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

9th January 2025

Dear Parents, carers and friends of the Nightingale Federation,

Welcome back everyone!

What a week of weather we have had! The children thoroughly enjoyed playing in the snow, splashing in the rain and running in the winter sunshine. With temperatures dropping as low as -7°C outside this week, this is a timely reminder to please ensure all children come to school every day with warm coats, hats, gloves and well-fitting wellies. If anyone requires support with coats, hats, gloves or other winter warmers, the Friends at Thomas Bullock Shop have many items available, including coats and wellies. The shop is open on Wednesday mornings in Shipdham village.

We are delighted to announce that our Reading and Maths Cafés start again this week and we very much look forward to welcoming families back into school.

Free Stay and Play sessions in our Nursery class also return this week. These sessions are for families of nursery-aged children (under the age of four) and provide an opportunity to spend time in the classroom and experience our learning environment in action. They are every Friday from 2pm-3pm.

In addition, we would like to invite all families and grandparents to our Spring 1 Family Reading Breakfast on Friday, 23 January. This will be a special event where we will also be introducing our new Reading Ambassadors.

Teacher-led, free enrichment clubs kick off this week, offering children a fantastic opportunity to explore new skills, hobbies and interests while having fun with friends! Reverend Richard's ethos club was a particular joy to see in action. If you have not yet signed up: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc6wYlKX8KBFd9hCwHnDrtAeUb6kMuPWJFjRmURTbhK6bhCHQ/viewform?usp=header

Applications for Reception places for the 2026–27 academic year are due this week. Further information and guidance on how to apply can be found via Norfolk County Council: https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/article/38188/Admission-to-reception-classes

Please do follow and keep an eye on our social media pages, which often share relevant and up-to-date information, as well as celebrate the wonderful learning taking place across the school.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. We look forward to another exciting half term ahead.

Shining Lights of the Week

Ark Class (Nursery)	**Mila** for arriving back to school with a positive attitude to her learning. She has shown super listening ears and been a kind friend to all in the class! We are very proud of you!
Antarctica (Yr R)	**Monty** for having a fantastic return to school for this term. Monty has listened to adults brilliantly and been a superstar helper to others.
Arctic Class (Yr R)	**Rupert** for his fantastic return to school. Rupert has found a new confidence in 2026 which has allowed him to show his ideas with the class and improve his handwriting.
Oceania Class (Yr 1)	**Robyn** for coming back to school after the Christmas break feeling refreshed, enthusiastic and ready to learn!
Africa Class (Yr 2)	**Sonny** for settling into Year 2 so positively. He has shown great effort, hard work and a fantastic attitude towards learning.
Europe Class (Yr 3)	**Callie** for her excellent focus and willingness to work hard in her learning. She has shown great progress in his classwork because of his concentration.
S America Class (Yr 4)	**Emma** her fantastic return to school. She has shown the same strong work ethic she demonstrated before Christmas and approaches all her learning with enthusiasm and determination. Emma consistently strives to complete her work to a very high standard and sets an excellent example for others.
Asia Class (Yr 5)	**Hadley,** due to his commitment to improving his writing skills. He is trying hard to form his letters correctly, write coherent sentences and use a range of punctuation accurately. Well done, Hadley!
N America Class (yr 6)	**Eliza** for her determination and hard work in multiplying fractions-well done!

This week's overall attendance 96.9% Arctic Class (Yr R) 98.6%

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 do we travel around today?
2	What are the seven continents that make up planet Earth?
3	Which countries are in Europe?
4	What are the key physical features of South America?
5	What are the key physical features of Asia?
6	How did the First World War begin and why did Britain fight?

What we have been learning recently...

Year 2

Year 2 have begun their exciting new 'Planet Earth' topic. As part of their learning, the children have been discovering the seven continents, naming them and exploring where they are located around the world. They have been using globes and maps to identify each continent.

Some snow fun this week!!

Ark Nursery

Reception

Year 5

SAFEGUARDING INFORMATION

If you hear or see anything that worries you, please do use this link:

https://www.justonenorfolk.nhs.uk/our-services/safeguarding/

If you think a child is in immediate danger contact the police on 999.

If a child is not in immediate danger but at risk of harm contact the Norfolk Children's Advice and Duty Service (CADS) on 0344 800 8020. Children's Services will listen to your call. They may act immediately to keep a child safe and they also work with families to offer support at difficult times.

You can contact the Healthy Child Service team by calling **Just One Number** on 0300 300 0123 or **texting Parentline** on 07520 631590. Opening hours are 8am-6pm Monday-Friday (excluding bank holidays) and 9am-1pm on Saturdays.

A Message from our SENDCo

Here is a link to the Family Action Norfolk & Waveney Autism/ADHD Support Service Newsletter, January 2026:

https://sway.cloud.microsoft/TgPxksHgA7tRgoX4?ref=email

Below is a link to our Parent/Carer SEND Survey results, which is also on our website

https://www.thomasbullock.dneat.org/docs/SEND_Parent_Carer_Survey_Results_-_Thomas_Bullock_C_of_E_Primary_Academy_-_December_2025.pdf

Thank you for taking the time to read.

Reminders

Medication

We do allow most types of medication to be administered in school but in order for us to this, you'll need to fill in a medication form. The form is available at the school office or on our website under 'parents – useful forms'.

Appointments

If your child has a medical appointment (dentist, doctors, optician, hospital) please inform the school office by email attaching confirmation of appointment.

Driving and Parking

For the safety of the children please do not park or drive through the entrance roundabout, or on the yellow lines outside school where there is bus parking. We do not have school parking facilities, therefore please do not enter and park inside of the school gates. Please park respectfully, and be careful not to block our neighbours driveways at school drop off and collection times. Please be extra cautious when driving in the area around school. Many of the children walk to/from school, some unaccompanied, which we gladly encourage and their safety on our road is paramount.

Warm Clothing

With the cold weather now fully here, please ensure children come to school prepared with warm coats, hats, scarves, and gloves.

The Ark Nursery Newsletter

This week

This week we have welcomed everyone back to Nursery after a busy and exciting Christmas break! We have had lots of fun exploring the snow outside in our outdoor area and learning all about the season of winter. We discussed seasonal changes and why it is important to stay warm when it feels cold outside. We then had a winter treasures hunt to see what signs of winter we could find! In Literacy, we have begun to learn a new story called 'Owl Babies', looking at the characters and key vocabulary in the story, as well as exploring different emotions of the characters. In maths, we have looked at subitising 3, meaning to know an amount is '3' without counting, such as looking at dice! We have explored this further using animals, fish and counting bears!

In phonics – we have continued with our Set 1 sounds – 'o' and 'g'. We are looking to further develop our fine motor skills, and for our older children in the class, developing handwriting skills.

Next week

We will continue to learn the story 'Owl Babies' as our key Literacy text; looking to orally retell the story through our whole class story map. In maths, we will consolidate our learning of the number '3'. We will continue to explore signs of winter and begin to look at exploring 'ice' as a seasonal change through cause and effect. Linking to our Literacy text, we will be getting creative through owl crafts and painting.

We will also be continuing with our RWI phonics lessons! We will be learning the sounds 'c' and 'k'. 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 count your toys?
Can you learn a simple clapping rhythm to 3?
Can you find 3 of something?
Can you subitise the numbers of a dice? Or dominoes?
How are you feeling today? Can you tell me what emotion? Why?
What makes you feel happy?
Can you find the number 3 during a walk? On number plates or door numbers?

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

Wraparound Care

Happy New Year!

A warm welcome back from all of us at Wraparound Care. We hope you had an enjoyable and restful Christmas.

The children have settled brilliantly into their temporary setting in the hall. With the weather being particularly chilly, we have been spending more time indoors, keeping cosy and warm.

We look forward to another positive and enjoyable term ahead!

Warm regards,
The Wraparound Care Team

DIARY DATES

January
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