Lyng Church of England Primary Academy

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Newsletter 10 July 2026

Federation Celebrations this Half Term

This half term has been an extraordinary period of celebration across the Nightingale Federation. We have welcomed two SIAMS inspections, and earlier in the Spring Term Lyng received its Ofsted inspection. All three were incredibly positive and deeply affirming. Inspectors highlighted our inclusion, behaviour, achievement and curriculum as areas of real strength, describing practice across our schools as outstanding, fabulous and exceptional.

At SIAMS last week, the inspector shared that although she visits so many schools, ours were simply "fabulous, fabulous, fabulous" and that she would feel lucky to send her own children to our schools. This was a wonderful affirmation of the care, commitment and excellence that define our Federation.

Across all inspections and celebrations, we were validated in the most important way: that we are doing the right things for our children. We care deeply for them, we champion their achievements, and we ensure that every child shines and flourishes in whatever they do, enjoying school as much as possible.

During Lyng's Sports Day, I shared with a parent how often our leadership team is asked to support more widely, even nationally, and how proud I am of them. The parent asked that this be shared more broadly. It was a lovely reminder of how much our community values the work we do and how our staff help children flourish every day.

Awards and Nominations Across the Federation

This year, our Federation has been recognised at both county and trust level. We were nominated for the Norfolk Flourish Awards, and Thomas Bullock was awarded Bronze in the Pearson National Teaching Awards for Making a Difference – Primary School of the Year. This national award celebrates schools that make an exceptional impact on their communities, and being recognised at this level is a testament to the dedication, care and ambition shown every day by our staff and pupils.

At the DNEAT Yearly Trust Awards, our Federation was celebrated once again, with staff recognised for their exceptional contributions across leadership, inclusion, early years, curriculum excellence and community impact. These awards highlight the strength and depth of expertise across our schools and reflect how our values are lived out daily in classrooms, corridors and playgrounds.

Seven members of staff were shortlisted for trust-wide awards across 42 schools and central teams, under the values of Wisdom, Courage, Kindness and Community:

- Community – Amazing attendance and parent support – Mrs Julia Gibb
- Kindness – Exceptional inclusion and SEND support – Mrs Nicola Smith
- Courage – Maths leadership across Norfolk and beyond – Mrs Leona Newcombe

In the Wisdom category, we achieved something truly exceptional: three of the four shortlisted candidates across the entire trust were from our Federation. This reflects the strength, expertise and influence of our leadership team.

- Wisdom – Excellence within his setting and beyond – Executive Deputy Mr Nick Wade
- Wisdom – English leadership across Norfolk and beyond – Mrs Nancy Henman
- Community – EYFS excellence and Nursery development – Mrs Debbie Marjoram

We were also delighted to celebrate one of the four winners on the night:

- Miss Tiffany Allen – recognised for her exceptional teaching of early reading, transformational phonics practice and leadership of PSHE and RSE. Her work was highlighted during Ofsted as demonstrating the exceptional potential of Lyng's use of our Federation curriculum, through precision teaching, strong links across subjects and a progressive, sequential approach that enables pupils to flourish.

Every member of our incredible team could have been nominated and shortlisted. We are so fortunate to have staff who are truly the best any school could ever hope for. It was wonderful to see them shine their lights so brightly on the night, celebrating what they do so well.

A Special Honour at the Norfolk Show

Another highlight this term was at the Norfolk Show, where our Federation's Year 4 pupils were chosen as the only choir out of more than 100 Church of England schools to sing at the Bishop's Service. It was a huge honour to be invited and to perform. Our Choir Lead, Mrs Olivia Godfrey, and Music Teacher, Mrs Anna Drake, led the children so beautifully. They were incredible, and it takes huge courage to perform at such a significant event. The children flourished in every sense — musically, emotionally and spiritually — and we are so proud of them.

Across the Federation, we continue to grow, excel and shine. What a half term it has been.

FOLS News

There is still time to bring in any unwanted books for the FOLS book table, which they are hosting at Morrisons in Dereham, during the summer holidays. Please drop any donations off at the office.

Please also think ahead to cooler weather (!) and bring in any donations of coats that your children have outgrown, in readiness for the FOLS coat swap in the autumn term.

Thank you for your support.

Staffing News

We are incrediby sad to be saying goodbye to Mrs Lemon at the end of this academic year. She has been with us for 12 years and will be missed by everyone in our school community. We wish her all the best for the future and her new adventures, whatever they may be!

Miss Jacobs will be joining Willow Class as a Teaching Assistant from September. Reception parents may already have seen her in school, while she has been undertaking her work placement with us, as part of her college course. We are pleased to formally welcome her to Lyng!

We are also pleased to welcome Miss Walsgrove to Lyng. She will be covering as class teacher in Willow Class, while Miss Allen is on maternity leave. She has taught across both Early Years and KS1 and has gained lots of experience working in schools both in Sheffield and Norfolk. She previously worked at Lyng several years ago as a Teaching Assistant while studying for her degree, so it is lovely to welcome her back. She is looking forward to getting to know all the children as well as other members of our school community.

Shining Lights of the Half Term

Cherry Class - Yr R
Clementine is our Shining Light of the Half Term for consistently demonstrating this half term's value of caring for the environment. Clementine has been instrumental in her efforts in our Eco activities and making sure she does everything she can in our class to care for the environment.

Willow Class – Year 1
Oscar is our Shining Light of the Half Term for consistently demonstrating this half term's value of caring for the environment. Oscar has shown great care towards nature and the environment. He always collects any litter and is kind to plants and animals.

Willow Class – Year 2
Martha is our Shining Light of the Half Term for consistently demonstrating this half term's value of caring for the environment. Martha has engaged well in the Eco afterschool club, having brilliant ideas and contributions!

Rowan Class - Year 3
Bronwyn is our Shining Light of the Half Term for consistently demonstrating this half term's value of caring for the environment. Helping to keep the school litter free. Bronwyn consistently thinks about how to care for her surroundings.

Rowan Class - Year 4
William is our Shining Light of the Half Term for consistently demonstrating this half term's value of caring for the environment. Helping to keep the school litter free.William shows great care towards the environment.

Oak Class – Year 5
Autumn is our Shining Light of the Half Term for consistently demonstrating this half term's value of Environment. Autumn has been fantastic when it comes to keeping the classroom clean, tidy and ship-shape. Following an art activity or something a bit messy, you look up and there is Autumn at the sink, getting stuck in, helping to clean up without being asked or instructed. You've been a huge help Autumn - thank you.

Oak Class – Year 6
Primrose is our Shining Light of the Half Term for consistently demonstrating this half term's value of Environment. Primrose has been a key member of the Eco Warriors Team, supported by Mrs Taylor this year. She has supported discussions of great ideas to ensure that the school is being as eco-conscious as possible and helps keep the school environment itself clean and tidy.

WOW!

Hugo (yr 1) took part in his Karate club's Martial Arts East open championship, where he achieved a bronze trophy in his under 10 lower grade Kumite event.

Rowan (yr R) Rowan played his first football match on Saturday, a friendly ahead of his first season playing a year up in the Under 7s league. He was team captain and helped his team to a 12–1 win, scoring three goals. He is also continuing his training alongside this at the Norwich City Development Centre.

Clementine (yr R) Clementine completed her first gymnastics competition this weekend completing the floor, vault and beam routines. She worked hard, practiced and was awarded a gold medal.

Willow J (yr 1) Willow has recently taken part in a gymnastics competition. She did a beam and vault routine and won a medal!

George (yr 2) has grown some sunflowers at home which are doing really well thanks to his green fingers!

Please continue to send in your "Wow" moments for achievements out of school using the link below: https://forms.gle/q6MZXdmzvtNHvJp19

This Week's Attendance

Our whole school attendance this week is 96.59%
The award for the best year group attendance goes to year 3 who have achieved 100% this week!

Please see our term dates below for the new academic year, to help with planning your diary dates:

TERM DATES 2026-27

Autumn 2026
Tues 1st Sep 2026 - Inset day
Wed 2nd Sep - Children back to school
Fri 23rd Oct - Inset day
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
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
Mon 7th June - Inset day
Wed 21st July - Children finish at **12pm**, **break up for summer**

Diary Dates
2025-26

July

10th Willow Class to Banham Zoo
13th Y6 Leavers' Service at St Margaret's Church, Lyng 9.30am
14th Y6 Leavers' Performances 1.30pm and 4.45pm
15th New Intake Stay and Play 9.30 - 11.00 (with parents)
16th New Intake Stay and Play 9.30 - 11.30am (without parents)
15th – 17th Y6 to Eaton Vale
17th Break up for summer – **school finishes at 12pm**