meeting will be held on Monday 18 March at Lyng Primary School. We are delighted that our Federation Governors will be able to visit and see the regular updates to the environment, curriculum and pupil engagement in learning across the Federation.



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Shining Lights of the Week

- Ark Nursery **Mollie** for showing responsibility within our classroom. Not only is Mollie responsible for her own belongings, she will often show kindness by helping others to get organised too.
- Antarctica Class (R) **Betsy** for being a responsible member of our class and wider school community. She is keen to help others and tries to encourage others to do the same.
- Oceania Class (yr 1) **Oscar** for putting in huge amounts of effort into all of his work. He has been working particularly hard on his handwriting and we can all see the improvements.
- Africa Class (yr 2) **Caiden** for always taking great responsibility for our school. Caiden always looks after our classroom, resources and encourages others to do the same.
- Europe Class (yr 3) **Hadley** for always giving his very best. He takes responsibility for his learning and for looking after people and property in the school.
- S America Class (yr 4) **Jacob** for his fantastic approach to learning, especially in English. Jacob has been working hard to remember punctuation and showing lots of creativity in the planning of his narrative. Well done!
- Asia Class (yr 5) **Miles** for his Gold Write about a natural disaster. He thought carefully about the content, structure and word choices producing an effective piece.
- North America (yr 6) **Isabelle F** for always putting up her hand to answer questions and contributing ideas brilliantly.

This week's overall attendance 94.8% Europe Class (yr 3) 97.6%

WOW MOMENTS!

Lily (yr 3) took part in a fantastic performance at the Mothering Sunday service in Norwich Cathedral last weekend where the Norwich Cathedral Children's Choir sang. Lily is a proud member having joined in January and they did a beautiful job – not a dry eye in the house!

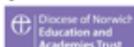
Caiden (yr 2) has passed his level three swimming and so now will be going into level 4, this is the second group in the big pool and he can now swim completely unaided across the pool!



Please remember to continue to send in your **WOW** moments for achievements out of school
<https://forms.gle/DV4RoVbQQGpijcUMV7>

OUR KEY LEARNING QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK

Year Group	Key Learning Question of the week
1	Why can we only find some types of transport in certain areas?
2	What is the continent of Antarctica like?
3	What are the regions, cities and landmarks of Italy?
4	How has the Amazon River shaped the land?
5	What happens when an earthquake strikes?
6	How successful was Britain in rebuilding after the Second World War?



Wraparound Care

The booking form for next half term's breakfast and after school club is now available to book on to.

Click on the following link here: <https://forms.gle/p2kk2V44awUvNgbD6>

E Safety

I once again wish to remind all of our families of the importance of being aware of information your children are accessing online both on phones, through messaging APPs and through online gaming. We recently held an E-Safety briefing at Thomas Bullock with very little adult uptake, however we have again found ourselves this week hearing of online activity, across KS2, which is outside of the values we teach and the practices we are trying to embed into our pupils. We thank parents/carers for continually supporting our work to keeping our children safe online by communicating with your children about their access and choices. If you have any questions, or would like any support, we would be more than happy to share supportive resources.

IMPORTANT – CHANGES TO ONLINE PAYMENTS

After the Easter holiday we will be moving to a new online payment system for lunches, clubs etc. This will be within our current system of communication – Arbor, which hopefully you are already familiar as we use this for sending emails and text messages. Further information around how this will work and how to download the app will be sent out next week once our office staff have completed the training. In the meantime, please can we request that any outstanding dinner money is brought up to date as much as possible. Balance transfers will be moved across to the new system, but this will assist us greatly if this could be done ahead of time. Thank you in advance and we are hopeful the transition across will be a smooth one, but as always please do not hesitate to contact the school office if you have any questions.

Upcoming Events...

School Photographer

The School Photographer will be in school on Monday to take whole class photos. If it is a PE Day please come to school in uniform with your PE top underneath.

Year 6 SATs Presentation

Mr Wade and Mrs Fowler will hold a SATs Year 6 presentation at 4.45pm on Tuesday 19th March. We would encourage all years 6 parents/carers and pupils to attend.

Open Afternoon at Thomas Bullock- open to all 25th March from 1.15pm – 2.30pm.

We have booked an Open afternoon at Thomas Bullock Primary and Nursery on Monday 25th March at 1.15pm. Mr Wade and I shared this event with the community, when we attend the Shipdham Parish Council Meeting on Monday evening and would like to welcome our communities from across the Federation to come and see Thomas Bullock and meet our teams.

Federation Sports Event

We have asked the West Norfolk and Dereham Schools Partnership to run a sports morning on May 8th for our next Federation Day for Years 3-5. The venue has yet to be decided.



Science Week

Mr Johnson and his scientist friend, Sid, got our British Science Week off to start with a video assembly. In the assembly, Sid informed us all that British Science Week is celebrating its 30th anniversary and this year's theme is 'time'. Throughout the whole week the classes have been engaging in some fun Science activities.

Nursery have been looking at the changes over time that can be seen across the seasons and matching pictures to the right season.

Reception, as you will read further on in the newsletter have had some very egg-citing visitors staying with them ... eggs! The children enjoyed seeing them all hatch into adorable little chicks and are looking forward to watching them grow and change over the time they are here with us in school and find out about the lifecycle of a chicken. They have also been putting their maths skills to good use and measuring the circumference of apples using string to help them. Then they chopped some up and have been keeping a diary of any observations they have made regarding any changes that may or may not happen to the apple over the week!

Year 1 have made a paper aeroplane with no help at all. They timed how long they were in the air for... 4 seconds was the longest! They have been looking at the science behind keeping planes in the air and had another try with some new designs to see if they could increase the flight time. They also took part in a live Science lesson from Bates Farm in Warrington. The lesson tied in brilliantly with their theme in science about animals as Farmer Fiona showed us around the farm and explained how to care for all the animals. At the end of the lesson the children all received a certificate to say they are an official farmer in training! They also selected items they would like to place in a time capsule which they will bury and dig up next year to see the effect time has had on the objects. They chose; a segment of orange, a daffodil, some water in a sealed container, some water in an open pot, a toy car, a pen, some grass and some leaves. They have made lots of predictions as to what we think they will look like in one year's time!

Year 2 have created paper planes and held a competition. They used their books to create a marble run and went for a nature walk, investigating signs of spring. They read a 'Science in Stories' ebook called 'The Enormous Turnip' and named, identified and labelled parts of plants.

Year 3 have talked about the science that can be found around the home and the different jobs that involve science as well. They carried out an experiment, testing which design of paper airplane would stay in the air the longest and enjoyed the BBC online science lesson about invertebrates hosted by Bug Parc UK in Lenwade.

Year 4 looked at the science week link of 'time' in regards to the futures. They spent a lot of time talking about pollution of our earth and the impact humans are making over time causing global warming and issues with climate change. They created posters of the impact over time focusing on aspects such as plastic in the ocean. They also took part in a virtual live lesson where they spent time on a farm understanding the digestion process of cows which linked back to their Science topic earlier this year; teeth and digestion. After the lesson, in groups they created cow canapes to suit the diet of different age group cows in the form of a persuasive advert. The children enjoyed creating their tasty treats.

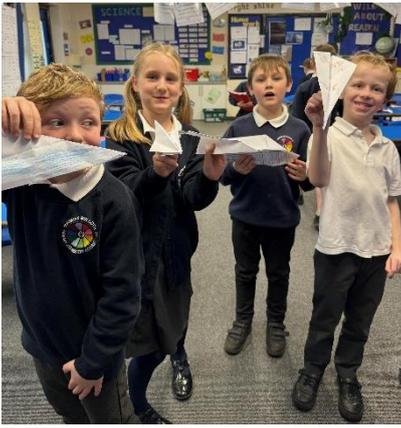
Year 5 also attempted the paper plane competition and they have been busy using litmus paper to investigate whether liquids were acid or alkali. They also had to close their eyes and put up their hand once they thought a minute had passed - answers ranged from 36 seconds to 1m 21s! They then estimated how many hops they could do and how many times they could write their name in a minute before checking.

Year 6 have been using their knowledge of adaptation to understand the threat to coral reefs. They have researched the animals and plants that live in the reef environment, why they live there and what the long-term results will be of coral bleaching.

Afterschool Club have been joining in the fun too. They have been conducting an experiment to see which conditions pepper seeds grow best in using a variety of methods from paper towels to toilet rolls. They look forward to seeing the results and eating the produce!



Some Photos from Science Week



Antarctica Class (yr R)

Antarctica class thoroughly enjoyed welcoming their Mums and other loved ones into our classroom on Monday this week to celebrate Mothering Sunday and say thanks for all they do for us. We sang a couple of songs; undertook some craft activities; real life plant and flower painting; potted some bulbs and enjoyed some drinks and biscuits after telling our loved ones why we love them. Thank you to all of those who joined us, we hope you enjoyed it as much as we did!



The class had an exciting delivery on Monday this week! They received a delivery of ten eggs and as Scientists this week, they have made predictions on what they think could be inside. So far, the guesses are 'chicks', 'ducks', 'frogs', 'dinosaurs' and 'a horse'! The children put their phonics skills to good use and wrote their predictions in their Literacy lesson...we are very impressed at how independent many of our children are becoming with their writing.



South America Class (yr4)

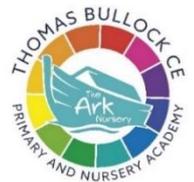
On Wednesday, the class had a visit from zoologist and cameraman Mike Linley. Mike has filmed and worked for years in the BBC filming and presenting with famous faces such as David Attenborough, Steve Backshall, Steve Irwin, Bear Grylls and many more making nature documentaries and researching a range of species. Mike came to speak to us about his time in the Amazon linking to our Geography learning. The children prepared some questions for Mike as well as sitting politely and listening intently to his amazing stories and adventures. The children said they loved every minute and could have sat listening to all of his experiences for hours.

Several children in the class also took their Level 1 Cycling this week. The instructor was very impressed by the standard and competency of their riding and saw a great improvement over the two hour session. All children achieved the standard and received a certificate.



The Ark Nursery Newsletter

This week



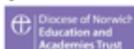
What a wonderfully busy week we have had in Ark Class!

We have been practising saying and writing our new sounds 'l' and 'h'. We have enjoyed our final week learning all about transport and retelling the story of 'The Train Ride'! The children particularly enjoyed reading the book as a song. Here is a link, if you would like to listen at home:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jHbE8kaBDKU> In maths, we have been exploring mass. Linked to this, we also looked at floating and sinking. Thank you to the mums / aunties / nanny's who were able to make our Mother's Day stay & play – the children enjoyed sharing our wonderful classroom environment and various Mother's Day activities with you. After listening to Mr Johnson's British Science Week assembly on Monday, we were super excited to be scientists ourselves for the week. We have explored all seasons, with a focus on the season we are heading into: spring. As well as this, we have observed the signs of spring we could spot out in our outdoor areas: blossom, daffodils, birds, nests, green leaves, buds etc.



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Back in our classroom, we looked at the different parts of a flower. We went to see the chicks and can't wait for them to visit our classroom so we can watch and hold them next week! We gathered lots of different objects from around the classroom, using our predicting skills to predict whether they would float or sink. We then explored this ourselves during independent learning time! As well as all of this, we have learnt even more about transport, looking at photos of and talking about our own experiences too.



Next week

In phonics, we will be learning new sounds 'r' and 'j'. Our literacy learning will focus around the story book 'Stomp, Dinosaur, Stomp'. In maths, we will explore capacity, with lots of hands on learning along the way! During our afternoons, we will begin our learning all about dinosaurs. We will also be talking further about Easter, as well as learning how things work – exploring cause and effect toys and using tools.

Learning links at home

- At the sink or in the bath, play with a selection of different-sized containers. Can you fill and empty the containers? Can you show a container that is full, nearly full, nearly empty and empty?
- Take one container and fill it with water, rice or pasta. Can you find another container that would hold more? Can you find a container that would hold less? Can you put the containers in order?

DIARY DATES

March

- 18th School Photographer (Class photos)
- 19th Reception Class Parents Evening
- 19th Yr 6 SATs briefing to parents 4.45pm
- 20th Yr 5 Asian Food Tasting
- 20th Parent/Teacher Appointments
- 21st Parent/Teacher Appointment
- 25th Open Afternoon – details to be confirmed
- 27th Yr 4 Dereham Railway
- 27th Easter Service at Church 1.30pm
- 28th INSET Day School Closed

Easter holiday 29th March – 12th April inclusive

APRIL

- 17th Yr 2 SATs briefing to parents (time to be confirmed)
- 23rd Year 1 Phonics briefing to parents (time to be confirmed)
- 25th Open Afternoon from 1pm*
- 25th Bag 2 School

MAY

- 1st Yr 5 Trip to Gressenhall – Victorian Day
- 6th Bank holiday
- 7th & 8th Yr 5 Level 2 Cycling
- 8th Federation Sports Event*
- 13th – 17th Year 6 SATs week
- 20th – 24th Year 2 SATs week

Half term 27th – 31st May

JUNE

- 24th Yr 2 Trip to Banham Zoo

JULY

- 18th Last day of term
- 19th INSET Day School Closed

*New Addition