Thomas Bullock Church of England Primary and Nursery Academy
"Let your light shine" Matthew 5:14-16
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Newsletter 17th July 2026

Dear Parents, Carers and Friends of the Nightingale Federation,

As we come to the close of another memorable school year, I would like to begin by sharing a comment from one of the many thoughtful cards, letters and emails we have received across the Federation over the past week:

We would like to take the opportunity to thank you and all your staff for another excellent year for our children. They continue to thrive and excel under the excellent guidance of you all. The reports showed excellent understanding and knowledge of them both as written by their class teachers. Done often in a very moving way. The events you put on, show how deeply you care for the children and are seeking to continually improve.

Those words beautifully capture what we strive to achieve every day across the Nightingale Federation. Every child in our family of schools is at the heart of every decision we make.

A Year of Growth and Achievement

Another year has flown by and what an incredible year it has been for the Nightingale Federation. Our federation events have once again brought children together, enabling them to build new friendships, develop confidence and celebrate being part of something bigger. Behind the scenes, staff have worked tirelessly alongside colleagues across the Federation, continually refining our curriculum, sharing best practice and ensuring the highest quality education for every pupil.

Our sporting successes have been particularly impressive, with pupils representing the Federation in swimming, football, tennis, cricket, athletics and many other competitions. Their sportsmanship, teamwork and determination have made us immensely proud.

Academically, this has been another exceptionally successful year. Year 6 pupils across the Federation have achieved outstanding outcomes, with attainment significantly above national averages. We are especially proud that Lyng CE Primary School achieved 100% of pupils reaching the expected standard in Reading, Writing and Mathematics combined, whilst Thomas Bullock CE Primary Academy achieved at least 85% combined, 92% in Mathematics, 85% in Reading and 89% in Writing, all considerably above the current national combined figure of 63%. These results reflect not only the dedication of our pupils, but also the expertise and commitment of our staff and the support of our families.

Summer Term Highlights

The final term has been packed with memorable experiences across the Federation. Sports Days brought out determination, teamwork and huge smiles, while our Friends groups once again worked incredibly hard to provide refreshments, fundraising events and opportunities that enriched children's experiences.

Our schools have enjoyed discos, summer challenges, educational visits, residential experiences, performances, workshops, Forest School, visits to the seaside, the zoo and the Norfolk Show, alongside many other exciting opportunities that have brought learning to life. Our end-of-year productions were a wonderful celebration of confidence, creativity and teamwork, showcasing the many talents of our children and providing unforgettable memories for families and staff alike.

Thank You to Our Wonderful Community

Everything we achieve is made possible through partnership.

Thank you to our parents and carers for your continued encouragement, trust and support. By ensuring your children attend regularly, arrive ready to learn, read at home, complete homework and embrace our values, you make an enormous difference to their success.

Our sincere thanks go to every Friends Association across the Federation. Your fundraising, enthusiasm and countless volunteer hours have provided opportunities and experiences that simply would not be possible without you. Thank you also to our dedicated Governors, whose support, challenge and commitment help ensure we continue striving for excellence across every school in our Federation. We are incredibly grateful to our church communities, local partners and everyone who contributes to making our schools such special places to learn and grow.

Finally, my heartfelt thanks go to every member of staff across the Nightingale Federation. Their passion, professionalism and unwavering commitment to our children are extraordinary. Together, we continue to ensure that we truly 'Let Our Light Shine.'

A Final Thank You

Our staff have been genuinely touched by the generosity and kindness shown by families over recent weeks. Whether through thoughtful cards, flowers, gifts or simply taking the time to say thank you at the school gate, every kind word has been greatly appreciated.

I wish all of our children, families, staff, governors and friends of the Federation a wonderful, restful and safe summer holiday. I hope you enjoy making special memories together and return refreshed for another exciting year ahead.

We look forward to welcoming everyone back on the 2nd September for the start of another fantastic year across the Nightingale Federation.

Warmest wishes,

Mrs Shannon O'Sullivan

Notices & Reminders

Uniform Reminder

Ahead of our return in September, please ensure that any new uniform items you purchase meet the requirements stated on the school website.

Skirts and trousers should be plain grey, worn with a white polo shirt and a school jumper or cardigan featuring the school's embroidered logo.

Birds of Dereham are our official uniform supplier. Items are available for purchase in-store or online. School shoes, not trainers, should be worn, and children should not wear items of identifiable branded clothing.

Please ensure children have appropriate outerwear for Forest Schools and outdoor learning.

Hair longer than shoulder length should be tied back. Children should have natural hair colours and simple cuts only; no hair wraps or side cuts are permitted.

A number of supermarkets are currently offering discounts on school uniforms, which may help with your back-to-school shopping.

Thank you for your co-operation in helping the children look smart and be proud members of our school team!

Communication

Over the summer holiday, the school office will be closed. Please note that we aim to respond to all communications within 72 hours of school reopening on 2nd September 2026.

Any urgent safeguarding or community concerns should be reported to the Children's Advice and Duty Line or the local police. Reports can be made anonymously if necessary.

Please find below details of the children who have achieved exceptionally well this year, in various areas. A huge well done to all of you!

Class	Significant Progress	Academy Values
Nursery	Alfred	Olivia
Reception- Arctic	Gunnar	Isabella
Reception- Antarctica	Riley	Joseph
Year 1	Eddie	Grace
Year 2	Elena	George
Year 3	Thomas	Charlotte
Year 4	Hugo	Marianne
Year 5	Jessica	Quinn

Year 6 Awards

Significant Progress	Theo
Academy Values	Dexter
PE Boy	Harry
PE Girl	Eva
Environment	Edward
Attainment	Rosie
Governors Future Leader	Freddie

Calendar Dates 2026-27

Autumn 2026
Tues 1st Sep 2026 - Inset day
Wed 2nd Sep - Children back to school
21st Sept – individual and sibling photos
1st October – Yr 6 NCMP height & weight checks
22nd October – break up for half term
Fri 23rd Oct - Inset day
2nd November – Children back to school
Fri 18th Dec - Children finish at **12pm**, **break up for Christmas**

Spring 2027
Mon 4th Jan 2027 - Inset day
Tues 5th Jan - Children back to school
Fri 12th Feb – break up for half term
22nd Feb – Children back to school
2nd March – YR NCMP- height & weight checks / vision & hearing
15th March – Class Photos
Thurs 25th March - Children finish at **12pm**, **break up for Easter**

Summer 2027
Mon 12th April 2027 - Inset day
Tues 13th April - Children back to school
3rd May – BANK HOLIDAY – school closed
28th May – break up for half term
Mon 7th June - Inset day
8th June – children back to school
Wed 21st July - Children finish at **12pm**, **break up for summer**

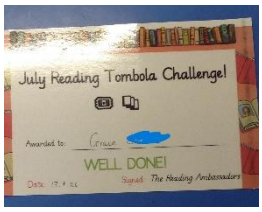
A Summer of Reading

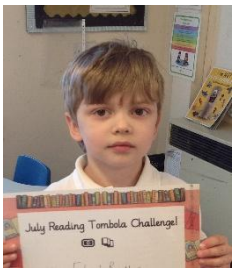
A massive well done to everyone who entered our July Reading Tombola! We were delighted by the overwhelming response and loved seeing so many children taking part.

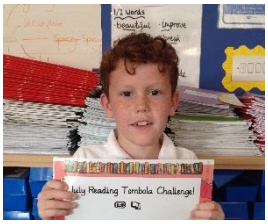
A big thank you to FOSS for their generous support of this initiative.

Congratulations to our winners who all received a book token!

- **EYFS**: Edward
- **KS1**: Grace
- **Lower KS2**: Albert
- **Upper KS2**: Kai





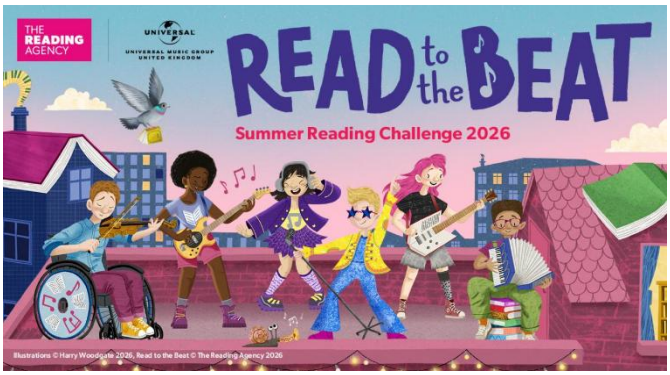


Keep the Reading Going!

Why not build on your reading success by taking part in the Summer Reading Challenge 2026 – Read to the Beat at your local library? This free challenge encourages children aged 4–11 to keep reading throughout the summer holidays.

Children can:

- Borrow books from the library.
- Set their own reading goals.
- Collect reward stickers.
- Earn a certificate and medal when they complete the challenge.



Simply pop into your local library to sign up – library membership is free, making it a great way to keep children reading all summer long!

More details: https://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk