Thomas Bullock Church of England Primary and Nursery Academy
"Let your light shine" Matthew 5:14-16
Headteacher: Mrs Shannon O'Sullivan
Pound Green Lane, Shipdham, Norfolk, IP25 7LF • T: 01362 820300 • E: office@thomasbullock.dneat.org • W: www.thomasbullock.dneat.org

NEWSLETTER

12th September 2025

Dear parents, carers and friends of The Nightingale Federation

We have had a wonderful and busy two weeks across both schools, and we are really grateful for your fantastic positivity!

Earlier this week, both schools were delighted to welcome the Norfolk Music Hub for an orchestral performance. Additionally, at Lyng Church of England Primary School, we welcomed our first visit from our new Academy Executive Principal, Mr Payne. He was incredibly excited to see our school environment and the walls full of the children's delightful learning. We look forward to welcoming him to Thomas Bullock in the coming weeks! At Thomas Bullock, we were also pleased to welcome visits from our Governors on Friday and Tuesday. They have visits booked to attend Lyng soon too!

We are looking forward to Inclusion Week activities next week across the Federation, as well as Jeans for Genes Day on Friday. Lastly, Mr Wade and I hope to see lots of our families at the Lyng Fling Fete tomorrow!

We are excited to welcome new members of staff this term. Following Mr Smith, our caretakers, retirement, we welcome Mr Marjoram as the Federation Site Manager, who has already proved himself invaluable in setting up our classrooms and outdoor spaces. We also welcome Miss Rackham, Miss Abbs and Miss Vassallo who are supporting in Nursery, Year 1 and Year 4, as well as working in our wraparound care. In Reception class this week our University of East Anglia, PGCE Student Miss Anscomb joined, who will be with us all year.

National Inclusion Week - 15th 21st September 2025

Next week we will be celebrating National Inclusion Week across our Federation. We will be exploring the theme of Inclusion and what it means to feel included and valued. The children will be discussing the ways that our schools help children to feel a valued part of our school community and how our schools support them to 'Let their Light Shine'.

JEANS FOR GENES DAY!

Friday 19th September

Children can come to school wearing their jeans on Friday for a donation of your choice. Please note, children will still need to wear their normal School sweatshirt and polo shirt.

Shining Lights of the Week

Ark Class (Nursery) **Arthur C** for being respectful of all of our new toys - he is always tidying up and is kind and respectful to all other children in the class. Well done Arthur!

Oceania Class (yr 1) **Charlie** for impressing us all with his perseverance skills so far, particularly with his writing. He's worked really hard this week!

Africa Class (yr 2) **George Tu** for always showing super learning behaviours. He is very quick to 'show 5' and is always ready to learn.

Europe Class (yr 3) **Dottie** for always showing respect to her teachers and class peers. Dottie gives 100% focus and effort into her work and has produced some excellent pieces already.

S America Class (yr 4) **Sienna** for her confidence to share her ideas in class as well as persevering with all her learning. Well Done Sienna.

Asia Class (yr 5) **Harrison** for his amazing start to Year 5. In every lesson, he shows that he is ready to learn, willing to listen, keen to have a go, and open to learning from his mistakes. Excellent job, Harrison – keep it up!

N America Class (yr 6) **Elizabeth** for her contagious enthusiasm and passion for books.

This week's overall attendance 98%. South America Class (yr 4) 99.1%

WOW MOMENTS!

Elizabeth (Yr 6) Elizabeth took part in the summer reading challenge at the library and not only read the required 6 books she actually read 14. She received a certificate and medal for the challenge plus a special achievement certificate for reading lots of book. These were given to her by the town mayor at the award ceremony.

Jacob (Yr 4) Jacob was super proud of himself for making a brilliant lava cake with very minimal help at home!

Aria (Nursey) Aria (and our dog Nova) came 6th/28 in the Ashill dog show this weekend, for Childs Best Friend, 16s and Under. Aria had to walk round the ring with Nova, she had to hold her lead. When the judges came around Aria spoke to the lady very politely and told the lady all about herself and Nova. Aria made eye contact, answered clearly and stood well in-front of everyone.

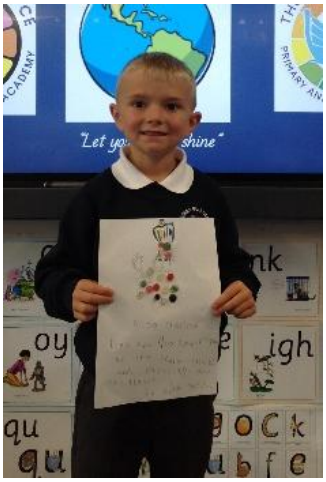
Please remember to continue to send in your ***WOW*** moments for achievements out of school
https://forms.gle/DV4RoVbQGpijcUMV7

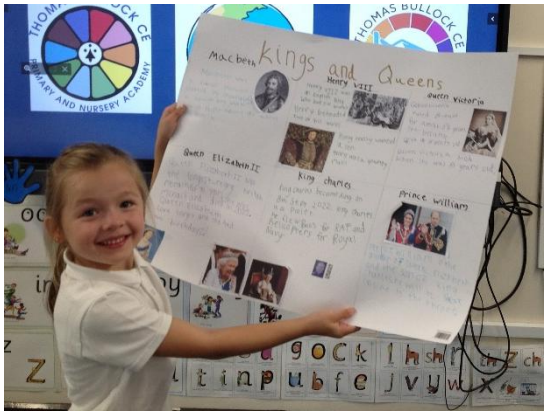
OUR KEY LEARNING QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK

Year Group	Key Learning Questions
1	Where do we go to school and what is it like there?
2	What is a monarch?
3	Where are mountains and hills in the UK?
4	Who were the Romans and why did Julius Caesar want to invade Britain?
5	What happened after the Romans left?
6	When and where was Ancient Egypt?

Africa Class (Year 2)

Year 2 have had a fantastic start to the new school year! They've settled back in brilliantly and brought with them lots of enthusiasm and curiosity. Over the summer, they've clearly been busy diving into our exciting topic on Kings and Queens. It's been wonderful to see how much they've already learned and remembered. We're looking forward to building on this brilliant start with lots more fun, facts and discovery this term.



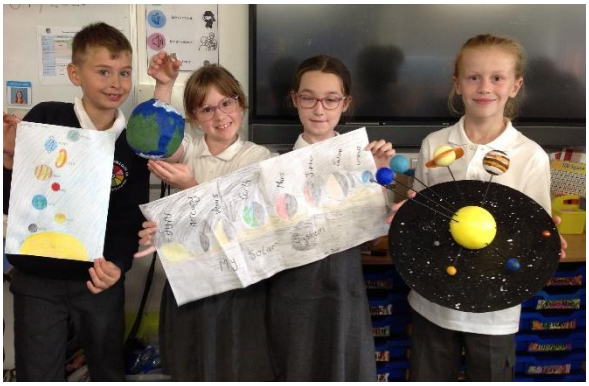


South America Class (Year 4)

We have had a great start back to school in Year 4. We have completed a Roman Archaeological dig where we looked at Roman artefacts and talked about what we think they were and how they may have been used. We also have made our own wooden bookmarks to keep and encourage our reading for pleasure.

Asia Class (Year 5)

We were blown away by the incredible efforts of pupils in Asia class with their summer home learning. Look at these fabulous models and representations of The Solar System and Anglo Saxon houses. Amazing start, Team 5!



WRAPAROUND CARE

Thank you to our parents and carers for your patience and cooperation as we transition into the new booking system.

We have adapted booking times following your feedback, and now you can book breakfast club up to 30 mins before the session starts and our after school club can be booked up to an hour before.

Just a reminder to book these clubs you will need to ensure you are in credit on your Arbor account and then you can book these sessions yourself. If you are paying using the Government Tax free Childcare Scheme, please inform the school office when payment has been made, to enable us to credit your account.

Please note that spaces are limited, so we advise to book in with plenty of time to avoid disappointment.

Please contact the Office if you have any issues with booking.

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.

SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHER

The School Photographer will be visiting next week on 22nd September to take individual pupil photographs, if they have a sibling in school they will also be photographed together.

Year 5 will also be attending their School Trip that day, so we please ask for Year 5 students ONLY to be in school for 8.30am on this day, to have their photos taken before they leave for West Stow.

Year 1 will be having PE, please can they come to school dressed in full uniform and bring their PE kits to change into on this occasion.

Friends of Shipdham School (FOSS)

AGM
Wednesday 1st October 7.30pm
At The Golden Dog, Shipdham
Everyone welcome!

FOSS do any amazing job raising thousands of pounds each year for the children of our school. Please come along and support them as they make their plans for the year ahead. They are always grateful to anyone who can spare some time to help – no matter how little!

Reminders…

Medication
We do allow most types of medication to be administered in school but in order for us to this, you'll need to fill in a medication form. The form is available at the school office or on our website under 'parents – useful forms'.

Appointments
If your child has a medical appointment (dentist, doctors, optician, hospital) please inform the school office by email attaching confirmation of appointment.

Uniform and general appearance
Thank you for following our school uniform, the children looked smart and prepared on their return. All uniform lists can be found on the School's website. http://www.thomasbullock.dneat.org/parents-hub/uniform/ A reminder that hair shoulder length and below should be tied back necessary and if earrings are worn at all they should be plain studs and the children should be able to remove them themselves for PE. Please ensure hair slides and bands are plain with no embellishments or bright colours and follow the school colours of navy and white.

Driving and Parking
For the safety of the children please do not park or drive through the entrance roundabout, or on the yellow lines outside school where there is bus parking. We do not have school parking facilities, therefore please do not enter and park inside of the school gates. Please park respectfully, and be careful not to block our neighbours driveways at school drop off and collection times. Please be extra cautious when driving in the area around school. Many of the children walk to/from school, some unaccompanied, which we gladly encourage and their safety on our road is paramount.

Headlice
Please be reminded that lice are easily spreadable. Therefore, please regularly check your children for lice, you can do this by combing through. If live lice are found, please inform the school, and the entire family must be treated before the children come to school. Wearing long hair up helps for their protection.

Keeping us up to date
Please remember to keep us informed of any changes in circumstances. We will be sending home soon copies of the emergency contact details we hold for your child. Please update and return as soon as possible.

Illness

As we are now in our Autumn Term, we understand that there will be more bugs around, so please follow this guidance if your child is not well.

Please phone or email the school office by 09:20 each morning to let us know, identifying the reason for absence. If we do not have a reason, the absence may be unauthorised. We are quite happy for children to come into school if they are suffering from cold symptoms, however we would always advise if your child has a fever or particularly high temperature, to stay off school until this has improved. We do have guidance in the school office around common illness such as conjunctivitis, impetigo, chicken pox etc, so please do get in touch if you are unsure. We have a 48-hour sickness rule, meaning if you child has been sick, they cannot return to school until 48 hours from their last bout of sickness. To find out what the NHS guidance is on whether your child should attend school if poorly, please click on this attached link –

Is my child too ill for school? - NHS

Home Learning at the Nightingale Federation

Home learning is an integral part of education in that it:

- Promotes students' self-discipline and personal responsibility for learning and organisation.
- Aligns with our school's values in having a 'light for learning' and aspirations for the children as they show curiosity and perseverance.
- Reinforces work started in class, retrieval practice, extending knowledge and understanding.
- Gives opportunities to retrieve knowledge, practise and develop skills.
- Allows parents to become more involved in your child's learning.
- Is valuable in ensuring students' progress and raises achievement.

Reading Books

All children vary in their enjoyment of reading. In the Nightingale Federation we promote a love of reading books and all varieties of literature. We will ensure the children are provided with or given access to appropriate books and those they show an interest in.

We recommend that children read every day but with or alongside an adult no less than:
EYFS: 1-3 times a week for 5-10 minutes
Key Stage 1: 3 times a week for 10-15 minutes
Key Stage 2: 3 times a week for 15-20 minutes

CGP Reading Comprehension Books

Children who have completed the Read Write Inc. programme will receive reading comprehension question booklets with directed weekly activities to complete.

Spelling

Weekly spellings will be sent home for both Key Stage 1 & 2

Doodle Learning

All children are encouraged to use Doodle Maths and English often as they can in short bursts. The system will generate daily challenges appropriate for individual children and are suggested to take about 10 minutes. Children in EYFS will do some Doodle Learning in school and are welcome to do more at home if they enjoy it. In addition, KS2 Classes will set weekly activities within the system linked to learning undertaken in class for the children to complete.

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

The Ark Nursery Newsletter

This week

We have had a very exciting week as we moved into our new Nursery classroom! We have spent lots of time settling in – learning each other's names, building relationships and playing with toys in the classroom. We have begun to practice our 'freeze!' when Miss Spalding shakes the tamborine, and helping each other to tidy up all of our lovely new toys up. We also had a go at making our own playdough from scratch, helping Miss Spalding and Miss Turner to mix and knead the playdough. Then we had a go at playing with the playdough to make some delicious pretend food to share with our friends! We have also begun to explore how we are all different, and that is what makes us all special. Using the mirror around a circle, we explored our faces, then had a go at some self-portraits! Looking at the colours red, blue and yellow has been very exciting as we went on a colour hunt as well as painting some lovely pictures today – The Nursery team have been very impressed with the creativity this week!

Next week

Next week we are going to look at the story of 'The Colour Monster'! We will continue to explore emotions and different colours through a number of different activities to support with transition. We will introduce children to the 'zones of regulation' using the colour monster to talk about our feelings! We will also continue with our learning of different colours – next week exploring the colours green and purple. What will happen if we start to mix colours?

Learning links at home

- Can you find any objects around your house that is red, blue or yellow?
- Can you use a mirror to show your 'happy face', your 'sad face', and your 'silly face'?

DIARY DATES

September
22nd - School Photographer – individual and sibling photos.
(yr5 to come to school for 8.30 for photos before trip)
22nd - Year 5 trip to West Stow.
29th - Year 2 trip to Sandringham.

October
1st – FOSS AGM 7.30pm at The Golden Dog.
2nd – Neatherd Open Evening for Year 6.
6th – Grandparents Day 2-3pm.
8th – Northgate Open Evening for Year 6.
9th – Harvest Festival Church Service 9.30-10.30am.
13th – Year 6 NCMP.
15th-16th – Open Day for Reception 2026.
21st-22nd - Parents Evening.
24th – Last day of half term
October Half term week 27th – 31st October

November
10th-11th - Year 5 Residential trip to Horstead
21st – Flu Immunisations.

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

January
5th INSET DAY
6th – Children return to School