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

23rd January 2025

Dear Parents, carers and friends of the Nightingale Federation,

It was a pleasure to welcome our Governors into school this week, including at our Reading Breakfasts on Tuesday and Friday across the Federation. Reverend Laura also visited both Lyng and Thomas Bullock, spending time with our school communities and offering support to pupils. If you need any pastoral support, please do get in touch. We are here to help.

This week, again, I have had the pleasure of spending lots of time in classes. Watching our children learn in such professional, ambitious and motivating environments is wonderful. A few great examples, in Nursery they shared their learning about dinosaurs and in Year 3 the children demonstrated their multiplication methods. In Year 4 children were learning division using a range of tools to help them and today I read some fabulous poems! Year 6 have been learning algebra and in Year 5 I watched a fabulous experiment involving finding the best heat insulator. Our teachers strive every day to provide the highest outcomes and opportunities for every child.

On Tuesday, January 27th, we will be dedicating some of our learning focus to Holocaust Memorial Day. This time will be used to support reflection, understanding, and age-appropriate discussion around its significance.

I loved showing a number of new families around Thomas Bullock and Lyng over the past two weeks. They were particularly impressed by the wide opportunities in music, PE, trips and outdoor learning, the spacious and well-organised classrooms, and the calm, purposeful atmosphere across the schools.

At Thomas Bullock, Years 4 and 5 enjoyed Bikeability this week, learning important bike safety and proficiency skills. As always, children were praised for their positive spirit and excellent behaviours for learning.

Thank you to everyone who attended our Reading and Maths Cafés. It is always a delight to welcome families into school.

Thank you also for the excellent attendance at our half-termly Reading Breakfasts and your helpful and kind feedback. The next sessions are scheduled shortly after the half-term break.

All family members are welcome into school for our next 'Book Look' on 12th February at 3pm, with the hall open from 2.45pm for coffee beforehand.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support and for helping our children to 'Let their light shine,' brightly!

This week's overall attendance 96.04% - South America Class (Yr 4) 99%

Communication

To revisit, as we value your feedback and clear communication. Your class teacher now knows them exceptionally well. They are therefore the best person to speak with about your child's education, daily pastoral care, and medical needs. Please arrange any meetings through the school office, and your class teacher or phase leader will do their best to meet or speak with you at a convenient time. This is in-line with very recently updated DfE Parental Communication Guidance.

If a matter cannot be resolved by the class teacher alone, our phase leaders are available to assist:

- Mr Johnson (KS2) – Thomas Bullock
- Mrs Marjoram (EYFS and KS1) – Thomas Bullock
- Mr Allott – Lyng (EYFS-KS2)

For matters requiring further support, Mrs Smith (SENCO) and Mr Wade (Executive Deputy Head) are also available. If the concern is still not resolved, please do not hesitate to contact me, the Executive Headteacher, who will review the situation and work with staff and yourselves to find a solution.

It should go without reminding that all communication should be within the vision and values of our school, with kindness and mutual respect at the very core.

Shining Lights of the Week

Ark Class (Nursery)	**Summer** for joining Ark Class with such a positive and kind attitude. She has been consistently polite and has really impressed us with her fantastic listening skills. We have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know Summer and are looking forward to watching her continue to shine.
Antarctica (Yr R)	**Archie** for having a fantastic week! He has shown resilience with his handwriting and letter formation – improving everyday. He has also been a superstar helper to others.
Arctic Class (Yr R)	**Gunnar** for his fantastic progression in handwriting and phonics. Gunnar has worked really hard to develop his handwriting and has put in extra effort with his initial sounds and sound blending.
Oceania Class (Yr 1)	**Esme** for coming up with, and writing, some creative questions for the characters in our English key text, 'A Bit Lost'. I look forward to answering them in role next week!
Africa Class (Yr 2)	**Elsie-Mae** for her wonderful efforts in class. She has been extremely motivated and has taken great care when completing her work.
Europe Class (Yr 3)	**Oscar** for his brilliant attitude to learning, he shows readiness at all times and is a good listener when working with a partner. He has written a good quality fable this week which includes some extremely impressive vocabulary!
S America Class (Yr 4)	**Hugo** consistently demonstrates a positive work ethic, polite manners, and strong listening skills. He approaches his learning with focus and enthusiasm, always showing readiness to engage and do his best. His attitude and behaviour set a wonderful example for others in the classroom.
Asia Class (Yr 5)	**Ellsie** has been recognised for her excellent contribution to Science this week. She played a key role in setting up a fair test on thermal insulation, confidently identifying the variables to change, measure and control. Well done, Ellsie — a fantastic example of scientific thinking!
N America Class (yr 6)	**Edward** for his excellent ideas and willingness to share them with the class in our World War Two writing. He has really grasped the techniques that we have been practising.

WOW's

Jessica (Yr 1) For attending her first out school club and growing some confidence.
Freya (Yr 5) For becoming a Sixer at brownies and getting her 3rd year badge.
Jacob (Yr 5) For achieving 35 merits in recognition of endeavour and academic progress at Dereham tuition centre.

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

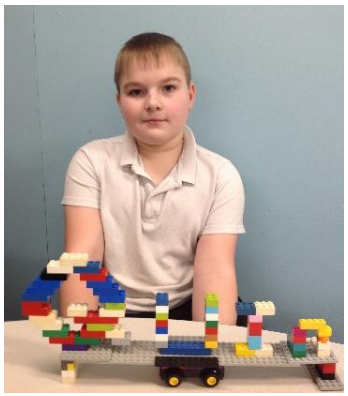
OUR KEY LEARNING QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK

Year Group	Key Learning Questions
1	How have boats changed over time?
2	What is the continent of Europe like?
3	What is it like in the countries of Northern and Eastern Europe?
4	What are tropical rainforests and where are they found?
5	What are some of the most significant borders in Asia?
6	What was trench warfare?

What we have been learning recently…

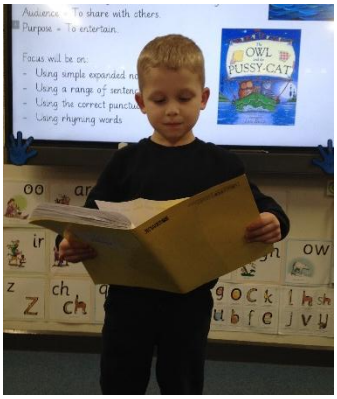
Enrichment Clubs

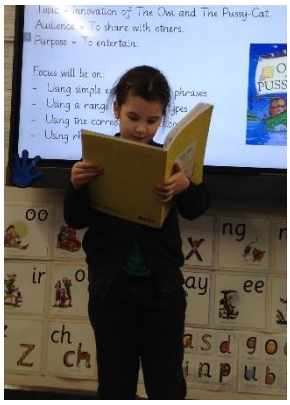
Our enrichment clubs started back last week, and it's been great to see the children enjoying being back again. Here are a few pictures from Lego Club, where the children were challenged to build their names using Lego bricks. Quinn in Year 5 rose to the challenge and won — well done, Quinn! We're looking forward to another fun and creative term of clubs.

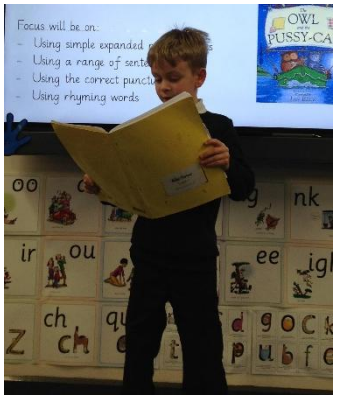


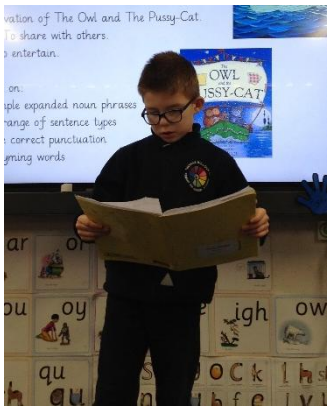
Africa Class Yr 2

In English, Year 2 created their own innovated versions of The Owl and the Pussy-Cat and confidently shared their imaginative rhymes with their friends.









Asia Class (Yr 5)

In Year 5 we have been using our map skills to locate physical features of Asia, the children enjoyed the challenge of using atlases and google maps to locate and add them to their maps.

Maths Cafes

Reception

Thank you to everyone who joined us for our recent Maths Cafes.

We enjoyed sharing the story *Superworm* and taking part in a range of engaging maths activities. Many of these focused on the concepts of *short* and *long*, as well as practising careful counting through the development of one-to-one correspondence and numeral recognition._They were thoroughly enjoyable sessions, and a great time was had by all.

Year 3 We invited adults from home to read some fables. We focused on the three little pigs! After reading, all children and adults got stuck into some activities relating to the fable Thank you so much for joining us!

Multi- Sport Festival

Year 3 took part in a Multi Sports Festival at Easton Tennis Centre. There we 16 schools taking part and nearly 200 children. We had a very enjoyable morning trying out the following sports Rugby, Darts, Handball, Dance, Tennis, Bowling, Relay and Tri-Golf. Well done to Thomas in Year 4 who was awarded the festival value certificate for Passion.

Thomas Bullock Primary and Nursery Academy

invite Parents and Children from age 2 to our

FREE SPRING 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.

The Ark Nursery Newsletter

This week

Last week we continued to learn and retell the story of 'Owl Babies', our key Literacy text – through a whole class story map, and discussion of the beginning, middle and ending of the story. This week we moved onto a new Literacy – all about dinosaurs! Called 'Stomp, Dinosaur, Stomp. We have looked at the features of different dinosaurs, learning dinosaur names and deciding our favourite dinosaurs. In maths we have continued to count and subitise the number 3 – through number 3 hunts and games in the classroom! We then moved further along counting to 4 - looking at understanding the concept, counting to 4, and subitising 4 (which means knowing something equals 4 without having to count!), as well as ordering numbers to 4. We have been creating different owl crafts through collage and painting, as well as learning about where owls live, what they look like and what sounds they make! Our winter learning has focused on ice experiments, winter walks and learning about the cold weather. We have had conversations about dinosaurs linking to our Literacy text, and begin to explore this further through dinosaur crafts and sculptures!

In phonics – we have continued with our Set 1 sounds – 'c', 'k', 'b' and 'u'!

Next week

We are going to continue learning and exploring our Literacy text 'Stomp, Dinosaur, Stomp' – and look at extending vocabulary through longer sentences. In maths, we will continue learning to count and subitise to 4 – looking closely at composition. Our winter learning will continue looking at animals in cold weathers through Arctic animal crafts, as well as continuing to explore cold countries on the globe. We will begin to introduce the concept of different planets in preparation for future space learning!

We will also be continuing with our RWI phonics lessons! We will be learning the sounds 'f' and 'e'. Here are the QR codes to practice these sounds at home!

Learning links from home:

- Can you spot the number 4 whilst on walks (on car number plates/ door numbers?)
- What animals have 4 legs? Discuss the number of legs your pet has or animals you see outside.
- Can you point out the number 4 on a clock/ watch/ screen?
- Dominoes – can you spot the dominoes with 4 dots on them?
- Can you spot rectangles and squares at home? How many sides do they have?
- Can you point out the birthday cards that show 4 whilst shopping?
- What is your favourite dinosaur? What does it look like? Why is it your favourite?
- Can you tell us a time when you felt cold? How did it feel? What could you wear to warm up?
- Can you tell a grown up what the weather is like today? How do you know? What can you see? What do you notice?

DIARY DATES

January
28th & 29th – Bikeability for Year 5
28th – Year 3 & 4 Road Safety Magic Show*

February
12th – Book Look 3pm (Hall open from 2.45pm) *
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 – 13th – British Science Week
16th – School Photographer – Class Photos
27th – Last Day of Term

April
30th March– 13th April - Easter Holiday
14th – Children return to School

May
1st – Year 1 & 2 Maths Café 2.30pm-3pm*
4th- May Day Bank Holiday- school closed*
6th – Year 3 Maths Café 2.30pm-3pm*

*New Addition