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

11th July 2025

Dear parents, carers and friends of The Nightingale Federation

As we enter our penultimate week (and two days) of the Summer Term, I'm amazed at how quickly this half-term has flown by.

Sporting Success and Exciting Opportunities
Over the past fortnight, pupils across The Nightingale Federation have taken part in a variety of sporting events including an event organised by the Schools Sports Partnership for the year 5 girls called ''This Girl Can', the day was a fantastic celebration of teamwork, determination and enjoyment - more details further down in the Newsletter.

Meanwhile, Year 6 pupils at Thomas Bullock enjoyed their Eton Vale residential. This marks our final residential trip as individual schools. From next year, our Federation schools will share residential experiences, helping to further strengthen our community and shared values.

Reception Readiness and Welcoming New Families
This week, we held a successful Reception Readiness Breakfast. We welcomed new families and helped them connect with each other and with our staff team. Thank you to everyone who attended and helped to make our new families feel so welcome.

Transition and Move-Up Days
Next week marks an important period of transition for our Year 6 pupils. Pupils moving to Dereham high schools will attend their induction from Friday 18 to Tuesday 22 July.
We will also be holding our whole-school Move-Up Days on Monday 21st July and the morning of 22nd July with children being able to go home at 12:00. These give all pupils a chance to meet their new teachers and begin preparing for the year ahead. Our staff are very much looking forward to these exciting days.

End of Year Celebrations
Over the next week and half, we are also looking forward to the year 6 performance of 'An Inspector Calls' over 2 evenings (tickets still available), final class trips and the end of year awards service at Church.

End of Year Reports
On Monday 14 July, we will be sending home your child's End of Year Report. This will include their national assessment data (EYFS, Phonics, Year 2, Year 4 Multiplication and Year 6 SATs results). Reports will be sent via email through Arbor. Please notify the school office if your contact details have recently changed.

Celebrating Achievement

We are exceptionally proud of our externally moderated Federation End of Key Stage 2 SATs results. Our dedicated teaching and support staff work tirelessly to ensure that all children reach their full potential. These results reflect years of hard work and a commitment to excellence.

Recent research has shown a strong link between strong KS2 outcomes and future earnings. This highlights the importance of our continued focus on high standards, a rich and engaging curriculum, and excellent pupil achievement. Research HERE

This year, our Federation is celebrating data that places us in the top percentiles both nationally and within Norfolk. National Data HERE

We could not be prouder of our pupils, our Year 6 staff teams, and all of our incredible teaching staff from our Outstanding Nursery through to our superb Year 6 teachers, and our supportive school community. Our pupils truly receive a 'Top Class Education' and opportunities to let their light shine!

Subject	**Met the Expected Standard:** Thomas Bullock	**Met the Expected Standard:** Nationally	**Met the Greater Depth Standard:** Thomas Bullock	**Met the Greater Depth (STC) Standard:** Nationally	**Average scaled score:** Thomas Bullock	**Average Scaled score:** Nationally
Reading,Writing,Maths (combined)	96.4%	62%	18%	8%		
Reading	96.4%	75%	61%	33%	110	106
Grammar, Punctuation & Spelling	100%	73%	54%	28%	110	105
Maths	100%	74%	57%	25%	110	105
Writing (Externally Moderated Teacher Assessment)	96.4%	72%	21%	12%		
Science (Teacher Assessment)	96.4%	82%				

We look forward to celebrating with our wonderful Year 6 pupils and all those moving on to new schools in the coming days.

Finally, towards the end of this Newsletter are the School Term and Holiday Dates for next year.

Thank you for your continued support.

Parking

Unfortunately, we continue to receive complaints from Shipdham residents about the unsafe parking practises of some of our parents. PLEASE consider where you park when dropping off your child, so that you are not blocking driveways or leaving your car where it could inconvenience others.

The weather continues to be lovely so if you are able, please walk your child to school. Thank you.

Shining Lights of the Week

Ark Class (Nursery)	**Iris** for her brilliant engagement in carpet time learning this week. Iris has listened carefully and has shown confidence in talking aloud.
Antarctic Class (yr R)	**Charlie** for a wonderful week with brilliant efforts in his writing and fine motor skills!
Oceania Class (yr 1)	**Elodie** for speaking passionately about experiences she has had both in and out of school. She will often bring in additional pieces of work from home or objects from places she has visited to share with the class.
Africa Class (yr 2)	**Callie** for always showing great perseverance in her learning. She shows super determination and a positive attitude in all areas of learning.
Europe Class (yr 3)	**Romeo** for always showing great listening in everything he does. He will also consistently show readiness as well as trying his hardest inside and outside the classroom.
S America Class (yr 4)	**George Hi** for his hard work and perseverance with his handwriting. He has taken time with his letter formation and we have seen a huge improvement in his presentation. Well done, George.
Asia Class (yr 5)	**Rory** for his fantastic attitude and engagement in English lessons. He has been working extremely hard to ensure all his sentences make sense and are accurately punctuated. He has also been making excellent use of editing time to look up and correct spelling mistakes. Very well done, Rory!
N America Class (yr 6)	**Isla** for her perseverance and patience when creating her pursuits of curves in maths. It wasn't easy to start with but you excelled by sticking at it.

This week's overall attendance 96.6%. South America Class (yr 4) 99.6%

Thank you and Upcoming Events!

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to the amazing Friends of Shipdham School (FOSS) for organising such a fantastic Summer Fete. Your hard work, creativity, and generosity made the day truly special. An amazing £1456.35 was raised.

Once again, the annual Yard Sale proved a huge success with a great turnout and many happy customers, both buying and selling, it raised £832.84 for school funds.

A big thank you as well to our wonderful school community for attending and supporting. Your enthusiasm and involvement are what make events like this so meaningful. We're proud to be part of such a vibrant and supportive community.

Don't forget there is a coffee morning and pre-loved sale in the school hall on the last day of term Tuesday 22nd July at 11.30. Please come along, there are many excellent quality items of uniform at bargain prices. FOSS would kindly request any donations of clean, good quality uniform (particularly logo jumpers / cardigans and shoes) by Friday 18th July. Children will be able to go home with their parents after the event.

If anyone would like to join our wonderful FOSS team of committee members or FOSS helpers, please do get in touch. We'd love to hear from you

<u>Art Gallery - Invitation</u>

There will be an opportunity for parents of children in Years 4, 5 and 6 to come into school on Tuesday 15th July 8.30-8.50am to view their children's art work in the school hall.

OUR KEY LEARNING QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK

Year Group	Key Learning Questions
1	Can we plan a trip to the seaside?
2	What is it like to live in urban Kenya?
3	How was Ancient Egyptian society structured?
4	What is California like and who lives there?
5	How did Baghdad compare to London in 900CE?

Nightingale SEND Questionnaire Results

Thank you for taking the time to complete our SEND Questionnaire. We are very proud of the positive comments we have received.

Here are some of the wonderful comments we have received:

'Teachers are proactive and have a good understanding of need.'
'I would just like to share that I think the support my son gets is absolutely amazing.'
'Good communication, reviews of targets and updating regularly as needed.'
'I think you support my child well.'
'The SEN plan set with the teacher is ideal.'

Here are the headlines:

95% of parents and carers are aware of their child's support plan
90% of parents and carers understand their child's support plan and the help they receive in school
85% of parents and carers feel that their child is making good progress against their SEND targets
80% of parents of parents and carers are happy with the SEND support their child receives in school

The survey highlighted that some parents were unable to attend the SEND parents' evenings. In response to this feedback we will offer alternatives for parents and carers who are unable to attend.

In response to the survey we are planning several parent courses which will be held in school these include An Introduction to SEND Support in school, Norfolk STEPS for parents and Zones of Regulation. These will be communicated via the school newsletter and email in the autumn.

Please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Smith via the school offices if you have any queries about your child's SEN needs.

Supporting Transitions

We understand that this can be an anxious time of year for many children. The latest newsletter from Norfolk & Waveney Family Action contains lots of great advice to support your child with change transitions. Please click on the following link to access the newsletter.

Family Action's Norfolk & Waveney Autism/ADHD Support Service

WOW MOMENTS!

Bobbie (yr 3) has gone up a stage in swimming, amazing Bobbie - well done!

Please remember to continue to send in your ***WOW Moments*** *for achievements*
https://forms.gle/DV4RoVbQGpijcUMV7

Asia Class (yr 5)

Last week, Asia class were lucky enough to be invited to an impressive performance of 'The Wizard of Oz' at Northgate High School's outdoor theatre. What a performance it was! We were blown away by the production team's attention to detail - from the impressive costumes to the ever-changing set. Hopefully, this has inspired some of our students to pursue similar ventures in the future!

Europe Class (yr 3)

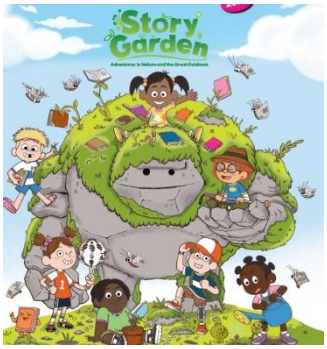
Europe Class continued the theme of Greece this week by creating Greek pottery out of clay. Year 3 had already planned, practiced with playdough and designed their pots but it was brilliant to see their final pieces. Next week, we paint them!

Asia Class (yr 5) – 'This Girl Can'

Yr 5 girls took part in a 'This Girl Can' Festival at Taverham High School. There were over 150 girls taking part. Team TB had lots of fun trying to achieve their personal best in 7 multi-sports activity stations which were ESKA Karate, East Anglian Rowing, Yoga, Empowher Fitness, NTA Tennis Dart/Hoop Target and Boogie Bounce. Lana was awarded the festival value certificate of Self Belief.

Letter from our Reading Ambassadors: - Summer Reading Challenge

Dear parents/carers,



Following our recently assembly visit from Janet - from Dereham Library – we are writing to encourage your child(ren) to take part in this year's **Summer Reading Challenge** – completely FREE at your local library!

What is the Summer Reading Challenge?

The Summer Reading Challenge is a fun, free way for children aged 4–11 to stay motivated to read during the summer holidays. Children set their own reading goal and can read anything they enjoy – **all books count!**

Why should my child sign up?

The Summer Reading Challenge provides:

- Amazing way to **boost confidence** and **self-esteem.**
- They will be better **prepared to return to school** in the autumn.
- The Challenge **supports the move into a new year group.**
- The library provides **free access** to books and fun family activities all through the summer.

How can my child take part?

At the library:

- Visit your local library anytime from 5th July to sign up.
- Set a summer reading goal and choose from books, eBooks, or audiobooks
- Receive a **special sticker booklet** and collect rewards for reading

Or online:

- Visit summerreadingchallenge.org.uk
- Sign up, set a reading goal, and get book recommendations
- Unlock digital badges and earn a printable certificate

Don't miss out – head to your local library and sign up this summer!

Yours faithfully,

The Reading Ambassadors (Ruby, Reuben, Lewis, Tom, Lana, Bethany, Caiden and Rosie)

PS. IF YOU BRING YOUR CHALLENGE CERTIFICATES IN AFTER THE HOLIDAYS, WE CAN AWARD THESE IN ONE OF OUR CELEBRATION ASSEMBLIES IN SEPTEMBER.

Wraparound Care

A final hello from the Wraparound Care Team for this academic year!

We've had a fantastic term, and it's been lovely seeing all the children adapt so well to our new temporary space in the hall for breakfast and afternoon club, whilst refurbishment work of our usual room gets underway. We couldn't be prouder of how flexible and positive they've been with the change!

When we return in September, the newly refurbished space will be ready - bringing with it, a range of new equipment and resources: including outside games and stationary. In addition to this, we're excited to be introducing fresh smoothies to our breakfast, which will sit alongside the current assortment of toast, cereal and fruit.

We're also delighted to announce a warm welcome to Miss Ford, who has joined our team - she's already proven herself to be a great addition and we're lucky to have her on board! Together we've been continuing our picnicking in the lovely warm weather we've been having. Of course, when the weather has been overwhelmingly hot, we've switched back to entertaining the children inside to ensure we stay cool and comfortable.

We hope you all have a fun-filled, restful Summer holidays - making special memories with loved ones. All of us here are looking forward to seeing the children again in September, ready for more adventures!

School Term and Holiday Dates 2025-2026

Autumn term

Wednesday 3 September - Friday 24 October 2025
Half-term holiday: Monday 27 - Friday 31 October 2025
Monday 3 November - Friday 19 December 2025*
Christmas holiday: Monday 22 December - Monday 5 January 2026

Spring term

Tuesday 6 January - Friday 13 February 2026
Half-term holiday: Monday 16 - Friday 20 February 2026
Monday 23 February - Friday 27 March 2026
Easter holiday: Monday 30 March - Monday 13 April 2026

Summer term

Tuesday 14 April - Friday 22 May 2026 (Monday 4 May is a bank holiday)
Half-term holiday: Monday 25 - Friday 29 May 2026
Monday 1st June – INSET Day school closed
Monday 1 June - Friday 17 July 2026*

***19th December and 17th July school will finish at 12:00**

Safeguarding is Our Shared Responsibility

Safeguarding is a shared duty across our Federation of schools, DNEAT, and the Local Governing Body. We receive regular training to help us identify and respond to concerns effectively. Safeguarding is monitored both internally and by external bodies, including Ofsted and the Local Authority.

The Local Governing Body has asked us to remind all parents, grandparents, carers, and wider members of our school communities of the part we all have to play in this. Ensuring the safety of our children is paramount. If you see or hear anything concerning, particularly if occurring within the local community, please report it either directly to your child's school, to the Children's Advice and Duty Service (CADS) on **0344 800 8020**, or to Dereham Police on **01953 661919**. All of these channels allow you to report concerns anonymously if you prefer. Please report any concern, no matter the size, as together these can build a picture that ensures a child is adequately protected and supported.

This week, for example, within the Federation, we have worked with our KS2 pupils to remind them of our schools' policies and expectations around online behaviour. We talked about the potential impact of inappropriate messages sent through WhatsApp or social media that are unkind or targeted. The focus was on well-being of the parties involved but also the potential for this to be considered malicious communication, which can be considered a criminal offence for which there is police involvement.

We have also been made aware of school-related concerns being shared on social media and messaging platforms. We remind everyone that the correct way to raise concerns is directly through the relevant school office. Posting in public or private groups can breach our Federation policies, home-school agreements, and in some cases may result in legal consequences. We request all members of our wider community to report any such communications to the school, CADS, or the police.

We are all working together to ensure the safety of the children in our community and to create a respectful and supportive environment for teachers, parents, and pupils alike. We want to ensure our schools continue to deliver a top-class education, as highlighted by Ofsted in 2025, one that we are extremely proud of. We thank you for your support in this shared commitment.

Our Safeguarding Governor is Mrs Tinson, Chair of Governors

Your Federation Designated Safeguarding Leads are:

Mrs Marjoram (TB), Mr Allott and Ms Wharton (Lyng),
Mrs O'Sullivan, Mr Wade, Mrs Smith

DIARY DATES

15th Art Gallery yrs 4,5,6 at 8.30am*
15th Yr 1 Trip to Wells Heritage Centre and Beach
15th Yr 6 Production 17:45
16th Yr 6 BBQ 16:15 Production 17:45
17th Leavers and Awards Service in Church 10:00
18/21/22 – Dereham High Schools transition days
21st Move up Day
22nd Move up morning
22nd 11.30am Coffee Morning & pre-loved uniform sale
22nd Last day of term
Summer holiday commences 23rd July

September 2025

1st INSET Day
2nd INSET Day
3rd Children return to school
4TH Diocesan Celebration Service*
22nd School Photographer – individual photos

* New addition

SAVE THE DATE!

Exciting News: Our School Selected for Diocesan Celebration Service!

We are thrilled to announce that our school choir has been chosen as the *only* school across Norfolk to sing at the annual Diocesan Celebration Service! This prestigious event will take place on **4th September at 5:30pm** at the Open Academy. **Save the date!**

All children in Years 3 to 6 (for the 2025–26 academic year) are invited to take part in this special occasion. We will provide transportation via minibus for the pupils, and of course, parents, governors, and other family members are warmly welcome to attend and show their support.

Miss Crane has been working hard to select the perfect songs, and pupils will be bringing home lyrics to learn over the summer holidays. This is a wonderful honour for our school, and we're excited for our students to represent us in such an important celebration.

We look forward to seeing you there!

The Ark Nursery Newsletter

This week

We have been immersed in our learning based around 'Jack and the Beanstalk' for the past two weeks. We came into school on Monday to find a letter that had been left for us from a boy called Jack. He asked us to keep an eye out for the magic beans that he had lost! We've had lots of discussions about what might have happened and the children have been so excited. We've retold the story of Jack and the Beanstalk many times with actions, remembering the key phrases. As well as this, we've joined in with some lovely activities and had lots of talks about transition. We've also been looking back on old photos and talking about how much we have grown and developed. We've been in our outdoor areas, spotting hundreds of butterflies, making dens and we even found an old birds' nest! We've made castles using our construction resources and drawn some looking at castles in England too.

Next week

We will continue to talk lots about transition, with some lovely transition / school themed books too! Alongside lots of fine motor activities, name writing and mark making, we will continue prepping for the end of the school year and our graduation event for our older children heading up to reception. Please see the previously sent flyer for details surrounding our graduation on Thursday 17th.

Learning links at home

- Retell the story of Jack and the Beanstalk! Can you remember the key phrases? Can you remember our actions?
- Giants have huge feet. Who has the biggest feet in your house?