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

10th October 2025

Dear parents, carers and friends of The Nightingale Federation

A heartfelt thank you and fond farewell to Jennie Ward, our incredible Federation Business Manager, from Shannon, Nick, Julia and everyone at Thomas Bullock CE Primary Academy and Lyng CE Primary Academy.
After an amazing 25 years of dedicated service, Jennie is stepping away, and while we're excited for what lies ahead for her, she will be deeply missed by us all.
Jennie has been a constant source of strength, wisdom, friendship and support across our schools and is truly part of the fabric of the Shipdham community. Her unwavering professionalism, kindness, and commitment have shaped so much of who we are today.
She is highly respected by colleagues across DNEAT and DONESC, and has always gone above and beyond to support staff, children, and families alike.
Jennie, there are no thanks big enough and your legacy will live on in every corner of our schools. Thank you for everything you've given, and for being such a valued part of our journey.

Harvest Festival

On Thursday 9th October, our Reception to Year 6 children visited the church to celebrate the Harvest Festival. It was wonderful to see so many families and friends join us for this special occasion. The children sang beautifully, and the Ethos Team led us in thoughtful prayers and thanksgiving. A heartfelt thank you to everyone who contributed food donations, your generosity was truly overwhelming. Non-perishable items were donated to the charity YANA, while perishable goods were added to the allotment donations outside the church, available for all villagers to enjoy.

Reading Ambassadors

This week we appointed our Reading ambassadors. Our reading ambassadors encourage a love for reading, organise book related events and raise a profile for reading throughout the school.

Year 3	Violet	Charlotte
Year 4	Arthur	Marianne
Year 5	Georgia	Lillie-May
Year 6	Amelia	Elizabeth

A message from Flo, Amelia and the rest of the School Council Team.

“This week we have had our first school council meeting! It was a huge success and we have got lots of new ideas to improve our school. Our school council team are excited to tell you that we may be bringing new things to our amazing school. These are some of the ideas and proposals that we said we will try to bring to the school:

- Exciting new equipment
- A running track
- Tuck shop for school items
- More equipment for KS1
- Redo the peace garden

These are but some ideas for the School.”

Celebrating Grandparents, Achievements & Exciting Events Ahead!

We have absolutely loved welcoming grandparents into our schools to celebrate International Grandparents' Day (Sunday 5th October). Across the Federation, we received the most wonderful and kind comments about our warm welcome and the calm, caring environment we foster. It was a true celebration of community, and we thank all the families who took part.

Looking ahead, we're excited to announce a series of open events in the coming weeks and months. Please do come along, we'd love to see more of you in school! These events are a great way to experience our vibrant learning environment, meet our dedicated staff, and get involved in your children's education.

Parents Evenings-

Tuesday 21st October and Wednesday 22nd October. Please book your appointments via Arbor.

Book Look – 3pm Monday 13th October in our school hall.

Don't forget, next week we are holding our Open Mornings and Evenings.

These events will include:

- Performances by the school choir (mornings only)
- Refreshments
- Opportunities to tour the school
- Staff available to answer any questions

We hope you can join us!

Thomas Bullock CE Primary and Nursery Academy

Prospective parents of Pre School and Nursery children due to start school September 2026 are invited to our open sessions on:

Wednesday 15th October 09:15-10:15
Thursday 16th October 17:00 -18.00

There will be a short presentation and tour of the school.
Refreshments will be available.
If you are unable to attend but would like to visit please contact the school office to arrange a suitable time 01362 820300.

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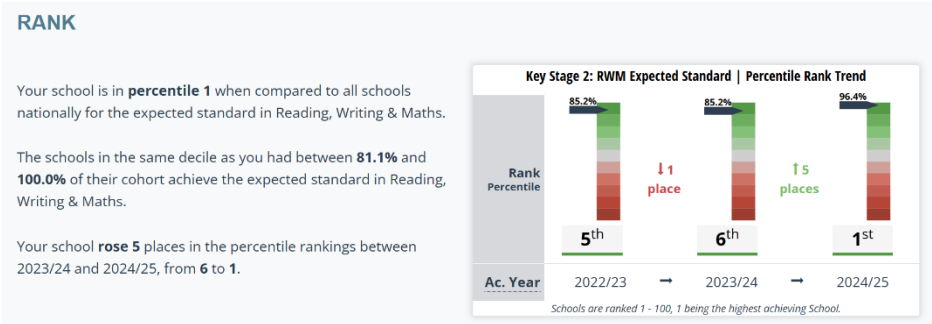
Incredible National Recognition

We are absolutely thrilled to share some amazing news:
Thomas Bullock is officially in the top 1% of schools nationally.
Lyng sits proudly in the top 10%.

This is a phenomenal achievement and reflects the dedication of our staff, the hard work of our pupils, and the support of our families.



Last week, Mr Wade and I had the honour of being invited to speak at the PiXL National Conference, where we presented on improving outcomes and driving learning excellence. It was a privilege to represent our Federation on such a large national stage, speaking to educators from across the country. We often speak to our children about our core values of courage and community. We certainly channelled both in abundance during this moment.

Shining Lights of the Week

Ark Class (Nursery) Olivia for always being a kind friend to others in the class and showing respect. You are always smiling and putting a smile on other people's faces too!

Artic Class (Yr R) Arthur for his engagement in lessons and his excellent manners. Arthur has been keen to share his thoughts during lessons and has displayed a wonderful use of manners.

Antarctica Class (Yr R) Albie for showing huge respect to everyone around him. He has been an exceptional role model for his peers and tried really hard in his learning too!

Oceania Class (Yr 1) Poppy for showing a great deal of respect and kindness towards her grandparents and other visiting grandparents on 'Grandparents Day'.

Africa Class (Yr 2) Matilda for being a wonderful role model. She always has a positive attitude and demonstrates great enthusiasm.

Europe Class (Yr 3) Albert for always showing readiness to learn and an enthusiasm to improve. He is a pleasure to have in the classroom and as a classmate to others. Albert consistently produces great writing in English which we all enjoy reading!

S America Class (Yr 4) The whole of Year 4 for their incredible behaviour, manners and attentive listening on our school trip. We had many compliments on our class from both the museum and the wider public and we couldn't be prouder of them.

Asia Class (Yr 5) George for his determination to improve his presentation and handwriting. He is taking extra care to form and join his letters correctly.

N America Class (Yr 6) Amelia for her willingness to contribute to discussions and answer questions in class. It's fantastic to see your confidence grow in Year 6

This week's overall attendance 96%. Oceania Class (Year 1) 99%

OUR KEY LEARNING QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK

Year Group	Key Learning Questions
1	Can we map our local area?
2	Who was Charles I and what was the English Civil War?
3	What are the Countries of the UK?
4	How did the Romans try to defend the land they took while taking more?
5	How did the Anglo-Saxons converting to Christianity change England?
6	What are Hieroglyphics?

NSPCC Kindness Challenge

We would all like to give a great big thank you to Matilda in Year 1, who has made a cake for every member of staff today for the NSPCC Kindness Challenge.

Mrs O'Sullivan gave Matilda a Head Teachers Award for her kindness. Well done Matilda!

WOW MOMENTS!

Freddie (Yr 1) Freddie was awarded 'U6 Ball of the Week' at Wymondham Rugby Club on Sunday for listening, winning tags and great team work.

Esther (Yr 2) Esther came joint first in her age group at her first gymnastics competition!

Dottie (Yr 3) Dottie recently took part in a dance show at Gresham's Auden Theatre in Holt, to celebrate the 20th Anniversary of Centre Stage Dance school. She performed in her two Modern dances so well! We are very proud! Well Done Dottie!

Lewis (Yr 5) Completed his first junior parkrun and came 1st!

Eva (Yr 6) Eva passed her stage 5 swimming and has moved up to stage 6

Please remember to continue to send in your ***WOW*** moments for achievements out of school
https://forms.gle/DV4RoVbQGpijcUMV7

Huge well done to Jo Dewing on her lifetime achievement award from the Norfolk Cricket Board. Jo has supported the school in many ways over the years and more recently as a trustee of the Thomas Bullock Trust.

Africa (Yr 2) In DT, Year 2 have been following their designs to begin creating their crowns. They look forward to constructing them next week!

Linked to their current History topics, both Year 4 and Year 6 have enjoyed exciting trips to Norwich Castle Museum.

Our **Year 6** pupils explored ancient artefacts and took part in a fascinating debate about whether it is right to remove treasures from Egyptian tombs.

Meanwhile, **Year 4** discovered artefacts found locally from the Iceni tribe and learned about their relationship with the Romans. They even made their own Iceni torcs — beautiful necklaces worn by the tribe — and even learnt what it might have been like to fight like real Roman soldiers!

Both year groups had a fantastic time, and the visit truly deepened their understanding of the Ancient Egyptians and the Romans !

The Ark Nursery Newsletter

This week

This week we have learnt a new Literacy text – 'Rosie's Walk', which began with us finding some eggs in our Nursery classroom! We became text detectives to find the hen that laid these eggs! We also practised our actions for the story around our classroom – moving under, across, around and in between places using our bodies. We even created our own storymaps to help retell the story orally. In Maths, we have been beginning to look at 'sorting' objects by colour, shape and size – remembering the rule to help us sort different objects. We have also learnt all about Harvest and how we harvest food – by exploring different vegetables! We have had lots of practice of our Harvest Song – 'the oats, beans and barley grow', even making up our own actions for the song.

Next week:

Next week we are learning a new literacy text called 'You Choose' – where we will be exploring our homes and families! We will also be continuing our maths learning of sorting, and making our own rule for sorting objects in our classroom. We will also be exploring different materials and making marks to represent our families and people close to us!

Learning Links at home:

- Can you sort your clothes into colours? Can you sort them by person? (all of my clothes are in this pile!)
- Muffin trays – are great for sorting pom poms/beads by colour!
- Sorting playing cards into black and red colours. Even suits!
- Sorting your toys into soft/ hard. Can you sort your toys and someone else's? (my toys are in this pile!)
- Can you sort cutlery? – spoons go here, then forks, then knives.
- Can you have a go at putting your coat/ jumpers on? Can you do the buttons/ zip up?
- Can you describe your home? Who do you live with? Can you have a go at drawing them?

DIARY DATES

October
13th – Year 6 NCMP 1-2pm
13th – Book Look at 3pm in school hall*
21st – Parents Evening*
22nd - Parents Evening*
24th – Last day of half term
October Half term week 27th – 31st October

November
20th – Reception Trip to High Lodge*
21st – Flu Immunisations

December
5th – Christmas Tree Festival at All Saints Church Shipdham
11th – Year 1 trip to Holkham Hall
17th - Christmas Lunch
19th – School finishes at 12pm
19th – Last day of Term
Christmas Holiday Monday 22nd December – Monday 5th January 2026

January
6th – Back to school

* New addition