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

12th December 2025

Dear Parents, carers and friends of the Nightingale Federation,

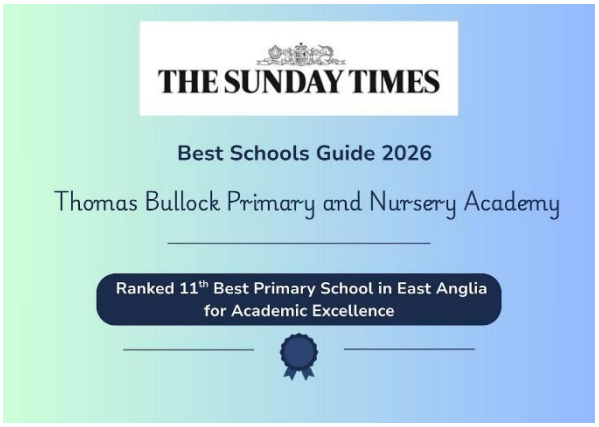
What a busy penultimate week of term it has been! Since our last school newsletter, we have enjoyed singing at the opening of the Christmas Tree Festival at Shipdham Church, Reading and Maths cafes, FOSS have graciously donated their time to run Christmas Lunch-time shops and our refreshments stall at the Nativities. The week culminated with two fantastic nativity performances, with children from Nursery and Reception performing extremely well, having learnt lines, songs and dances. I am amazed every day by our incredible 2 to 5 year olds! Today, all the children also had great fun taking part in their Santa Dash! Next week we have Christingle making, Christmas Lunches and a FOSS sponsored Christmas party! Thank you so much for supporting all of our events that both us and our Friends offer.

Looking to the week ahead, we look forward to seeing you on Wednesday 17th December at 2.00pm at Shipdham Church for our yearly Carol Service. As a reminder, school will close at 12 noon on Friday 19th December. If children wish to do so, they may wear non-school uniform on our last day.

Compare Schools Achievement Tables

We are incredibly proud to share that Thomas Bullock CE Primary and Nursery Academy has been announced as being ranked **1st out of 415** schools in Norfolk, when judged on overall performance at the end of KS2 in 2025. Please click on the link below for further details:
https://www.compare-school-performance.service.gov.uk/schools-by-type?step=default&table=schools&geographic=la&for=primary&region=926

This remarkable achievement reflects the dedication of our incredible teaching and support staff, pupils, families, and wider school community. Congratulations to everyone involved!



We are also so proud to share that our school has been recognised as one of the UK's highest achieving primary schools in **The Times and The Sunday Times** best schools in the country guide 2026!
Thomas Bullock was named among one of the top primary schools in East Anglia, with a regional ranking of 11th.
This achievement reflects the hard work, dedication, and passion of our students, teachers, staff, and families.

Together, we've created a learning community built on excellence, growth, and support.
A huge thank you to everyone who contributes to our success each and every day. Let's continue to inspire, achieve, and 'Let your light shine' because the best is yet to come!
Please click on the link below for further details:
https://www.thetimes.com/best-schools-league-table/guide/article/top-primary-schools-england-revealed-2026-5jxnzq0cf#:~:text=St%20Ives%20Primary%20and%20Nursery,%2C%E2%80%9D%20Mahmood%2DAhmed%20says.

Shining Lights of the Week

Ark Class (Nursery)	**Norah** for being a kind and positive member of our class. She arrives to school with a positive attitude and always offers a hand to help her friends.
Antarctica (Yr R)	**Stanley** for stepping in last minute to be Mary and Joseph's donkey in the nativity and doing an amazing job with his brother! Well done!!
Arctic Class (Yr R)	**Isabella** for her determination and excellent solo singing. Despite feeling the nerves, Isabella fought off the tears to perform a beautiful solo as Mary in the school nativity.
Oceania Class (Yr 1)	**All of Oceania Class** for their impeccable behaviour on our trip to Holkham Hall. They had great fun creating pine cone Christmas trees, exploring the beautifully decorated rooms and even got to meet Father Christmas!
Africa Class (Yr 2)	**George Ta** for his super attitude towards learning. He has worked incredibly hard in all areas of our learning to produce wonderful work.
Europe Class (Yr 3)	**Leon**, because of his persistence in trying his best at all classwork. He has worked extremely hard to gain a pen license and now takes great care in the presentation of all work completed. Additionally, Leon is a great class mate who chooses kindness over anything.
S America Class (Yr 4)	**Teddy** for being an all-round fantastic member of our class. He is so enthusiastic about his learning, always eager to contribute and with his hand up ready to share his ideas. His bubbly attitude brings a smile to all of our faces and we are so glad he is part of our class.
Asia Class (Yr 5)	**Izzy** is our shining light. Without any prompting, she has been consistently supporting others during our DT project when they found tasks tricky. She has helped with measuring, cutting out and assembling cardboard panels to create a shell for the hull.
N America Class (yr 6)	**Dexter** for his mature attitude to school. He understands that the more you put in to your learning, the more you will get out in return.

This week's overall attendance 95.3%. Arctic Class (Yr R) 99%

OUR KEY LEARNING QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK

Year Group	Key Learning Questions
1	Can we put toys in order?
2	How did London change after the fire?
3	How did prehistoric beliefs and rituals change?
4	What influence have the Romans had on our words and numbers?
5	Did the Vikings rule England?
6	How can we make a difference?

WOW MOMENTS!

Alfred (Yr R) Alfred got his 5 and 10 metre badges in swimming this week.
Adeleine (Yr 1) Went on the main slope during her skiing lesson for the first time!
Mia P (Yr 2) Mia came 3rd twice overall in her first ever season of show jumping for North Norfolk Riding Club! Well done Mia!
Matilda (Yr 2) Matilda swam 15 meters non-stop, without touching the floor or sides! Well done Matilda!
Jude (Yr 3) Well done to Jude for achieving his stage 4 in swimming and 25m badge!
Caiden (Yr 4) Not only did Caiden get Man of the Match at his football match on Saturday, on Saturday evening he played in his Christmas Drum Show in front of a lot of people with it also being live streamed. He played perfectly! All after passing his Grade 1 and 2 exams since April
Eva (Yr 6) Eva auditioned for Bugsy Malone youth musical for next year and was successful

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

Christmas Jumper Day! - 11th December 2025

Oceania Trip to Holkham Hall Christmas Experience

On Thursday, Year One enjoyed a magical Christmas experience at Holkham Hall!
We began our day with a guided tour through the beautifully decorated rooms — and even discovered Father Christmas waiting for us in one of them! He was so kind and surprised each child with a special gift.
Next, we got creative with a festive craft activity, making our very own pine cone Christmas trees. After lunch, we headed out for a lovely walk around the grounds, spotting deer and geese along the way.
The whole day was wonderful — so much so that many of us wished we could do it all over again!

Nursery and Reception Nativity Performances

We are so proud of our Nursery and Reception pupils who performed wonderfully at our nativity performances this week. Nursery sung us some Christmas songs including jingle bells which brought a tear to many eyes and had everyone joining in! The Nativity was such a fabulous show of characters and the results of lots of hard work - well done Reception! A special well done to our Mary who, despite her nerves, sung a beautiful solo as part of her role...a real star in the making.

A message from our Friends of Shipdham School Team!

The FOSS Committee and Thomas Bullock would like to send out a massive, heartfelt THANK YOU to Matt Neave of M Neave Carpentry and Building for designing and installing the stunning bespoke units and rails in our FOSS charity shop! Matt not only completed the work to an incredible standard, but he also covered the full costs of all materials. Thanks to Matt and his amazing team, the shop has had a much-needed facelift — and it looks fantastic!

A huge shout out as well to Richard, one of our wonderful Thomas Bullock grandads, for doing a brilliant job painting the outside of our shop. We are so grateful for the time and care he put in.

And finally, an enormous thank you to Steve and Mirek from the Men's Shed in Watton, who generously gave up their time to take on the huge task of sanding and treating all the woodwork, getting everything perfectly prepped for painting.

What an incredible community we have! Your kindness, hard work, and generosity ensure our shop is fit for purpose, support our FOSS team in raising vital funds for our children, and help provide an affordable option for families in our area.

We couldn't do it without you — thank you!

The FOSS shop will open its doors in the new year for a grand opening, keep a look out of the FOSS page for updates!

A message from the School Immunisation Team

Respiratory and flu-like cases are rapidly on the rise. We urge you to ensure your child receives the flu vaccination. **You have a choice between the quick and painless nasal spray or the Injection which is porcine & gelatine free.** This not only protects your children against being seriously but also protects vulnerable members of your family and community.

We have several community catch-up clinics available. Please use the link **https://eastanglia.schoolvaccination.uk/flu/2025/book** to book an appointment.

If you previously declined consent for your child when we visited the school, you **CAN CHANGE** your consent. Please call our office on 01603 576320, and we will book a clinic appointment for you.

The Ark Nursery Newsletter

This week

This week we have been learning a new literacy text – Twinkly, Twinkly Nativity! We have been learning about the characters and the story of the Nativity! In maths we have continued to extend AB colour patterns, practising with cubes, counting bears and stickers. We have decorated our class Christmas tree and made our own tree baubles to decorate the tree with! We are also very proud of all the children at our Nativity this week, they were amazing and all sang beautifully! Well done Ark Class!

In phonics – we have learnt more Set 1 sounds – 't', ' i' 'n' and 'p'. 'We are very impressed with how hard the children are working to learn the sounds. Here are the links to the sounds we have been learning -

Next week

We will continue to learn and retell the story of Twinkly, Twinkly Nativity in the lead up to Christmas! We will be consolidating our learning in maths through various counting activities. We will also be creating Christmas crafts before the Christmas holidays – such as Christmas cards and calendars for the new year! Next week we will also be making Christingles! We will continue to reflect on the importance of gratefulness and how the act of 'giving' can be shown in different ways.

We will also be continuing with our RWI phonics lessons! We will be learning the sounds 'g' and 'o'. Here is a QR code to practice these sounds at home!

Learning links from home:

Can you retell a familiar story?
What happened at the start, middle and end of the story?
What was your favourite part of the story?

What do the characters look like?
Can you learn a simple clapping rhythm?
Children and adult to stand opposite each other. Both clap once, then put hands out to clap each other's hand and repeat.
Can you count the baubles on your Christmas tree?
Can you retell the story of the Nativity?
Can you name some characters from the story?
Can you begin to say and recognise the sounds in your name?

Thomas Bullock Primary and Nursery Academy

invite Parents and Children from age 2 to our

FREE AUTUMN STAY AND PLAY SESSIONS

Every Friday 2:00pm – 3:00pm

We will explore our fantastic new indoor/ outdoor areas through sensory stories, fine motor funky activities and lots more!

To register an interest to any of the above email office@thomasbullock.dneat.org

DIARY DATES

December
15th – Year 4 Reading Café 9am-9.30am*
17th – Christmas Carol Service at All Saints Church 2pm-3pm (All welcome)
17th – Christmas Lunch with children wearing Christmas Jumpers
18th – FOSS Christmas Party Afternoon
19th – School finishes at 12pm
19th – Last day of Term
Christmas Holiday Monday 22nd December – Monday 5th January 2026

January
5th – INSET DAY
6TH – Children return to School
16th – Year 4 Maths Café 2.30pm-3pm
19th – Antarctica & Year 3 Reading Café 9am-9.30am
20th – Arctic Maths Café 2.30pm-3pm
21st & 22nd – Bikeabilty for Year 5
23rd – Bikeability for Year 4
28th & 29th – Bikeability for Year 5

February
13th – Year 5 & 6 Reading Café 9am-9.30am
13th – Last day of Half Term
Half Term – 16th- 20th February 2026
23rd – Children return to School

March
5th – World Book Day
9th – British Science Week
16th – School Photographer – Class Photos
27th – Last Day of Term

April
1st – 14th - Easter Holiday
15th – Children return to School