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

28th November 2025

Dear Parents and carers of the Nightingale Federation,

A great big thank you to our fabulous FOSS team for taking their time to come in and decorate our school for Christmas this morning, our children were overjoyed to see our tree in the hall at lunchtime!

This week, the NSPCC visited our Year 2 and Year 5 classes to deliver their *Speak Out, Stay Safe* workshops. Children learned about identifying trusted adults, the importance of speaking out, and how to keep themselves safe. These reminders are especially valuable as the evenings are now darker earlier.

Last Thursday, Reception children from across the Federation enjoyed a wonderful visit to High Lodge for their Gruffalo Trail. The children were brilliantly behaved and fully engaged throughout the day. As we approach December, we have more exciting trips planned across the Federation, along with visits at the start of the spring term. Further details will be shared by class teachers.

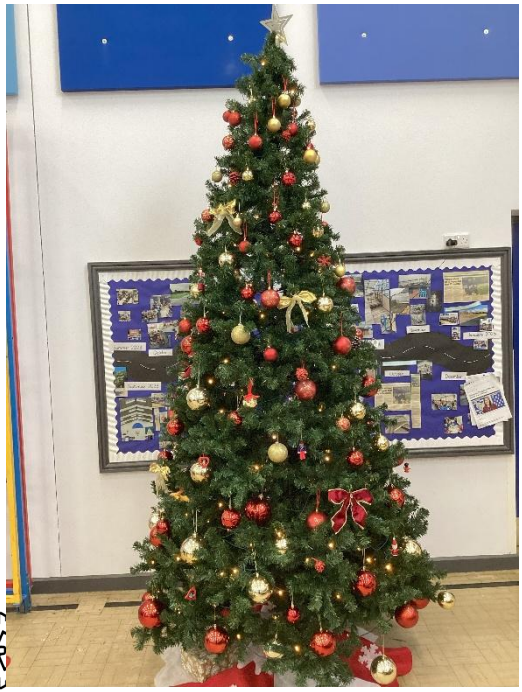
If you have a child due to start Reception in September 2026 or 2027, please ensure you complete your school application in good time. Applications can be submitted through Norfolk County Council using the link below:
https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/norfolkfirstadmissions
If you need any support with the application process, please contact the school office.

We are pleased to be offering open days at both schools next week for prospective families:
Thomas Bullock –Tuesday 2nd December at 2pm
Lyng – Wednesday 3rd December at 9.15am
These sessions are a wonderful opportunity to tour our learning environments, meet staff, and gain a sense of our Federation's caring and ambitious ethos.

On Monday, our Governors spent the afternoon in school and were delighted to observe the calm, focused atmosphere across classrooms. They commented on the high-quality work proudly displayed on the walls, the purposeful learning taking place, and the children's excellent attitudes.

We would also like to remind parents about our upcoming Maths and Reading Cafés. These sessions offer a great chance to learn alongside your child, see the strategies they use in class, and pick up simple ideas to support learning at home. Dates and times shown in the table below.

Across the Federation, children are currently finishing their end-of-term Art, Design, and Writing projects. These pieces link closely to the knowledge and skills they have been developing throughout the autumn term, and we look forward to celebrating their fantastic achievements



Reading Cafe and Maths Cafe

At various stages throughout the year, we would like to welcome you all to your child's class reading and maths cafe!

A school reading cafe is an event where the children and a family member, like a parent or grandparent, can share quality time reading together and in still a passion for reading and a love of books. We hope to also include some fun events and activities for the pupils and their adult to complete based around a specific book.

A school maths cafe is an informal, hands-on session where students, parents, and teachers engage with mathematics through games and activities. Some teachers may choose to base the maths learning around a particular book to give the cafe structure and purpose.

The dates and times of each year group are below.

Year Group	Reading Cafe	Maths Cafe
EYFS	Weekly reading cafe	Antarctica- Monday 19th January 2.30pm-3pm Arctic- Tuesday 20th January 2.30pm-3pm
Year One	Friday 5th December 9am-9.30am	Friday 1st May 2.30pm-3pm
Year Two	Friday 5th December 9am-9.30am	Friday 1st May 2.30pm-3pm
Year Three	Monday 19th January 9am-9.30am	Wednesday 6th May 2.30pm-3pm
Year Four	Monday 15th December 9am-9.30am	Friday 16th January 2.30pm-3pm
Year Five	Friday 13th February 9am-9.30am	Monday 8th December 2.30pm-3pm
Year Six	Friday 13th February 9am-9.30am	Monday 8th December 2.30pm-3pm

Shining Lights of the Week

Ark Class (Nursery)	**Twiggy** for always making good choices and using her listening ears. She is a brilliant role model to others in the class!
Antarctica (Yr R)	**Hallie Haw** for a brilliant week all around! Fantastic efforts in phonics and with her letter formation as well as being a kind friend to her peers.
Arctic Class (Yr R)	**Kiaara** for her all-round politeness and helpfulness. Kiaara has been keen help her classmates when they are struggling and offers a friendly shoulder for support.
Oceania Class (Yr 1)	**Harry** his fantastic, festive rhyming couplets in English.
Africa Class (Yr 2)	**Amelia** for always making wonderful choices. She has been incredibly focused and enthusiastic in class.
Europe Class (Yr 3)	**Sonny Joe** because of his excellent perseverance in the classroom. He has also contributed well in the classroom, giving his opinions and answers to question which has helped his classwork. Keep it up, Sonny Joe.
S America Class (Yr 4)	**Kelsey** for her exceptional effort and perseverance. She has been using her purple polishing pen thoughtfully, showing a strong willingness to identify and correct her mistakes in both English and Maths. Kelsey has also contributed brilliantly to class discussions, and we have seen significant growth in her confidence.
Asia Class (Yr 5)	**Kai** for Maths, he has shown great perseverance in developing his understanding of equivalent fractions
N America Class (yr 6)	**Eva** is North America's shining Star of the week for all the effort and thought she invests in her work, her school responsibilities and friendships.

This week's overall attendance 96.8%. Antarctica Class (Yr R) 98%

WOW MOMENTS!

Matilda (Yr 2) Congratulations to Matilda on receiving a Blue Peter eco badge award, for your dedication to litter picking in Shipdham!

George (Yr 2) He scored two goals at hockey last weekend and got player of the week. He also got picked for a tournament this weekend in Norwich.

Daisy (Yr 1) We are incredibly proud to share that Daisy has finished in 1st place in her motocross championship! She was incredible all season and truly earned this victory. Well done, Daisy!

Eli (Ark Nursery) A huge well done to Eli, who absolutely smashed his motocross championship and finished 6th overall! An awesome performance all season great work, Eli!

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

What we have been learning recently...

Year 2, 5 and 6 had a visit from an NSPCC volunteer and enjoyed their NSPCC workshop! They delivered an engaging workshop which recapped the importance of speaking out to stay safe and discussed trusted adults who they can share their concerns with. Well done all for taking part!

Reception Trip to High Lodge

Reception have had their first school trip to High Lodge, Thetford Forest where they had a great time doing the Gruffalo trail, played some musical instruments, had fun on the play area and enjoyed our picnic lunch. High lodge was chilly but we wrapped up warm and explored the woods in true reception class style and had a great first school trip!

CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

We hope you will come along to the Christmas Tree Festival in the Church 5th-7th December. The school will be having a couple of trees on display with decorations made by the children. Our school choir will also be singing on Friday 5th December at 3pm

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.

SANTA DASH!

On Friday 12th December we will be taking part in a School Games National Santa dash. The Santa dash is all about having fun while being active. Pupils will all get the chance to run around the field (depending on the weather)/playground. If you have one, please bring a Santa hat or something with a Christmas theme to wear on your head.

The Ark Nursery Newsletter

This week

This week we have been learning a new literacy text – beginning by exploring the setting and characters and looking at clues before realising our story is the Cruffalo! We are very excited to continue our learning and finish reading the story altogether! In maths we have been learning how to extend AB colour patterns, practising with cubes, counting bears and stickers! As we move into December, we have been learning how to create a collage – by ripping and tearing materials to create our own Christmas stockings for our Expressive Arts and Design display! We have also been practising singing Nativity songs and learning about why we celebrate Christmas through the nativity.

In phonics – we have learnt some Set 1 sounds – 'm', 'a', 's' and 'd'! We are very impressed with how well the children have focused learning their sounds already! Here are the QR codes of the sounds we have learnt.

'm' 'a' 's' 'd'

Next week

We will continue to learn and retell the story of the Gruffalo. We will be retelling the story through different actions. In maths, we will continue our learning of extending AB patterns - using outside resources to create our own patterns. We will continue to learn the story of the nativity and retell the key events. We will be getting creative and creating Christmas crafts for the classroom – baubles, Christmas wreaths and Christingles! We will 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 't' and 'i'. 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 collect 2 colours of blocks or lego to create an AB pattern?
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.
Paper plate and pegs. Children to choose 2/3 colours and peg them in a pattern around the paper plate.
Pasta patterns. Using different types of pasta, children can create a pattern, or necklace if using the types with a hole through.
Have 2 sets of paper cups and explain that they need to be put away in a pattern. Children can stack the cups in a pattern and put them away in a cupboard to be used throughout the week.

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

November
29th- FOSS Wreath Making evening at WI Hall

December
2nd – Open Day for Reception 2026 2pm-3pm*
5th -7th – 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 9.15am-10.15am and 2pm-3pm*
12th – Santa Dash*
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

*New Addition