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

26th September 2025

Dear parents, carers and friends of The Nightingale Federation

As we settle into the new school year, it has been wonderful to see our children embracing every opportunity with enthusiasm, curiosity and kindness. Over recent weeks, we have celebrated National Inclusion Week and Democracy Week, encouraging pupils to reflect on equality, representation and the importance of having a voice. This culminated in the exciting election of our school groups and House roles, helping to develop leadership and responsibility across the school. Apart from our Reception classes, who will be elected after October half term. See below our Pupil-Led teams.

Our Reception pupils have now fully settled, confidently exploring their environment, making friends, and joining in lunches and collective worship.

Meanwhile, children across the Federation have enjoyed a variety of school trips, where they demonstrated our values of Kindness, Respect and Community. As one pupil shared, "I liked it when we went to the workshop and found out about how they made things and what tools they used."

Our teacher-led enrichment clubs have also begun, providing positive extensions to the school day. We are pleased that our new wraparound care provision and Nursery room are up and running, with an official opening planned for later in October.

We warmly invite grandparents to join us on Monday 6th October at 2pm for Grandparents' Day, an afternoon of activities, celebration and refreshments. It promises to be a lovely opportunity to connect with the school community. Please note year 4 will be out on a trip this day.

Thank you for your continued support as we work together to make this a fantastic year of learning and growth for all our pupils.

	Earth	Fire	Air	Water
House Captain	**Rosie**	**Edward**	**Sienna**	**Harry**

Class	School Parliament	Eco Warriors	Ethos Team	Digital Leaders
Year 1	Brady	Esme	Adeleine	
Year 2	Elodie	Margot	Betsy	
Year 3	Harrison	George	William	Callie, Thomas & Jayden
Year 4	Dylan	Levi	Cleo	Charlie, Caiden & Amber
Year 5	Mason Lynch	Izzy	Lewis	Rudi & George
Year 6	Elizabeth & Florence	Aaliyah	Eva	Jacob & Dexter
School Ambassadors		Theo		Amelia

Shining Lights of the Week

Ark Class (Nursery) **Eli** for being a kind and respectful member of our class - he is positive about learning and a brilliant role model to others.

Antarctica Class (R) **Bradley** has been a brilliant role model for his peers this week. He's been very helpful, kind and respectful.

Artic Class (R) **Izak** for his engagement during carpet time. Izak is always keen to share his ideas and offset suggestions during class input.

Oceania Class (yr 1) **Brady** for becoming a fantastic author this week and writing a book full of adjectives in his descriptive sentences.

Africa Class (yr 2) **Millie** for her positive attitude in class. She has shown great care and effort in all her learning, especially when completing her English final draft.

Europe Class (yr 3) **Charlie** for showing brilliant focus in Maths and English. He has worked hard to gain a pen licence through concentrating on beautiful presentation and neat handwriting.

S America Class (yr 4) **Jacob** for his perseverance, enthusiasm and determination in his English this week. Jacob has done brilliantly at sharing his ideas and recounted his ideas excellently in the form of a letter.

Asia Class (yr 5) **Jack** is our shining light this week because he has made wonderful contributions to classroom discussions, particularly in Science, where he was able to identify and explain patterns in scientific data to the rest of the class.

N America Class (yr 6) **Edward** is our Shining Light of the Week for his excellent attitude towards learning in his music lesson. A great attitude and example to others.

This week's overall attendance 97.5%. Arctic Class (Reception) 100%

OUR KEY LEARNING QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK

Year Group	Key Learning Questions
1	What is special about our local area?
2	Why is King John I known as 'bad King John'?
3	Where are rivers located in the UK?
4	Why was the Roman army so successful in spreading the Roman Empire?
5	How did the Anglo-Saxons rule?
6	Who ruled Ancient Egypt? & why did Ancient Egyptians build pyramids?

WOW MOMENTS!

Teddy (Yr 4) Teddy won a Young Citizen Award 2025 for his achievements within Cubs, he was the youngest out of all the winners and received a certificate and award.

Eva (Yr 6) Eva auditioned and got into pantomime for Dereham Theatre Company!

Christopher (Yr 3) We were out walking collecting leaves, when he heard the church bells being rung ready for service. We decided to explore. We were allowed to go up the bell tower, we were able to sit and watch them ring, then Christopher was allowed to have a go.

Matilda (Yr 2) This weekend Matilda, played her first mini rugby game away and scored two tries!

Eva (Reception) Performed at the Costessey Fete at the weekend!

Martha (Yr 3) Martha achieved her Sapphire bars and vault & rebound awards this week at Gymnastics.

Isabella (Yr 2) - Isabella performed 3 dances with Adagio Performing Arts School at the Costessey Fete last weekend. Last week, she also advanced to the next group in her gymnastics classes.

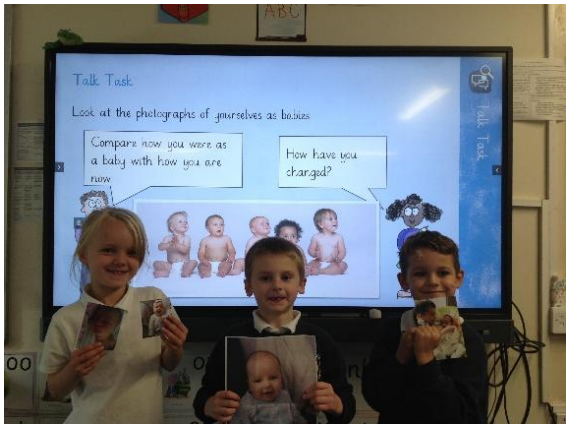
Please remember to continue to send in your ***WOW*** moments for achievements out of school
https://forms.gle/DV4RoVbQGpijcUMV7

TAKE A LOOK INTO WHAT SOME OF OUR CLASSES HAVE BEEN UP TO RECENTLY!!

Reception- With such windy weather last week, children in reception enjoyed making and flying kites!

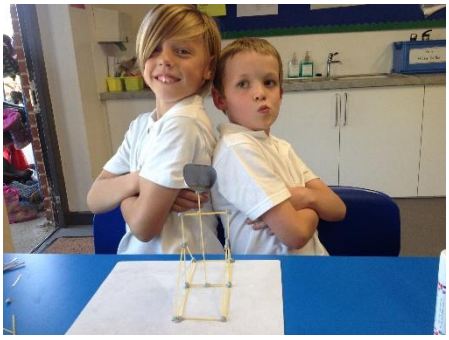
Last week we had our first PE lesson with Mrs Greenland. We learnt about athletic stance. How to move safely during our lessons and being aware of the space around us. Well done Antarctica Class, what a great first PE lesson

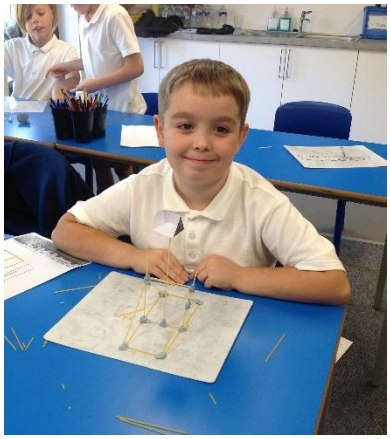
Africa Class (Yr 2) In Science, Year 2 have been investigating 'How do we change as we grow up?' Children brought in baby photos and we discussed similarities and differences.



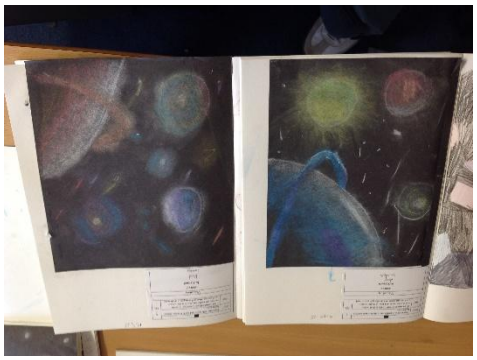
Europe (Yr 3) Year 3 have been working on creating sculptures using wires and tissue paper. We followed step by step instructions which meant everyone produced a sturdy sculpture.

Oceania (Yr 4) In Year 4 this week, we have been making prototype catapults to support us ahead of constructing our wooden ones in the upcoming weeks. We have been discussing the process of measuring and accuracy. We had a great time making our spaghetti and blu-tak versions





Asia Class (Yr 5) Look at these amazing Year 5 artists in action! We have been experimenting with smudging and blending chalks to create abstract, space-inspired backgrounds! Amazing work, team 5!



Year 5 Trip to West Stow

We were excited for our first Federation Trip, where we joined Lyng Primary School for our Trip to West Stow!

Year 5 had a fantastic day out on Monday. The children were historians for the day, finding out information all about the Anglo-Saxon settlement. They handled different artefacts from the Anglo-Saxon era and presented their findings to the class, tried on some Anglo-Saxon clothes and enjoyed exploring all the different buildings in the replica Anglo-Saxon village. The children also had some fantastic questions at the Q&A session at the end of the day.

Healthy Snacks

A polite reminder to parents and carers, please make sure all snacks and lunches from home are a healthy choice.

Thank you!

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.

Friends of Shipdham School (FOSS)

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

FOSS do an 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!

What to do when your child is unwell

Please contact the school office each time your child is unwell, either call us on 01362 820300 or email office@thomasbullock.dneat.org.

Thank you.

Polite Reminder:

Please be reminded that Dogs or any other pets are not to be brought onto School Premises at any time, thank you.

We are celebrating Mr Nourish's Birthday on Thursday 2nd October!

In order to celebrate, we invite children to make a Birthday card for Mr Nourish at home. Please hand completed birthday cards by 1st October to our School Catering team or to the School Office. We will also have an exciting menu to offer on this day too! See below.

Prizes will be given out to various Year Groups for the best cards!

The Ark Nursery Newsletter

This week

We have had another exciting week exploring the story of 'The Colour Monster' – where we had a go at creating our own Monsters and exploring our favourite colours with paint! We have worked together to make playdough – thinking carefully about what colour to make and using our hands to knead the flour into playdough! We have continued to explore all of the resources in our classroom, and practised tidying up after we have played. In Maths we have begun to look at matching and pairs – even finding pairs of socks off pegs on a washing line in our outside area! Miss V lead an exciting natural self-portrait activity, where we used different materials to represent the features of our faces!

Next week:

Next week we are learning a new story – called 'Rosie's Walk'! We will be orally rehearsing the story with actions and drawing pictures to represent parts of the story. In Maths we will continue our learning of matching – by colour, shape and size!

Learning Links at home:

- Can you find pairs of socks?
- Can you practice putting your shoes on the right way?
- Can you sort your toys by size or colour?

DIARY DATES

September
29th - Year 2 trip to Sandringham.

October
1st – FOSS AGM 7.30pm at The Golden Dog.
2nd – Neatherd Open Evening for Year 6.
3rd – Year 6 trip to Norwich Castle.*
6th – Year 4 trip to Norwich Castle. *
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

February
Half Term 16th- 20th February

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

April
14th April- Children return to School

* New addition