Thomas Bullock Church of England Primary and Nursery Academy
"Let your light shine" Matthew 5:14-16
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NEWSLETTER

22nd July 2025

Dear Parents, Carers and Friends of Thomas Bullock

This year, I want to begin my end of term letter by sharing a comment from one of the many thank you cards, letters and emails we have received across the Federation recently:

"Thank you to all the teachers and staff for all the hard work this year for our school and community in making Thomas Bullock such a wonderful place for our children to attend each day. We are very grateful"

Wow, just wow! This perfectly sums up what we strive for every day. Our whole team shares one purpose: to help each of our 232 children shine brightly, grow in strength and character, and be confident and prepared for a wonderful future.

A Year of Achievement
In April 2025, we were delighted to receive an Outstanding in all areas Ofsted Section 8 judgement. This recognises the consistent excellence at Thomas Bullock CE Academy.

Our End of Year 6 SATs results were equally impressive. With 96.4% achieving the expected standard, we are over 41% above the Norfolk average and 34% above National. For the fourth year running, we rank among the top schools nationally for progress and academic success.

Overcoming Challenges with Community Spirit
This year brought challenges, including major building work. After a 16 month closure, our school hall reopened in January, restoring an essential space for assemblies, PE and performances. We built new toilets across the school, replacing original ones from 40 years ago! In June, we began construction of our new Nursery and Wraparound Care base, a huge step forward for our Early Years provision. Despite these disruptions, our community stayed positive and adaptable.

A Summer Term Full of Memories
This summer term has been full of fun and learning. We enjoyed a wonderful celebration service led by Reverend Laura, and several Federation events helped children build friendships and staff deepen collaboration.

Our PE team led two year groups to County Finals in Tennis, and we also competed strongly in Cricket. The term included two lively Sports Days, community events like a Yard Sale, Fete and Disco, and a hilarious Year 6 Production.

Year 6 pupils enjoyed an unforgettable residential trip, while our youngest learners celebrated at our second annual Nursery Graduation.

Pupils also took part in trips to the Norfolk Show, the seaside, zoo, author visits, food-making workshops, choir performances and much more.

Looking Ahead: New Nursery and Wraparound Care
We are excited to open our new Nursery and Wraparound Care base on 3 September 2025. This purpose-built facility will be over 300 per cent larger than our current space and feature an outdoor learning area to complement our excellent Reception provision.

Designed for children aged 2 to 4, it will have the latest educational technology and world-class resources from Early Excellence. It will be a beacon for school-based nurseries, combining nurturing care with strong school readiness. The nursery will also include a high-quality Transition Class for our Rising 4s, ensuring a smooth move into Reception and maintaining the high standards you expect.

Next year, the school will expand to nine classrooms, reflecting our growing community and commitment to excellent learning environments.

A Heartfelt Thank You
We thrive because of the amazing support from:

- Parents, who prepare children for learning and support reading and homework
- Our fantastic FOSS team, for their tireless fundraising and community spirit
- Our Governors, led by Chair Jo Tinson and Vice Chair Kim Findley, for their support and challenge
- Reverend Laura and the local Church, for their ongoing work with our children
- The Thomas Bullock Trust, whose funding keeps trips affordable and supports outdoor learning, music and celebrations
- Our Parish Council and local residents, for their involvement and encouragement
- Our DNEAT Academy Principal, for upholding high standards across the Federation
- Mrs Ward, our School Business Manager, and her team, who keep everything running smoothly
- Our devoted teachers and support staff, who give their time beyond school hours to create a safe and inspiring environment

Thank you all for helping us let our light shine brightly every day.

Finally, from all of us thank you to everyone who has sent kind words, messages, cards and thoughtful gifts to our staff. Your generosity means so much and truly keeps us going.

To every child, family and friend of Thomas Bullock CE Academy, we wish you a joyful, restful and sunshine filled summer holiday. Wear sunscreen and hats and have lots of fun!

We look forward to welcoming you back on September 3rd at 8:40am.

Warmest wishes,

Mrs O'Sullivan

END OF YEAR AWARDS 2025

Class	Significant Progress	6 Academy Values
Nursery	Tommy	Woody
Reception	Isabella O	Eddie S
Year 1	Stuart	Apphia
Year 2	Eva	Charlie
Year 3	Teddy	Emma
Year 4	Mason	Ellsie
Year 5	Halle F	Harry P

Class	Significant Progress	6 Academy Values	PE	Environment	Attainment	Governors' Future Leader
Year 6	Fern	Elsa	Esme & Cole	Harry T	Leila	Bailey

We wish our wonderful year 6 class every happiness and success as they move up to their High Schools in September.

Shining Lights of the Half Term

Ark Nursery — **Olivia** is an incredibly kind and caring member of our class, always looking out for her peers. **Charlie** is a brilliant role model to her peers - not only is she kind, but she follows the nursery rules, taking responsibility for resources and encouraging others to do the same.

Antarctica Class — **Ava-Mae** for always being kind, caring and respectful to her peers and everyone around her. **Brady** for having a fantastic half term. He has worked extremely hard; developing resilience and showing kindness and respect for those around him - encouraging and supporting his peers in tricky tasks.

Oceania Class — **Matilda** for consistently demonstrating this half term's value of community. She has helped to keep the local area of Shipdham clean and tidy by conducting litter picks on her way to school.**Billy-Joe** for consistently demonstrating this half term's value of community. He always brings his friends together to play well as a mini community!

Africa Class (yr 2) — **Violet** for always contributing positively to our classroom community. Violet shows great enthusiasm to learn, demonstrates curiosity in all areas and encourages others through her positive attitude.

Christopher for showing great care and respect for his classroom community. He always shows genuine appreciation, using wonderful manners and treating others with kindness and respect.

Europe Class (yr 3) **Phoenix** for consistently demonstrating this half term's value of community. He shows great team work skills and encourages others to work together. Additionally, Phoenix has worked hard to improve his handwriting!
Bethany for consistently demonstrating this half term's value of community. She will always try to include others in games and group work. Bethany has finished the half term strong with some impressive work in the classroom too.

S America Class (yr 4) **Paisley** for consistently living out this half term's value of community. She makes everyone feel welcome and included, showing kindness to everyone she meets. Paisley is always the first to offer help, and her caring nature brings warmth and positivity to our classroom. **Reuben** for truly embodying this half term's value of community. He is incredibly kind and mature, always approaching others with support and understanding. Reuben treats everyone with fairness and plays a key role in group activities, ensuring that everyone feels included and valued. His thoughtful and inclusive nature makes a big difference in our classroom.

Asia Class (yr 5) **Amelia** for consistently demonstrating this half term's value of community**.** She is always the first to offer help—whether it's asking if there are any jobs to do or noticing when someone is feeling upset. Amelia is quick to step in, showing kindness and support to lift others' spirits. Her caring nature and thoughtful actions have a genuinely positive impact on our class community.
Dexter for consistently demonstrating this half term's value of **c**ommunity**.** Within our classroom community, he is always ready to assist others with their work and serves as an exceptionally supportive talk partner. His kindness, teamwork, and willingness to help others truly embody the spirit of community.

Nursery Graduation

What a wonderful event our Nursery Graduation was. A huge thank you to all of our families for attending and celebrating our amazing nursery children - we are so proud of each and every one of them! They are all so ready for reception and we wish them all the luck as they continue through the school. Happy Summer!

Oceania Class (yr 1)

The new Year One children have had a 'whale' of a time exploring our new classroom and finding out about each other and Mr Johnson! Don't forget your summer challenge about Oceania. Have a great summer holiday!

School Games Award

We are pleased to announce that Thomas Bullock has achieved the School Games Gold Mark Award for the 2024/25 academic year. The School Games Mark is a Government-led award scheme launched in 2012, facilitated by the Youth Sport Trust to reward schools for their commitment to the development of competition across their school and into the community, and we are delighted to have been recognised for our success.

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. 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 offices will be closed. Please note that we aim to respond to all communications within 72 hours of school reopening on 3 September 2025. 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.