



Thomas Bullock Church of England Primary and Nursery Academy

"Let your light shine" Matthew 5:14-16

Executive Headteacher: Mrs S O'Sullivan

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Dear Parents, Carers, and Friends of The Nightingale Federation,

What a joyous term we have had! Although this term has been nearly a week longer than usual, our pupils have maintained their energy and enthusiasm for learning and growth right to the very end. This Autumn Term has been filled with wonderful Christmas festivities, including Christmas lunches, Christingles, Christmas services, concerts, lunchtime Christmas shops, raffles, parties, fetes, and even trips to see Santa and his reindeer at Holkham Hall. These events truly reflect the strength and spirit of our fantastic community!

We are thrilled by the continued strength of our school community, which begins with our amazing parents and carers. A heartfelt thank you for your unwavering support—whether attending school events, helping with home learning, practising times tables, joining FOSS, acting as a Governor, buying raffle tickets, or reading daily with your children. Your involvement is deeply appreciated and has contributed this term to a new swing and an expanded trim-trail at Thomas Bullock, alongside Christmas parties and selection boxes at both schools.

The Nightingale Federation continues to grow from strength to strength. We've made exciting staff appointments that ensure our pupils continue to flourish. We remain dedicated to ensuring every child "lets their light shine!" This term, our core values across the Federation have been respect, trustworthiness, thankfulness, and honesty.

This term, we had the privilege of welcoming Governors, SIAMs teams, local incumbents, the Local Authority, and School Improvement teams to both schools within the Federation. While we always strive for improvement, our children must be praised for their excellent behaviour, positive attitudes, and their willingness to work together and achieve success. This includes both their academic and sporting achievements, with pupils continuing to excel both inside and outside the classroom. Please continue to share 'WOW' moments for our weekly celebrations—we love to celebrate all our pupils' achievements!

We are deeply grateful for the generosity of our incredible benefactors, whose time, resources, and support make a huge difference. A special thank you goes to the wonderful FOSS, the Thomas Bullock Trust, and our Federation Governors. Their initiative, ideas, support, and challenge have played an essential role in our ongoing school improvements. I am truly thankful for their dedication and energy.

Our pupils' achievements were again evident in the Autumn Assessments, and their learning will continue to be strengthened through regular joint staff training and sharing curriculum expertise. Nationally, our Federation achieved excellent results in Summer 2024, and we continue to be recognised as one of the top-performing schools locally and nationally, as shown in the Compare Schools DFE. This year, Thomas Bullock remains in the top 5th percentile of schools nationally for the third year running, with Lyng closely following.

This term, we've expanded our weekly 'Stay and Play' sessions across the Federation. Our qualified teacher-led Nursery at Thomas Bullock continues to grow, as does our wraparound care offer. We are delighted to be fully expanding this provision and will share our building and expansion plans, both inside and outside, with you early in the Spring Term.

We also began wraparound care at Lyng from 8am to 6pm this year. While this provision is still growing, we are excited about introducing a school-based academic Nursery with a separate entrance and exit from 8:45am to 3:15pm. We are looking at expanding and developing our building as part of this provision and are excited about the plans for our internal learning environments and outdoor spaces. This Early Years and expanded provision will offer wraparound care from at least 8am to 6pm and help support early reading and speech and language development. It will also provide parents with an appropriate school-based choice within their locality. If successful, we would look into offering holiday clubs outside of the school term in our updated facilities. Please see the consultation on our website for more information and to share your support.

We're thrilled to announce that, from January 7th, we will be returning to all activities in our newly updated hall at Thomas Bullock. With modern soundproofing, heating, windows, and a brand-new roof, we have several exciting events in January already booked—such as a mobile planetarium dome, orchestra, and Humanities days. We invite all current and prospective families from across the Federation to join us for a reading morning on January 9th at 8:30am and celebrate our new school hall.

None of these wonderful achievements, events, and opportunities would be possible without the dedication, hard work, and energy of our fantastic team of staff—both teaching and non-teaching. I am immensely grateful to them for their ongoing commitment to ensuring every child is happy, safe, well-taught, and valued.

Lastly, we would like to express our sincere thanks to both pupils and parents for the thoughtful Christmas gifts, cards, and messages. Your kindness and generosity have truly touched us all, and our team is deeply appreciative.

We look forward to seeing you on Tuesday, January 7th at 8:45am. We wish you all a restful and joyful Christmas and a very Happy New Year!

With blessings and warmest wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Shannon O'Sullivan', with a decorative flourish at the end.

Mrs. Shannon O'Sullivan and the entire Nightingale Federation Team