Thomas Bullock Church of England Primary and Nursery Academy
"Let your light shine" Matthew 5:14-16
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Newsletter
10th July 2026

Federation Celebrations This Half Term

This half term has been an extraordinary period of celebration across the Nightingale Federation. We have welcomed two SIAMS inspections, and earlier in the Spring Term Lyng received its Ofsted inspection. All three were incredibly positive and deeply affirming. Inspectors highlighted our inclusion, behaviour, achievement and curriculum as areas of real strength, describing practice across our schools as outstanding, fabulous and exceptional.

At SIAMS last week, the inspector shared that although she visits so many schools, ours were simply "fabulous, fabulous, fabulous" and that she would feel lucky to send her own children to our schools. This was a wonderful affirmation of the care, commitment and excellence that define our Federation.

Across all inspections and celebrations, we were validated in the most important way: that we are doing the right things for our children. We care deeply for them, we champion their achievements, and we ensure that every child shines and flourishes in whatever they do, enjoying school as much as possible.

During Lyng's Sports Day, I shared with a parent how often our leadership team is asked to support more widely, even nationally, and how proud I am of them. The parent asked that this be shared more broadly. It was a lovely reminder of how much our community values the work we do and how our staff help children flourish every day.

Awards and Nominations Across the Federation

This year, our Federation has been recognised at both county and trust level. We were nominated for the Norfolk Flourish Awards, and Thomas Bullock was awarded Bronze in the Pearson National Teaching Awards for Making a Difference – Primary School of the Year. This national award celebrates schools that make an exceptional impact on their communities, and being recognised at this level is a testament to the dedication, care and ambition shown every day by our staff and pupils.
At the DNEAT Yearly Trust Awards, our Federation was celebrated once again, with staff recognised for their exceptional contributions across leadership, inclusion, early years, curriculum excellence and community impact. These awards highlight the strength and depth of expertise across our schools and reflect how our values are lived out daily in classrooms, corridors and playgrounds.

Seven members of staff were shortlisted for trust-wide awards across 42 schools and central teams, under the values of Wisdom, Courage, Kindness and Community:

- Community – Amazing attendance and parent support – Mrs Julia Gibb
- Kindness – Exceptional inclusion and SEND support – Mrs Nicola Smith
- Courage – Maths leadership across the trust – Miss Leona Newcombe

In the Wisdom category, we achieved something truly exceptional: three of the four shortlisted candidates across the entire trust were from our Federation. This reflects the strength, expertise and influence of our leadership team.

- Wisdom – Excellence within his setting and beyond – Executive Deputy Mr Nick Wade
- Wisdom – English leadership across Norfolk and wider – Mrs Nancy Henman
- Community – EYFS excellence and Nursery development – Mrs Debbie Marjoram

We were also delighted to celebrate one of the four winners on the night:

- Miss Tiffany Allen – recognised for her exceptional teaching of early reading, transformational phonics practice and leadership of PSHE and RSE. Her work was highlighted during Ofsted as demonstrating the exceptional potential of Lyng's use of our Federation curriculum, through precision teaching, strong links across subjects and a progressive, sequential approach that enables pupils to flourish.

Every member of our incredible team could have been nominated and shortlisted. We are so fortunate to have staff who are truly the best any school could ever hope for. It was wonderful to see them shine their lights so brightly on the night, celebrating what they do so well.

A Special Honour at the Norfolk Show

Another highlight this term was at the Norfolk Show, where our Federation's Year 4 pupils were chosen as the only choir out of more than 100 Church of England schools to sing at the Bishop's Service. It was a huge honour to be invited and to perform. Our Choir Lead, Mrs Olivia Godfrey, and Music Teacher, Mrs Anna Drake, led the children so beautifully. They were incredible, and it takes huge courage to perform at such a significant event. The children flourished in every sense — musically, emotionally and spiritually — and we are so proud of them.

Across the Federation, we continue to grow, excel and shine.
What a half term it has been.

WOWs

Gunnar (Reception) After only a short time training, Gunnar passed his first Jiu Jitsu grading this week and will be awarded his new belt at next week's ceremony! Well done, Gunnar!

Stuart (Year 2) Stuart rescued a Hermann Tortoise called George, he is 10 years old and was in Raven's Reptile Rescue for 3 years!

Isabella (Year 2) Isabella attended the grand final of the So You Want To Dance competition and she was awarded an amazing 4th place for her modern solo.

Leon (Year 3) Leon is now in stage 5 in swimming lessons so is now in the deep end of the swimming pool.

Theo (Year 4) Theo had been voted as the Parents Player of the season for the Shipdham Hornets and has been chosen by the coaches to be the first full-time captain for next season.

Jacob (Year 5) Jacob was awarded his half marathon band at Junior park run last Sunday. Well done!

Elizabeth (Year 6) Elizabeth has done very well on her high school transition days, she received a golden ticket in class and has came home with two certificates for her hard work. We're so proud of her, well done.

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

Shining Lights of the Week- 3rd July

Ark Class (Nursey) **Charlotte** for always being respectful to others and full of positive energy in our class. She demonstrates a willingness to help others, and is kind to all!

Arctic Class (Yr R) **Woody** for the way in which he conducts himself. Woody is extremely polite and helpful, something that was commented on by our visitor yesterday.

Antarctica Class (Yr R) **Oliver** has been a shining light this week by showing wonderful care for our environment. He always helps to keep our classroom tidy, looks after our resources carefully, and sets a fantastic example to others.

Oceania Class (Yr 1) **Mia P** for a brilliantly innovated story of, 'Lost and Found' by Oliver Jeffers. Mia's version sees a horse getting lost and being returned to its stable by a boy – however, it turns out, the horse was not lost, it was just lonely!

Africa Class (Yr 2) **All of Africa Class** for showing fantastic curiosity during their visit to Banham Zoo. They asked thoughtful questions and shared some amazing knowledge. We are incredibly proud of them!

Europe Class (Yr 3) **Avery** for his positive attitude to learning and interaction with class discussions. His confidence has improved massively and this has helped the quality of his work too.

S America Class (Yr 4) **Reggie** for shining brightly with his amazing classroom behaviour. He is consistently ready to learn, always showing the Five straight away, listening carefully, and being a calm, kind, and positive presence in our classroom. Reggie sets a fantastic example for others every day—well done!

Asia Class (Yr 5) **Oliver** for the commitment and perseverance he has shown to improve his handwriting and presentation. He now consistently takes pride in his work in both English and Maths. Oliver should be very proud of the progress he has made.

N America Class (Yr 6) **Flo** for her positive attitude and willingness to embrace challenge. She smashed her way out of her comfort zone at the Year 6 residential and even though some tasks were scary she pushed through and surpassed her goals!

Shining Lights of the Half Term

Ark Class (Nursey)
Eli for demonstrating respect towards our environment and for being a positive role model to others.
Mia for always showing kindness towards others, and respect for our classroom resources.

Arctic Class (Yr R)
Reggie for consistently demonstrating this half term's value of caring for the environment. Reggie is often spotted doing litter picks around the village to help keep it clean and tidy, whilst protect our environment.
Felix for consistently demonstrating this half term's value of caring for the environment. Felix takes pride and goes the extra mile to look after our school environment by picking up litter from the playground during break and lunch time.

Antarctica Class (Yr R)
Archie for always helping to keep our classroom tidy and organised; showing great care and commitment to caring for our environments.
Oliver for choosing eco-friendly ways to get to school and for helping to care for our school environments.

Oceania Class (Yr 1)
Esme for consistently demonstrating this half term's value of caring for the environment. She has been a valued member of the Eco-Council and has done a number of things to support the school environment such as litter picks and environmental reviews.
Harry for consistently demonstrating this half term's value of caring for the environment. He has been very good at explaining how climate change is caused and what strategies we should be doing to reduce it.

Africa Class (Yr 2)
Esme for consistently showing great care and respect for our classroom environment. She takes great responsibility in ensuring that our learning environment is always tidy and organised.
Louis for showing great care for our environment and looking after our outdoor spaces. He is a positive role model, setting a wonderful example for others through his responsible and thoughtful actions.

Europe Class (Yr 3)
Violet for consistently demonstrating this half term's value of caring for the environment. She always collects any rubbish and litter picks regularly.
William for consistently demonstrating this half term's value of caring for the environment. He takes great pride in looking after our peace garden.

S America Class (Yr 4)
Phoenix for consistently demonstrating our half term's value of the environment. Every day, without fail, Phoenix helps around the classroom- collecting books, handing out activities, holding the door for others. His kindness and helpfulness is such a wonderful quality in our classroom.
Tegan for consistently demonstrating our half term's value of the environment. She is a hugely organised member of our class who takes pride in ensuring everything is just right for every single member of Year 4. We are so grateful for your helpfulness.

Asia Class (Yr 5)
Jack for always demonstrating our value of Environment. He shows a wonderful appreciation for the natural world and all living things. His care and respect for the environment make him a fantastic role model for others.
Scarlett for consistently demonstrating this half term's value of caring for the environment. She always takes great care to ensure our learning environment is welcoming, organised, and purposeful.

N America Class (Yr 6)
Ben for consistently demonstrating this half term's value of caring for the environment. He always takes time to notice the wonder of the natural world around him.
Eva for consistently demonstrating this half term's value of caring for the environment. She always cares for the things around her in the local and wider environment.

This week's overall attendance 96.71% -South America Class (Yr 4) 100%

Please see our term dates below for the new academic year, to help with planning your diary dates:

Autumn 2026
Tues 1st Sep 2026 - Staff Inset day
Wed 2nd Sep - Children back to school
Fri 23rd Oct - Inset day
Fri 18th Dec - Children finish at **12pm, break up for Christmas (Staff inset pm)**

Spring 2027
Mon 4th Jan 2027 - Inset day
Tues 5th Jan - Children back to school
Thurs 25th March - Children finish at **12pm, break up for Easter (Staff inset pm)**

Summer 2027
Mon 12th April 2027 - Inset day
Tues 13th April - Children back to school
Mon 7th June - Inset day
Wed 21st July - Children finish at **12pm, break up for Summer (Staff inset pm)**

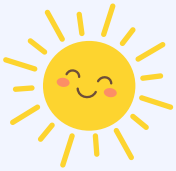
Exciting News!

We are pleased to announce that Miss Davey will be joining us in September in our EYFS and KS1 teaching team.
Some of the pupils' have already had the opportunity to meet her, as she has previously worked in our Federation school, Lyng.
We are delighted to welcome Miss Davey to Thomas Bullock.

Diary Dates

July
13th - Year 6 Productions. 1.30pm & 5.45pm
13th - Year 6 BBQ 4.15pm*
14th- Year 6 Leavers and Awards Service at All Saints Church 9.30am*
15th - Move up Day - All year groups
16th - Move up Day- All year groups
15th, 16th &17th - Dereham High Schools transition days
17th - Break up for summer – School finishes at 12pm (Inset)

September
1st- Inset Day- School Closed
2nd- Children Return to School

October
23rd- Inset Day- School Closed*

*New Addition