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

14th November 2025

Dear parents, carers and friends of The Nightingale Federation

As we move further into November, we want to take a moment to reflect on what has been a wonderful and busy few weeks across our Federation. It has been a time filled with learning, kindness and pride in all that our children have achieved.
We have been fortunate to enjoy a mild start to the month; however, weather warnings are in place for next week with the possibility of snow. Please take time this weekend to plan and prepare for colder conditions, ensuring children come to school with suitable winter clothing such as warm coats, hats, gloves, scarves, tights and sturdy shoes. Alongside this, please be aware of the closure of the A47 in parts, which may impact your driving journeys.

This week, we each took time to remember those who have fallen in war. Thomas Bullock held its Remembrance Service on Tuesday, followed by Lyng's service on Wednesday, both led with care and thoughtfulness by the wonderful Reverend Richard. We are very proud of how respectfully the children participated in these important acts of remembrance. Each class created a beautiful remembrance wreath, which our Ethos Team laid in the Peace Garden as a mark of respect and reflection.
On Thursday, Thomas Bullock had the privilege of hosting a Best Practice Day, showcasing the exceptional work taking place across our school. We were delighted to welcome 18 delegates from schools and trusts across the country, along with our Chair of Trustees, Bev Tilman. It was a real joy and honour to share our approach to teaching and learning and to see our children let their light shine.

We also celebrated Anti-Bullying Week, beginning with Odd Socks Day which gave everyone a chance to recognise and celebrate what makes each of us unique. The week concluded with Children in Need Day, where pupils learned about philanthropy and helping others, dressing in cheerful yellow and spots to show their support. Together, we raised £168.40 for this wonderful cause.

This half term, our current core value across the Federation is Honesty, which we will learn and reflect upon. We encourage you to continue this conversation at home, discussing what honesty means, why it matters, and how being truthful helps build trust and strong relationships both in school and in everyday life.

We are excited to let you know that we will be hosting another Open Day event on December 2nd from 2 to 3pm at Thomas Bullock and on December 3rd from 9 to 10am at Lyng. Please do share this with family and friends who might be interested. We can't wait to welcome new families and show them what makes our schools so special.
Thank you, as always, for your continued support and partnership. As you will see from the calendar, we are preparing for our winter activities and look forward to the weeks ahead filled with learning, laughter, and the warm sense of community that makes our Federation so special.

Shining Lights of the Week

Ark Class (Nursery) Bailey for always arriving to school with a positive attitude – You are always honest and kind to other children and grown-ups. We are very proud of you!

Arctic Class (yr R) River for his acceptance to change. We have had a move around in Arctic Class of our furniture and where we sit. River has settled to this really well and enjoys where he now sits.

Antarctica Class (yr R) Oliver for his fantastic efforts in phonics with his brilliant blending to read words; his enthusiasm for learning and being a super kind friend!

Oceania Class (yr 1) Martha for her impressive memory in Phonics lately! She has been memorising the new sounds we learn each day and smashing the Thursday, Friday review days.

Africa Class (yr 2) Elodie for her fantastic efforts in English. She has thoughtfully applied our learning to create beautifully written work.

Europe Class (yr 3) Eva for her positive attitude in the classroom. She has listened well and therefore produced some great work. Eva always offers to help when someone is in need. Keep it up, Eva!

S America Class (yr 4) Caiden for his outstanding engagement and enthusiasm across all lessons. He consistently contributes by sharing his ideas and asking thoughtful, well-considered questions. Caiden has also expressed great pride in his work—an attitude we wholeheartedly share. It has been a pleasure to witness his genuine joy and commitment to learning.

Asia Class (yr 5) All of Year 5 Every child showed incredible courage, with many conquering fears of water or heights to take on exciting challenges like zip-lining, climbing, and kayaking on our residential trip. Your determination and bravery have made us so proud—well done to every single one of you!

N America Class (yr 6) Theo for his excellent standards of presentation. It is great to see how he always wants to give his best in all that he does.

This week's overall attendance 97%. Antarctica Class (yr R) 99%

OUR KEY LEARNING QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK

Year Group	Key Learning Questions
1	Can I describe my favourite toy?
2	What were the main events of the Great Fire of London?
3	How did life change during the Stone Age in Britain?
4	Why did Romans build towns and what were Roman towns like?
5	How do historians know about how the Vikings traded?
6	What is climate change?

Thomas Bullock CE Primary and Nursery Academy Open Day

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

Tuesday 2nd December at 2pm
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.

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

Funded places are available now, please contact the school office.

CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

We hope you will come along to the Christmas Tree Festival in the Church.
5th-6th December.
At All Saints Church, Shipdham.
The school will be having some trees on display with decorations made by the children.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Class Lists and Contact Information

In line with DNEAT Trust policy and GDPR guidance, we are unable to share class lists or pupils' contact details with parents. This includes requests for information to help with birthday party invitations, Christmas cards, or similar purposes. This policy helps us protect every child's privacy and ensures we meet our data protection responsibilities. Thank you for your understanding and support in helping us keep our school community safe and compliant.

A message from our SENDCo

Norfolk and Waveney Family Action Autism/ADHD Support Service - November Newsletter
Please see the link below to the latest Norfolk and Waveney Family Action's newsletter.
https://sway.cloud.microsoft/wYZEVTH4xKNrU0Yz?ref=email

Unfortunately, our Norfolk Steps for Parents Course in November has been postponed, we hope to share new dates with you soon. Thank you for your interest.

Anti- Bullying Week

Odd Socks Day

Children came to School on Monday wearing Odd Socks to celebrate individuality and to promote kindness and inclusion!

Children In Need

Children came to school today dressed in Spots or Yellow! In school we raised £168.40!
Well done everyone for making such an effort and raising lots of money for Children in Need!

Years 3 & 4 Football competition

Last week, 8 girls from year 3/4 had a day of football! Most of the girls had practised at after school girls' football which meant they came into the day quite confident. Finishing 4th overall, the girls had an excellent day showing amazing perseverance and teamwork skills. It was a great day giving girl an opportunity to play football and express themselves.

Year 5 Adventure at Horstead Activity Centre

What a trip! Year 5 had an unforgettable adventure at Horstead Activity Centre. From the moment we arrived, the pupils threw themselves into every challenge with energy and enthusiasm. Our action-packed itinerary included archery, climbing, zip-lining, kayaking, and even crate stacking!

It was amazing to see so many pupils face their fears—whether reaching new heights on the climbing wall, zooming across the zip line, or taking on the challenges of the water. Every child showed courage, determination, and teamwork, supporting one another every step of the way. We are incredibly proud of all the pupils for their resilience and adventurous spirit. This is a trip that will be remembered fondly for many years to come!

What we have been learning recently...

Reception

This week Reception were very intrigued to arrive at school and see a big mess in their classroom. There were some muddy pawprints and lots of leaves and sticks! The children have been detectives and have been looking for more clues to find out who or what has left the trail. Watch this space...

Oceania (Yr 1)

On Monday, PC Colin Dafűz popped in with terrible news... There has been a break in at the nearby toy museum! The robber was captured on CCTV and from a still image the children were able to create WANTED posters. From these posters, members of the public have been calling in and suggesting it was Burglar Bill. So, on Tuesday we read a book about Burglar Bill to find out a bit more about him. The police office asked if we could help with the interview process and write some questions for him should he be captured. If you see Burglar Bill please contact the Year One team or children. Thank you for your cooperation

Africa (Yr 2)

Year 2 have been extremely busy over half term getting ready for their Great Fire of London learning!

Europe (Yr 3)

In history, Europe Class researched different artefacts from the Stone Age. Thinking about; when they were made, why they were made and what were they made out of?

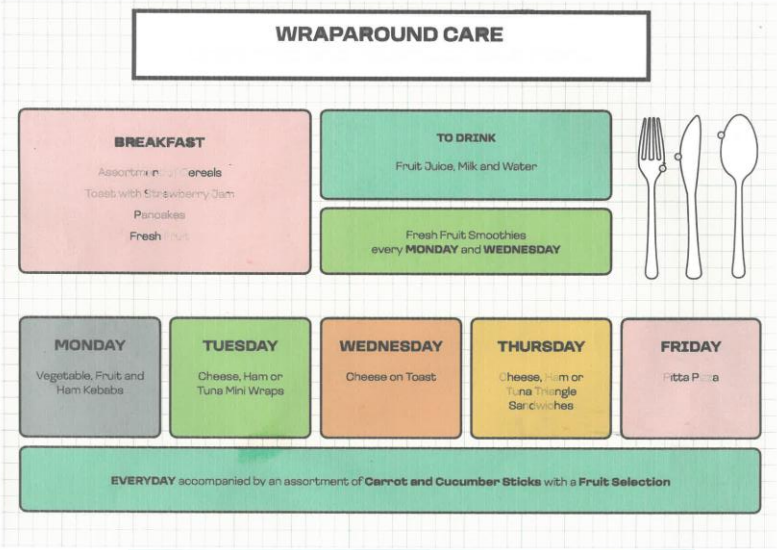
Wraparound Care Newsletter

Welcome to our first Wraparound Care Newsletter since returning from the summer break!

We hope you all had a restful summer and half term. We are delighted to now be settled into our new, well-equipped space. The children have adapted to the environment with ease and are already making full use of the facilities. Staff have worked hard to ensure a smooth transition, and it has been wonderful to see the children engaging so positively.

Since returning, both Breakfast Club and After School Club have been in full swing. Our after-school sports sessions are now up and running from 3:15pm to 4:15pm, led by our qualified sports coach, Mr. Brighton. While the weather has been fine, outdoor play has been very popular; children choosing to stay indoors have enjoyed activities such as drawing, Lego, puzzles, reading, or simply relaxing while watching a movie.

Please find our latest Breakfast and After School Club menu below.



The Ark Nursery Newsletter

This week

This week we have been learning a new literacy text called 'The Leaf Thief' - exploring all about Autumnal changes! We have explored the characters, made our own wanted posters for the Leaf Thief and made predictions on who we think the Leaf Thief could be! We have also thought about the beginning, middle and ending of the story by creating story maps to retell the story. In maths, we have been looking at the number '2'! We have grown 2 on our fingers, and used resources to carefully count to 2. We have practised subitising 2 through animals, dots and picture cards, creating butterfly paintings and recognising the number 2 through a number 2 hunt around the classroom! We have also drawn our own odd socks and worn odd socks for Anti-Bullying week – where we discussed how to be kind to others! For Remembrance Day, we had a 2 minute silence to think about the soldiers who kept us safe, then we printed our own poppies, and made a poppy wreath display! For Children In Need – we learnt about Pudsey Bear and why this day is important! We had some Pudsey painting activities!

Next week

Next week we will continue our Literacy text 'The Leaf Thief' – looking at retelling the story and exploring the ending of the story (*The Leaf Thief was the wind!*). We will be thinking of adjectives to describe the different characters in the story and continue to story map and give meaning to the marks we make. In Maths we will be looking at recognising the numeral '2' – practising number formation and counting carefully. Next week is Road Safety Week – we will be learning about how to be safe near roads and understanding road safety rules.

We will also be beginning RWI phonics lessons! We are starting with the sound 'm'. Below is a QR code to practice this sound 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 spot the number 2 whilst on walks on car number plates/ door numbers?

Children to help by getting '2' of an object – 'can you bring me 2 books/ apples please?'

Dominoes – spot the dominoes with 2 dots on them.

Discuss pairs of socks and shoes. How many do we have in a pair?

How are you safe near roads?

What do the colours on a traffic light mean? Red? Green?

DIARY DATES

November
20th – Reception Trip to High Lodge
21st – Flu Immunisations
29th- FOSS Wreath Making evening at WI Hall

December
2nd – Open Day for Reception 2026*
5th -6th – Christmas Tree Festival at All Saints Church Shipdham
10th/12th – FOSS Christmas Shop at Lunchtime*
11th – Year 1 trip to Holkham Hall Christmas Experience
11th – Christmas Jumper Day
11th – Reception Class Nativity
17th – Christmas Carol Service at All Saints Church 2-3pm (All welcome)*
17th – Christmas Lunch
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

February
Half Term 16th-20th February

March
School Photographer
Easter Holiday 30th March- 13th April

April
14th April – Children return to School

*New Addition