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

19th December 2025

Dear Parents, carers and friends of the Nightingale Federation,

It has been an absolute joy to work in our schools this year, and what a year it has been! Your children are a delight, and your continued support has meant so much to us in helping our schools remain among the very best in the county. We could not be prouder of the daily successes of each and every one of your children.

Farewell

This week we bid a fond farewell to a long-standing member of our school. Over the last 12 years Miss Scott has provided excellent care as a Teaching Assistant, Breakfast Club playworker and Midday supervisor. We will all miss her very much.

Welcomes

We are excited announce the appointment of Mr Pearce who will be joining our Year 2 class from January. Mr Pearce comes from Litcham Primary where has supported in KS1 classes and Reception. He is also a qualified sports coach.

We are also pleased to announce that Miss Morse has been appointed to work in our Nursery from January working as a Teaching Assistant. She will continue to lead our Wraparound care as well.

Wishing you all a very wonderful Christmas and a happy New Year. We look forward to seeing you again on Tuesday 6th January at 8:40am.

A huge thank you to Friends of Shipdham School for the selection boxes for every child, which were sent out this week. They also organised a brilliant magic show and party afternoon yesterday. The children had an amazing time and there were smiles all round. Thank you for all the fundraising you do for our school.

Your continued support, generosity and hard work make such a difference to our school community, and we really do appreciate everything you do.

You are amazing – thank you!

Shining Lights of the Half Term-'Honesty'

Ark Class (Nursery)	**Ayda S and Tyler** for being positive role models to the other children in the class - they are always showing honesty, kindness and resilience!
Antarctica (Yr R)	**Loki & Eva** for consistently demonstrating this half term's value of honesty. He is always a kind, caring, helpful and honest member of the class - a super role model for his peers.
Arctic Class (Yr R)	**Kiarra & Gunnar** for consistently showing this half terms value of honesty, whilst being kind and helpful.
Oceania Class (Yr 1)	**Grace S** knows right from wrong and always follows the class and school rules. She really understands the saying, 'honesty is the best policy'. **Daisy** She is always being a kind and honest member of the class, standing up for the right thing and being a brilliant role model.
Africa Class (Yr 2)	**Apphia** for always using kind, honest and respectful words. She encourages her friends to do the same and is a great role model to others. **Ellis** for being extremely honest and hard working. He has shown a great attitude towards learning and a growing independence in class.
Europe Class (Yr 3)	**Eddie** for his consistently focused and positive outlook to learning. He makes sure to listen to all instructions before trying his best to execute the task the best he can. Eddie is a pleasure to have in the classroom. **Dottie** for her amazing classwork, work ethic and kindness to all. She never fails to make people smile in school and has become a role model for others to look at for what is expected of them.
S America Class (Yr 4)	**Caiden** for demonstrating our value of honesty. He consistently sets a wonderful example within the class by being truthful in all that he does and always striving to do the right thing. Caiden is also an extremely kind and caring member of the class, and his positive attitude is a pleasure to see. **Cleo** demonstrating our value of honesty. She is a fantastic role model, always showing honesty in her actions and making thoughtful choices. Cleo is an extremely kind and caring member of the class, and her considerate nature makes her a joy to have around.
Asia Class (Yr 5)	**Mason** for consistently demonstrating this half term's value of honesty. He shows honesty in all that he does and always strives to do the right thing. **Lily** for consistently demonstrating this half term's value of honesty. She is an extremely kind and caring member of the class - who always strives to do the right thing - and sets a fantastic example for her peers.
N America Class (yr 6)	**Harry** for consistently demonstrating this half term's value of honesty. He always thinks carefully about his words and actions; how they might affect others and always looking to lift people up. **Elizabeth** for consistently demonstrating this half term's value of honesty. She is honest with herself about her learning: asking for help when she needs it and thinking carefully about her next steps.

This week's overall attendance 92% Arctic Class (Yr R) 99%

WOW MOMENTS!

Felix (Yr R) Felix got his half marathon award at junior park run this weekend, marking 13 miles of park running.
Isabella (Yr2) Isabella achieved Level 1 Apparatus in gymnastics.

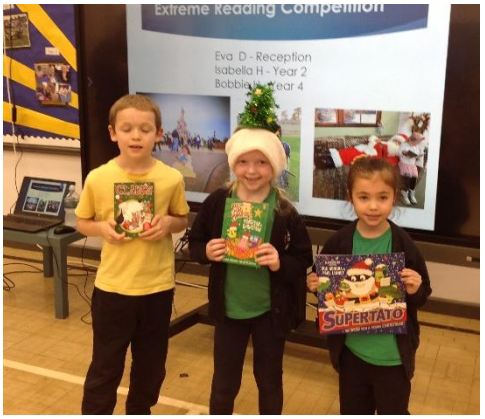
Please remember to continue to send in your ***WOW*** moments for achievements out of school
https://forms.gle/DV4RoVbQGpijcUMV7

Santa Dash

All Year groups took part in the School Games National Santa Dash! The Santa dash was all about having fun while being active. The children ran around the playground wearing their festive headwear! Well done everyone!

Congratulations to our Extreme Reading Competition winners!

The winners - Eva, Isabella and Bobbie took home a brand-new book to enjoy over the Christmas holidays. Well done to everyone who took part – keep up the amazing reading!



Christmas Carol Concert

We would like to say a huge thank you to FOSS who arranged another brilliant event. Thank you to all the choir members and to Miss Crane for their hard work, learning all of the songs and practising at home. We are so grateful to Reverend Laura and All Saints Church in Shipdham for hosting us, and to all the families and members of the community who came along to support the children. Please note the choir will continue on Thursday lunchtimes after Christmas!

A huge thank you to CC Wells for their very generous donation of oranges, for all of the children to use for their Christingles. And another massive thank you to Mrs Chapman and Tesco who donated all of the raisins and jelly tots for the Christingles!

We are so grateful for your support and kindness this year.

We are incredibly grateful to everyone who contributed and supported this event. Your generosity and community spirit are very much appreciated and played an important role in making the Christingle celebrations such a success! Thank you again!

A massive thank you to wonderful Reverend Laura and the lovely volunteers that came to school this week, to help with making Christingles. The children loved making them!

Christmas Lunch 2025!

Thank you to our fabulous kitchen and lunch staff for serving 146 meals on Christmas Lunch day! The children made some beautiful Christmas hats at the beginning of the day to wear to their meal. The children enjoyed listening to Christmas songs, whilst eating their meal, pulling crackers and having a brilliant time!

A message from our Governors

As we progress through the 2025 academic year, the Local Governing Committee would like to share an update on our recent activities and some wonderful feedback from our latest visit to Thomas Bullock school.

Our Role as Governors

The Local Governing Committee works behind the scenes to provide strategic leadership and ensure both Schools within the Nightingale federation continue to provide the best possible environment for your children. Our focus remains on key areas:

- **The Vision and Ethos:** Ensuring the School has a clear direction and ambitious goals for your children. We look to ensure its core values are at the heart of all aspects of learning.
- **Accountability:** Monitoring educational performance and supporting the Headteacher and the wider team - offering support and challenge to see that the pupil experience within School mirrors the data.
- **Christian ethos:** Ensuring the School has a strong Christian ethos and culture.

Our activities generally include Learning Walks, gathering pupil and parent voice and monitoring activities both inside and outside the classroom.

Highlights from our recent Learning Walk

Governors recently conducted a Learning Walk at Thomas Bullock to see the School in action. These visits allow us to observe the school day first hand and ensure that the standards are being met with excellence. A highlight of this visit was the opportunity to speak directly with the children about their experiences. Their feedback was incredibly positive and insightful:

- **Pride in Progress:** Many pupils were eager to show their work and engage in lessons, speaking with confidence about what they were learning;
- **Feeling Supported:** Pupils told us they feel safe and listened to by staff, noting that there is always a trusted adult available if they need help and they have a variety of people that they feel about to talk to;
- **Love of Learning:** Children expressed their excitement about being at the School and were able to talk confidently about what they enjoyed about School life. They proved that the curriculum is engaging their curiosity.
- **A Kind Community:** When asked about school life, some pupils beautifully summarized the atmosphere by saying-
  "We love it because the teachers are amazing and listen and are understanding. Mrs O'Sullivan is very supportive. There is amazing equipment and we are very happy at school." Year 6 students.

  "It's a nice place to be, I feel comfortable coming to school and I am very happy here." Year 5 student.

  "I love it because everyone is supportive and whenever we need help, we get help from the teachers, I always enjoy it every day." Year 4 student.

Looking Ahead

Seeing such high levels of pupil engagement confirms that the school's hard work is having a direct, positive impact on your children's daily lives. We left the visit feeling incredibly proud of the school community and the respectful, ambitious culture that you, as parents, help to support. Thank you for your continued partnership.

DIARY DATES

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 – Year 3 Reading Café 9am-9.30am
19th – Antarctica Maths Café 2.30-3pm*
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

*New Addition

Wishing everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from all the staff at Thomas Bullock Primary and Nursery Academy!