



# 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

31st January 2025

Dear parents, carers and friends of The Nightingale Federation

As we navigate through the changeable weather that has graced us with wind, rain, sleet, and even lightning, I am pleased to share with you a series of significant developments and achievements within our school community.

I am thrilled to announce several substantial improvements to our infrastructure. Thomas Bullock Academy now boasts brand new toilets serving pupils from Nursery through to Year 6, a long-awaited renovation after more than four decades. This enhancement is a testament to the unwavering support and dedication of our esteemed Chair of Governors, Governors, and the broader Thomas Bullock community. Below are some 'before and after' photos!



Furthermore, we have successfully secured a large-scale grant for an ambitious construction project. This initiative will see the creation of a spacious new facility to house our breakfast and after-school clubs, complemented by year-round outdoor learning environments and a state-of-the-art Nursery.

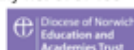
Our commitment to enriching the curriculum has been exemplified by the recent visit of the Space Dome to Thomas Bullock Academy. This immersive learning experience, generously funded by the Thomas Bullock Trust, captivated pupils from Nursery to Year 6, igniting their curiosity about the cosmos.

As we continue to evolve, I would like to draw your attention to the ongoing process of finalising our new Federation website. In the interim, please continue to check individual websites for updates, including new Parent Survey:

<http://www.thomasbullock.dneat.org/parents/parent-surveys/>



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## Notices

### Children's Mental Health Week - Monday

Alongside themed activities, assemblies and lunchtime fun, we will be **dressing down on Monday 3rd Feb**. Children can arrive to school on Monday wearing comfortable casual clothing (or pyjamas!) and sensible footwear. Thank you!

### NSPCC Number Day - Friday

This year Number Day is being held on Friday 7th February and we invite children to come to school in 'Number Day' clothing. Pupils are asked to wear an item of clothing with a number on it or get creative by dressing in a maths or number scheme. Donations to the NSPCC via the following link:

<https://secure.nspcc.org.uk/>

### E-Safety Workshop

We will be holding an E-Safety Workshop for parents on 11<sup>th</sup> February 2.45pm. A helpful link is here too: <https://parentsafe.lgfl.net/>

### Thinking Day – Monday 26<sup>th</sup> February

Over the last few years it has become traditional for members of Girlguiding - Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and members of the Scouting movement - to wear their uniform to school on 22nd February known as Thinking Day. This is the joint birthdays of Lord and Lady Baden Powell, who started the Scouting and Guide Movements over 100 years ago. As this falls during half term week this year, we will be inviting all children to come to school in their uniforms on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February.

### Afterschool Club Vacancy

Due to increased demand we are looking to recruit extra staff in our afterschool club. The hours are from 3pm to 6pm and there are two vacancies one for 2 afternoons and the other for 5. If you are interested please contact the school office for an information pack and application form.

### Wraparound Care News and Booking for next half term

As we head into February and the evenings start to get shorter, we are making the most of the extra daylight by getting the children outside for a kick-about or just some fresh air with their peers before snack time. Plus, with the exciting news of the school hall renovation being completed, Mr Weston will be introducing new games and sports activities in the hall for any children that would like to join in on Mondays and Tuesdays. Also, if your child has been eager to try something new in club, encourage them to mention it to a member of the wraparound staff, we are always looking to provide more opportunities during their 'downtime'.

**The booking form is now open for the next half term - 24<sup>th</sup> February to 4<sup>th</sup> April – click on the link to book: <https://forms.gle/XNHNBWnbEktTDf2E8> Please make sure any outstanding fees are paid before booking as we will not be able to accept future bookings.**

## OUR KEY LEARNING QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK

Year Group	Key Learning Questions
1	How were the first trains different from trains today?
2	What is the continent of North America like?
3	What is it like in the countries of Western and Southern Europe?
4	What is it like inside a tropical rainforest?
5	What are tectonic plates?
6	What did women do during the First World War?



## Shining Lights

- Ark Class (Nursery) **Hallie Har** for her continued focus during small group work, good listening and kind interactions.
- Antarctic Class (yr R) **Adeleine** for being a curious learning in our learning on Space. She has been asking lots of questions and has been excited in her learning.
- Oceania Class (yr 1) **George Ta** for always showing a great deal of curiosity - from the minute he arrives in the morning, he will start asking questions to find things out!
- Africa Class (yr 2) **Charlie** for always showing great curiosity in class. Charlie is a wonderful role model for his friends.
- Europe Class (yr 3) **Reggie** for showing curiosity within our science lesson this week. He asked great questions relating to light and shadows.
- S America Class (yr 4) **Reuben** for showing curiosity in Maths and delving deeper into his understanding of division; including calculations with remainders. Reuben has done well to use his times table knowledge and apply these facts to support his problem solving.
- Asia Class (yr 5) **William** for the positive way in which he approaches all his work. William always listens carefully and is enthusiastic about his learning. He is also an excellent talk partner supporting and encouraging his partner effectively.
- N America Class (yr 6) **Cyril** for his consistently great maths this half term, keep working hard and you'll keep seeing great results.

**This week's overall attendance 97%. South America Class (yr 4) 99%**

## WOW MOMENTS!

**Alfred (Nursery)** has moved to stage 2 swimming AND has learnt to ride his bike!

**Jacob (yr 4)** was very pleased with his results for fractions from his tuition achieving 95%

**Amelia (yr5) and Jacob (yr 3)** have been busy in their spare time creating a Lego World complete with a powered train, roller coaster, fairground rides, a beach, a high-rise block, cafe and more!

**Eva (yr 5)** auditioned for Grease the Musical and was successful!

**Harry (yr 5)** At the weekend, Harry played in his first Norfolk Squash tournament at Lime Tree Road tennis and squash club. He really enjoyed it and played in some great matches. Harry is looking forward to taking part in another tournament soon.



Please remember to continue to send in your **WOW** moments for achievements out of school

<https://forms.gle/DV4RoVbQQgijcUMV7>

## MOBILE PLANETARIUM

We were extremely lucky to have had a visit from Star Lincs and their Mobile Planetarium recently and are very grateful once again to the Thomas Bullock Trust for funding the event. All year groups from Nursery to year 6 took part and the children enjoyed learning about the planets, stars, astronauts and satellites. All year groups were extremely curious and had the opportunity to ask lots of questions. Below are photos taken from inside the planetarium.

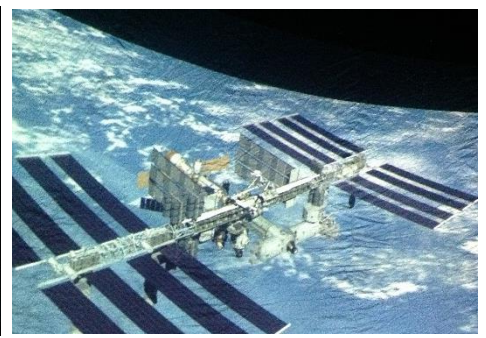
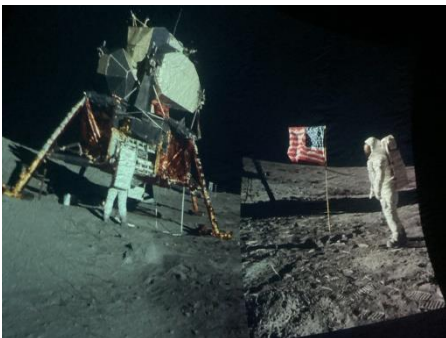
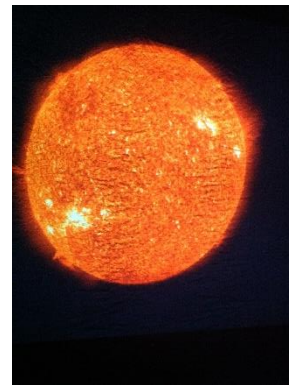
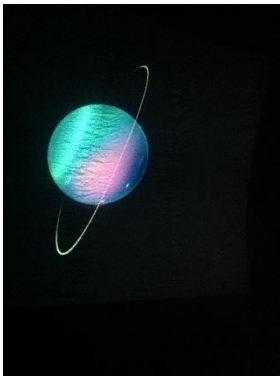
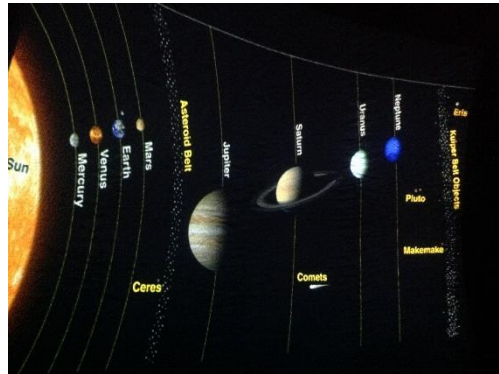
Here is a little report from Reception Class:

***"We had to crawl through a very dark tunnel which made a couple of us a little nervous but once inside we felt excited ... it seemed massive. We spotted Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin who we have already learnt about as the first astronauts to walk on the moon"***

***Harry - "I liked the part we heard that on Neptune is rains diamonds"***

***Mia - "I liked the stars when it was really dark it felt like you were spinning and turning."***

***Ava - "I liked the dark and the planets and I liked the big one best!"***



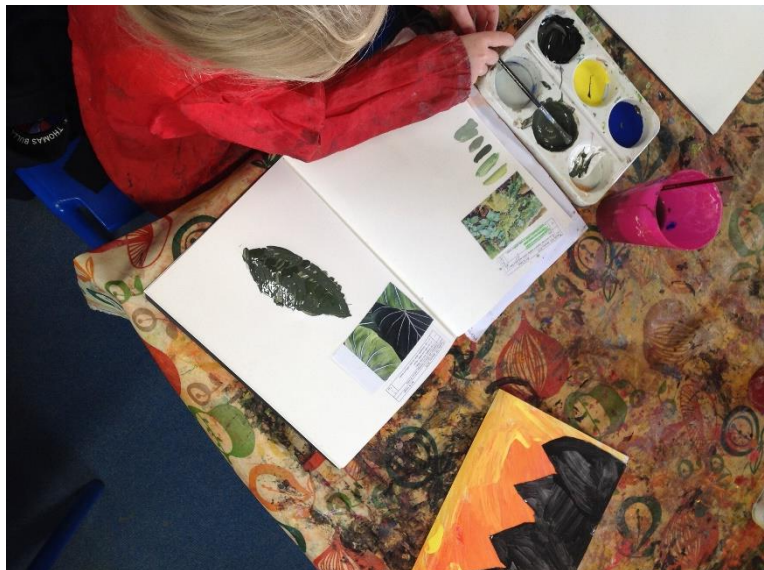
## Antarctica Class (yr R)

Antarctica Class were very excited to try some Chinese food to celebrate Chinese New Year this week. They tried fortune cookies, prawn crackers, rice and noodles. The favourite food were the fortune cookies and they had lots of fun reading and sharing their fortunes from inside. The noodles were popular too, with some children deciding they "loved them" even though beforehand they didn't think they did!



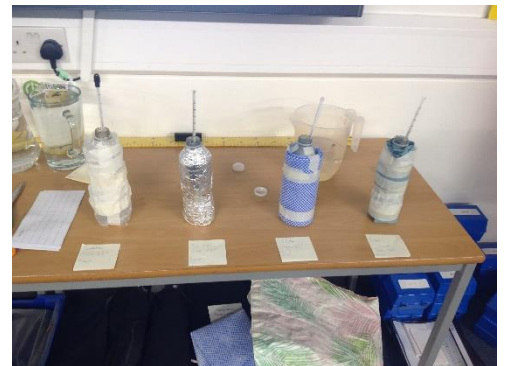
## Africa Class (yr 2)

Year 2 have been creating their own pictograms in Computing. They have done a super job logging onto their laptops independently!



## Asia Class (yr 5)

In Science, Asia class planned a fair test to investigate which materials were the best thermal insulators. In order to answer the questions, they wrapped different materials around bottles of warm water and measured the temperature at the start and end of the afternoon. Their findings revealed that bubble wrap was the best thermal insulator as it was the most effective material and kept water warm. Interesting stuff!



### Norfolk SEND Survey 2025 Have your say

The Norfolk special educational needs and disability (SEND) survey 2025 is open until Sunday 23 February 2025. We really need your views on SEND services and support in Norfolk.

The Norfolk survey is for parents, carers, professionals who work with children and young people with SEND and their families, and young people with SEND who are aged 25 or younger.

The Norfolk survey can be accessed via the link below. Other survey formats are available by clicking on the link in the webpage.

<https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/article/40969/Norfolk-SEND-survey-2025>



The Ark Nursery  
at Thomas Bullock  
Primary Academy

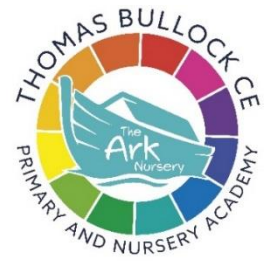
## STAY & PLAY

Join us for our **free** stay &  
play sessions in the nursery  
every Friday during term  
time

**1:30pm - 2:30pm**  
*For rising 2's - school starter ages*



# The Ark Nursery



## This week and last week

Our sounds of the past two weeks have been 'd', 't', 'i' and 'n'. We practised writing in the air, with paper and pencils and on the interactive whiteboard, saying our phrases "round the dinosaurs bottom, up his tall neck and down to his feet" for **d**, "down the tower, across the tower" for **t**, "down the body and dot for the head" for **i** and "down Nobby and over his net" for **n**. In Literacy, we explored the story of 'Stomp, Dinosaur, Stomp', where we were able to identify lots of dinosaurs. We also explored non-fiction books, making our own dinosaur fact file. The children learnt lots of interesting facts! We were introduced to the vocabulary 'more' and 'less' and used currant buns and discussed which plate had more and which had less and how we knew. Alongside our focus on the number 4 in maths, we noticed the properties of a square. The children saw that a square has 4 sides, they are all the same length and that a square has 4 pointy corners. During our afternoons, we learnt all about birds with the RSPB Birdwatch, Chinese New Year, dinosaurs, fossils and much more!

## Next week

Our sounds of the week will be 'p' and 'g'. Our new literacy focus book is 'Star in the Jar'. This will link to our afternoons where we will be learning about space, making our own stars in jars too. We will look at the number 5 in maths alongside the pentagon and other shapes. Next week is Children's Mental Health Week and NSPCC Number Day so we will take part in lots of themed activities for these both!





### Learning links at home

- National hedgehog day is on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> February. Can you make a hedgehog house in your garden? It's important to make sure hedgehogs are warm and cosy!
- Draw a large 5 frame outside. In what way can you fill the frame? 4 leaves and 1 stick? 3 stones and 2 flowers? Discuss how they have filled the 5 frame. - Make a tower of 5 using 2 different blocks. Say what you have made, e.g. I have made 5 using 2 white cubes and 3 yellow cubes. - We are learning about dinosaurs after half term. What do you already know about dinosaurs? Can you name some?



## DIARY DATES

3<sup>rd</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> Children's Mental Health Week

3<sup>rd</sup> Dress Down Day\*

7<sup>th</sup> NSPCC Number Day\*

11<sup>th</sup> Safer Internet Day

Parent e safety workshop 2.45pm\*

12<sup>th</sup> Mini Monsters visit to Yr 1 and Yr 4\*

24<sup>th</sup> Thinking Day – Scouting & Guides wear their uniforms\*

25<sup>th</sup> SEN Parent/Teacher Meetings\*

### Half term 17<sup>th</sup> -21<sup>st</sup> February

#### March

3<sup>rd</sup> Yr 4 Level 1 Cycling Training

7<sup>th</sup> FOSS Quiz\*

13<sup>th</sup> Reception Class trip to Pensthorpe\*

12<sup>th</sup>&13<sup>th</sup> Yr 5 Level 2 Cycling Training

17<sup>th</sup> School Photographer – whole class photos

18<sup>th</sup> Parent/Teacher Meetings\*

19<sup>th</sup> Parent/Teacher Meetings\*

26<sup>th</sup> Yr 6 to Duxford\*

26<sup>th</sup> FOSS Mother's Day Lunchtime Shop\*

28<sup>th</sup> FOSS Mother's Day Lunchtime Shop\*

#### April

Easter holiday 7<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> April

#### May

5<sup>th</sup> Bank holiday

6<sup>th</sup> Yr R School Nursing Team Vision & Hearing, Height & Weight

12<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> May KS2 (yr 6) SATs week

Half term 26<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> May

#### June

2<sup>nd</sup> Inset Day – school closed

10<sup>th</sup> Reception Class to Gressenhall

30<sup>th</sup> – 2<sup>nd</sup> July Year 6 Residential to Eaton Vale

#### July

1<sup>st</sup> Yr 5 trip to Northgate to see Wizard of Oz\*

22<sup>nd</sup> Last day of term

Summer holiday commences 23<sup>rd</sup> July

\* New addition