



Thomas Bullock Church of England Primary and Nursery Academy

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

Headteacher: Mrs Shannon O'Sullivan

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NEWSLETTER 20th December 2024

Dear parents, carers and friends of The Nightingale Federation

This Autumn term has been a busy one and Mrs O'Sullivan has summed up the last few months in a separate end of term Federation letter which has been included as a separate attachment. Also, as an attachment is the Autumn term newsletter created by our Digital Leaders.

School Choir

On Wednesday afternoon, the lovely school choir spread some Christmas cheer at Shipdham Manor nursing home! The residents praised the children on their wonderful singing voices and the choir spent some time talking to them afterwards. It was a wonderful and humbling atmosphere! The previous Friday evening they performed at the carol concert organised by FOSS. Once again, their performance was amazing and so well supported by family and friends. An incredible £358 was raised. Well done choir!



Christmas Card Competition Winner

We were thrilled to receive an email from George Freeman MP's office this week informing that Mason in year 4 was the winner of his Christmas Card Competition. Children from schools in his Mid-Norfolk constituency were invited to design his Christmas Card which he sends out across the County. Fiona Laird, who is George's wife is an artist and judged the competition she commented on the fantastic use of blue in the picture which is so artistic. Well done Mason!



***Thank you to our amazing kitchen and lunchtime staff over 150 meals
were served on Christmas Lunch Day!***



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Shining Lights of the half term – ‘Kindness’

- Ark Class (Nursery) **Sophie and Tommy** are our shining lights of the half term for consistently showing our value of kindness. **Sophie** is a great role model to her peers as she is always sharing resources and looking out for others within Ark Class. **Tommy** is a wonderfully kind member of our class, who is always on hand to cheer up his friends!
- Antarctic Class (yr R) **Grace and Martha** for showing great kindness to others, encouraging them to do the same. They have been wonderful role models to their peers!
- Oceania Class (yr 1) **Daisy** is always there to help a friend in need and will put others first. **George** has wonderful manners and always remembers to be kind and thankful when someone shows him kindness.
- Africa Class (yr 2) **Millani** for being an extremely enthusiastic, positive and thoughtful member of the class who is able to recognise and support the needs of others.
Leon for coming into school every day with a huge smile on his face and for showing great kindness and care towards his peers.
- Europe Class (yr 3) **Tegan** is always there to help a friend in need and will put other people first.
Phoenix has worked hard in class and outside of it in offering people a ‘helping hand’, whether that be with work or play
- S America Class (yr 4) **Freya and Hadley** for both being kind, considerate and caring friends and pupils within our classroom. They are both very supportive and congratulate children on their achievements in the classroom setting, always encouraging and offering a helping hand.
- Asia Class (yr 5) **Dexter and Halle** for being kind, thoughtful friends and great role models to others.
- N America Class (yr 6) **Rosie** always treats people with respect, politeness and is mindful of their feelings.
Jake always thinks of others first, how they might be feeling and what he can do for them.

This week’s overall attendance 94.6%. North America Class (yr 6) 98.5%

WOW MOMENTS!

Joseph (Ark Nursery) Joseph completed a 4 week "Learn to Ride" course with Little Riders and can now confidently ride a 2 wheel pedal bike.

Ruby (yr 6) came 2nd in a ‘Design a Deck’ competition and her artwork is now officially displayed on the Deck!



Please remember to continue to send in your **WOW** moments for achievements out of school
<https://forms.gle/DV4RoVbQQGpjjcUM>

Friends of Shipdham School

The FOSS team have worked so hard over the last few weeks preparing and organising the many Christmas events. We are so grateful for everything they do to solely benefit the children of our school. This last week has seen a new nest swing and log traverse with ropes installed on the field. They have run two wonderful Christmas shops for the children to buy some great gifts for family and friends and finally this afternoon the Christmas party where fun was had by all!

Finally, to wish all the children a 'Merry Christmas' the FOSS gave them all a Christmas Selection Box!



Grand Re-Opening

CURRENT AND PROSPECTIVE FAMILIES PLEASE JOIN US IN CELEBRATING THE OPENING OF OUR NEW SCHOOL HALL

With a whole School Reading Morning

9TH JANUARY 2025	8:30-9:00 AM
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THOMAS BULLOCK SCHOOL
HALL

SEND Parent Café

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

WHEN?
Monday 1:30- 2:30pm
Starting 4th November 2024

WHERE?
Dereham Library
59 High St, Dereham NR19 1DZ

WHO?
Who can attend?
Anyone who may feel that they need a friendly and supportive safe space to share ideas, make friends and gain professional information, advice and guidance.

WHY?
Norfolk libraries are teaming up with services in our community to support children, young people and their families to access support from services and other families.

How much and who do I contact to book?
This a FREE service. You do NOT need to book, just turn up as and when you can. Children and young people are welcome to join too.

Breckland Family Hub
Schools and Communities
SENDIASS
ASD Helping Hands

Call Dereham Library for more details - 01362 693184



Antarctica Class (Reception)

Antarctica class were amazing in their two nativity performances last week at the Church. It was a lovely sight to see the children in their costumes walking to and from the coach and Church with many locals in the village pausing as they passed and sending a smile and wave. We are so proud at how confident the children were and it was a fabulous Christmas performance! A huge well done to all involved.



Oceania Class (yr 1)

Year One had a fabulous time at Holkham Hall! Our guide, Sophie, showed us around the beautifully decorated rooms, helped us create a 'light-up' decoration of our own and introduced us to a very sleepy Father Christmas. Once we had woken him up, he told us that Mr Johnson had made it back to the nice list after a brief spell on the naughty list and then very kindly gave us all a gift each! We had a fantastic time - Year One really recommend it!



Africa Class (year 2)

Year 2 have had an especially exciting week in the lead up to Christmas. We made our Christmas hats ready for our yummy Christmas dinner. We discussed how different countries celebrate Christmas differently and we learnt lots about France. We sampled some tasty brioche and we made French Christmas cards. Joyeux Noel!

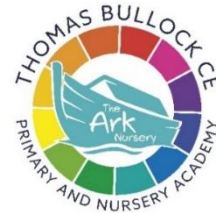


Asia Class (year 5)

Look at our end of term DT outcomes - haven't they done well? Our Viking Longboat was an incredibly tricky project: in order for all the pieces to line up, the children had to be extremely precise and accurate with their measurements. Although many of the children did experience a few setbacks along the way, they troubleshooted to overcome them and persevered until the very end. Very well done, team Asia!



The Ark Nursery Newsletter



The past two weeks

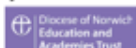
We are *immensely* proud of the children's dressing up, talking, singing and dancing during our recorded Christmas performance of 'Away in a Manger'. You can watch it here:

<https://vimeo.com/1040828065?share=copy#t=0>

We have had a very busy couple of weeks filled with Christmas activities. We've made lots of wonderful crafts and decorations that have been coming home on our last days of nursery before Christmas. We've enjoyed seeing what the elf has been up to each day and counting down the days to Christmas with our advent calendar. We have been consolidating our maths learning and making Christmas marks! In-between lots of Christmas crafts and activities, we were super excited during our Christmas lunch, making our own wreaths with natural materials and making and decorating gingerbread men too. We also walked to church on Thursday for our annual Christmas Carol Service – the children sang 'Away in a Manger' with great confidence. What a wonderful Christmassy couple of weeks!



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Next half term

We will begin teaching our RWI phonics programme, starting with 2 sounds per week. Our focus book for the first two weeks will be Owl Babies – we will be joining in with re-telling the story using actions, learning new vocabulary and mark making on story maps. In Maths, we will look at subitising (when you are able to look at a group of objects and know how many there are, without having to count!) We will be following the RSPB Big Schools' Birdwatch, as well as exploring owls further, linked to our literacy learning.

Have a super fun-filled (and restful) Christmas and a very Happy New Year! We look forward to our return in the New Year 😊

DIARY DATES

2024/2025

Christmas holiday 23rd December – 6th January

January

- 9th Reading Breakfast Café in the new Hall
8.30am-9.00, parents welcome*
- 10th New Hall Celebration*
- 15th EYFS & KS1 Britten Sinfonia Team – Tiny Magic Orchestra*
- 20th Mobile Planetarium (yrs R-6)*

February

- 3rd – 9th Children's Mental Health Week
- 11th Safer Internet Day

Half term 17th -21st February

March

- 3rd Yr 4 Level 1 Cycling Training
- 12th & 13th Yr 5 Level 2 Cycling Training
- 17th School Photographer – whole class photos

April

Easter holiday 7th-22nd April

May

- 5th Bank holiday
- 6th Yr R School Nursing Team Vision & Hearing, Height & Weight
- 12th – 16th May KS2 (yr 6) SATs week

Half term 26th – 30th May

June

- 2nd Inset Day – school closed
- 30th – 2nd July Year 6 Residential to Eaton Vale

July

- 22nd Last day of term
- Summer holiday commences 23rd July

* New addition