



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

14th February 2025

Dear parents, carers and friends of The Nightingale Federation

What a busy half-term we have had! It is a delight to welcome the lighter, longer, and warmer days, allowing our children to fully enjoy the expansive outdoor space once again. Over the last few weeks, we have had many exciting events and activities, and we are grateful for the continued support from our school community.

It is with a heavy heart that we write to inform you that Mrs Cross will be leaving us at Easter. She has been an exemplary phase leader and year 5 teacher, providing a dedicated service over the last 12 years at Thomas Bullock. She will be leaving the teaching profession and we wish her well as she enjoys some time with her family and looks forward to the future wherever it takes her. We will all miss her greatly and are incredibly grateful for everything she has done for the school and our pupils.

We are excited to welcome back Miss Newcombe after half term, who will be returning from maternity leave to teach year 5 alongside Mrs Henman and resume the role of Federation Maths Lead alongside Mr Long. Miss Newcombe will be working closely with Mrs Henman and Mrs Cross until Easter to ensure a smooth transition for the children.

As we bid farewell to one esteemed colleague and welcome another back, we are reminded of the wealth of expertise within our Federation. It is this collective knowledge and passion for education that enables us to provide an outstanding learning experience for all our pupils.

A special thank you to the families who took the time to attend our E-Safety parent briefings. If you were unable to attend, please find the presentation slides attached to this newsletter. The importance of e-safety cannot be overstated, and we are grateful for the joint approach in keeping our children safe online.

We are absolutely delighted to share that our most recent published assessment results place our school's outcomes incredibly strongly, both nationally (in the top 5th percentile) and locally. We continue to focus on providing an exceptional learning environment and developing lifelong learners who are resilient, well-rounded, and empowered to 'Let their Light Shine.' To view schools within our local area, please use the Compare Schools link here: [Compare Schools](#).

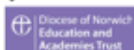
A huge thank you to our FOSS for their constant and invaluable support for our school. Their fundraising efforts and dedication make such a difference to the experiences we can offer our children.

Looking ahead, we are excited about the number of sports events taking place during the second half of the Spring term. Our free enrichment clubs will also begin again until Easter, offering further opportunities for our pupils to engage and develop their skills.

We wish you all a wonderful and relaxing half-term break with your family.



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Shining Lights of the Half Term

- Ark Class (Nursery) **Arthur C** for his confident interactions with peers and adults surrounding our recent dinosaur and space learning. Arthur has shown great curiosity during our afternoon learning sessions especially.
Rosa for being a curious learner. Rosa has asked lots of questions during our learning based around the story of 'Star in the Jar'. She has also enjoyed our linked activities, especially creating her own star in a jar and our Valentine's crafts.
- Antarctic Class (yr R) **Esme** for being a curious learner this term. She has consistently demonstrated our value this term but asking lots of questions and enthusiastically wanting to know more about all that we do. **Harry** has been extremely curious during our learning around Space this term! Asking lots of questions and always eager to know more.
- Oceania Class (yr 1) **Esther** for asking lots of questions and always wanting to know how she can improve her work. **Stuart** has shown a great deal of curiosity in science and he was fascinated with the visiting animals from Mini-Monsters.
- Africa Class (yr 2) **Ernie** for showing amazing curiosity and enthusiasm in our learning. He has particularly taken great care in writing his adventure story in English.
Martha for her wonderful curiosity in all aspects of our learning. She always asks many questions about our topics and shows great enthusiasm to discover the answers.
- Europe Class (yr 3) **Hugo** for showing willingness to learn, he always asks questions and wants to know more! Hugo has worked really hard this half term to gain his pen licence through wonderful presentation.
Emma is an amazingly curious learner, she always listens well and comes up with some great questions to expand not just her knowledge but the rest of the classes.
- S America Class (yr 4) **Ellsie** for her curiosity in all areas of our learning. Ellsie radiates enthusiasm, is always eager to be involved in class discussions and share her points, and has both shared and shown how much she has learnt this year so far by answering questions with thought and excitement.
Mason for his curiosity in all areas of our learning. Mason asks lots of questions to extend his understanding of all subjects, making him feel more confident towards next steps.
- Asia Class (yr 5) **Reece and Edward** for showing interest in all their lessons often having their hand up to ask questions and share ideas. They are also always interested to hear and respond to the thoughts and ideas of others.
- N America Class (yr 6) **Fern** for her curiosity in her maths work this half term. She has shown a desire to improve and more importantly understand fractions, decimals and percentages and has grown in confidence because of this.
Miles has worked really hard this half term to improve across all his subjects. He is prepared to think carefully and deeply about his learning and is showing great progress.

This week's overall attendance 96%. North America Class (yr 6) 99%



PARKING

We regularly understand from parents their concerns regarding parking and safety on Pound Green Lane at the start and end of the school day. The Parish Council have offered to support us to work with Highways increase the security and safety of our school entrance. Please can we remind you not to park on grass verges, yellow zig zag lines or at the entrance/exit of the roundabout. We will ensure to update you on any progress following the Parish Council's March meeting.

WOW MOMENTS!

Harry (yr R) has been very proud to show his parents what he has been learning at school and has been busy writing lots of space themed words independently at home.

Isabella S (yr R) has loved making up some short stories at home recently and did really well with her writing and using her phonics and imagination.

Eddie S (yr R) and his family now have 12 lambs, they had their first triplet this morning so they now have a pet lamb.

Esme (yr 1) recently performed at Pipers Vale in Ipswich, in the Norfolk, Suffolk and Essex gymnastics competition and achieved 1st in vault and 3rd in her floor routine, and she came 8th in her combined 5 routines, this was out of 42 children across 10 different gymnastic clubs.

Bethany (yr 3) entered her first ever dance competition and placed 4th and is now off to Kent on the summer for the finals!!



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 has road transport changed?
2	What is the continent of Oceania like?
3	What is it like to live in Rome?
4	Do people live in the Amazon Rainforest?
5	How are volcanoes formed?
6	Why did a second war break out in 1939?



Oceania Class (yr 1)

In Science we have been learning about the animal group: birds. We know birds have wings, a beak, feathers, a tail and claws. We also found out they are warm-blooded, have a backbone, lay eggs and not all birds can fly. Bats are sneaky, we found out they are actually mammals even though they look a bit like birds!



This week the class had a special treat - they got to meet a number of animals as part of our science topic, 'Amazing Animals'! Ed brought a millipede, a corn snake, a giant snail, a bearded dragon and a tarantula - Mr Johnson was very excited (and scared) to hold the tarantula! Can you remember all their names?



South America Class (yr 4)

In Year 4, we had a visit for Ed and his Mini Monsters linking to our topic of the Rainforest and our Science unit of classification of animals. The children loved holding the animals and asking questions about the creatures. As you can see, one of our children loved the snake and wanted to take him home.

In Art this week, we printed our William Morris inspired lino cuttings. The children really enjoyed seeing their designs come to life after the learning journey we have been on this half term.



Safer Internet Day 2025

Tuesday 11th February 2025 was Safer Internet Day and the theme was 'Too good to be true? Protecting yourself and others from scams online'. Digital Leaders kicked off Safer Internet Day by introducing this year's theme during collective worship. They did an amazing job and we are incredibly proud of them! Class learning focused on the issue of scams online and for young people, how to protect themselves and others, as well as what support is available to them. Safer Internet Day gave us an additional opportunity to focus on the online safety and wellbeing of children and young people. We also held a parent/carer e-safety briefing to discuss how to protect the online safety of children. Thank you to those who took the time to attend. If you were unable to attend, please do take the time to read through the presentation / look on our school website for e-safety resources.



Nursery

This afternoon, as part of Safer Internet Day, we were introduced to keeping safe when using the internet. We talked about the devices we might see or have access to. We then listened to a story about two friends 'Mo' and 'Jaz' who love watching videos about penguins online. But suddenly, the video stops and it changes to a new video which is not about penguins, but it's about something that makes us feel a little bit scared - we talked about ghosts or tigers or wolves - but Mo and Jaz did the right thing by telling their grown-ups. Their grown-up was then able to put the penguin videos back on! We talked about what we learnt:



Reception

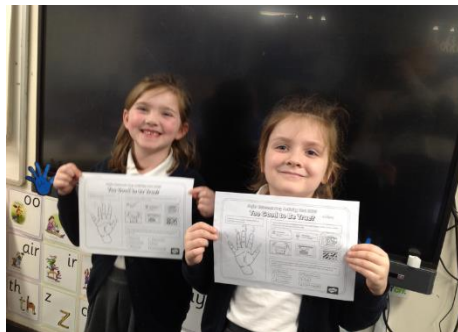
For internet safety day, we talked about what the internet is and what we can use it for. We talked about the importance of staying safe using the internet. We know that if something upsets us or doesn't seem right, we always tell an adult.

Year 1

In Year 1 for Safer Internet day 2025, we became Safer Internet Superheroes as we learned about key rules which help us stay safe online!

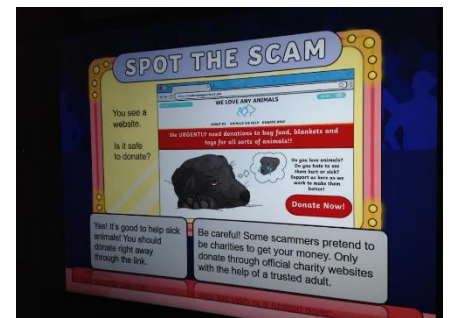
Year 2

Africa Class discussed our theme 'too good to be true?' and reflected on how to spot online scams. We discussed many online scenarios and reminded ourselves to 'stop, close and tell'. We named our trusted adults and identified what information we can and cannot share online.



Year 3

In Europe class, we joined a live lesson that taught us all about how to spot a scam online. We gained points throughout the lesson and became a super scam spotter by the end! We understood that scams can pop up while we play games as well as when watching videos. We now know what to look for!

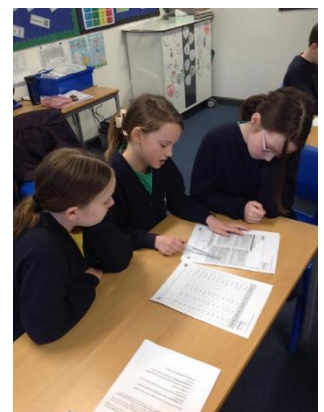


Year 4

In Year 4, we took part in the live lesson on the BBC where we looked at the theme of this year more deeply 'of too good to me true.' We completed an online safety word search to understand key terminology of online safety as well as play on interland. This online game allowed the children to explore the language people may use in scams and how they can identify when things may be too good to be true.

Year 5

Year 5 took part in a police presentation on staying safe online before solving the mystery of the stolen password and putting their knowledge to the test by playing the online game 'Interland'.



Year 6

This year for safer internet day Year 6 attended a whole school assembly excellently hosted by the digital leaders. We then joined nearly 150 classes on a forum hosted by Norfolk Police. They gave great advice on how to stay safe online line and really gave us some things to consider. Following that we discussed what we had heard and shared advice for one another from our own experiences.



Friends of Shipdham School

QUIZ & CHIPS NIGHT!

Please contact us on Facebook or via email, or hand money into the office (in a secure envelope with your name, event and number of participants on the front) to secure your Teams table.

Maximum of 6 to a team.

£10 per person entry - includes fish and chips.

Bar and refreshments available.

**7th March 2025,
Shipdham W.I. Hall,
Doors open 7pm.**

Friends of Shipdham School are very grateful for your continued support throughout the year. We are very excited for our upcoming events!

For More Information:



If you would like to make a Voluntary Donation, please use the QR Code below!



Find us on Facebook
friendsofshipdhamschool@gmail.com

Mothers Day Shop

In-School,
26th and 28th March
2025
Lots of items
available from 10p to
£2



THE ARK NURSERY
at Thomas Bullock Primary and Nursery Academy

Stay & PLAY



THINKING OF JOINING OUR THOMAS BULLOCK PRIMARY AND NURSERY COMMUNITY?

Join us for our free stay and play sessions in the nursery classroom every Friday during term time. 9-10am.

For rising 2's - school starter ages



SEND Parent Café
Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

WHEN?
Monday 1:30- 2:30pm

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.

This a FREE service. You do NOT need to book, just turn up as and when you can. Children and young people have activities and staff available.

Breckland Family Hub
Schools and Communities
Early Childhood and Family Service
ASD Helping Hands

Call Dereham Library for more details - 01362 695184




If any parents would like to attend the below, please contact Mrs Smith (SENCo) via the school office.

Supporting you with your child's behaviour: A Norfolk Steps Approach

Session 1: Tuesday 25th March

Session 2: Tuesday 1st April

Thomas Bullock

Please attend both sessions

Sessions start at 9.15am and will run until 11.30



Supporting you with your child's behaviour.

What's the best way I can handle this?

Why are they behaving like that and what can I do?

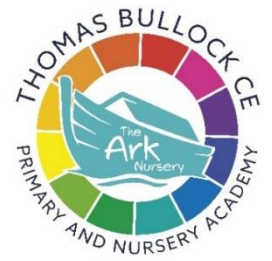
What is my child trying to tell me?

Parenting doesn't come with a manual and can be the hardest job in the world: Come along to 2 informal sessions where we explore tried and tested ideas that may help. Have a chat with other parents to share ideas.

Refreshments provided!



The Ark Nursery



This week

We have had a busy week! We learnt our final sound of the half term: 'c'. I have emailed out the RWI sound cards and Elly and Fred videos for you to have a look at over half term! During our literacy sessions, we read and re-told the story of 'Star in the Jar' many times, discussing stars and space and decorating our very own jars and placing a 'star' in to take home. During Maths, we learnt about the composition of 5. The children built some brilliant towers using 2 different colours to learn how 5 is composed. Lots of children were excitedly shouting "3 and 2 makes 5", "4 and 1 makes 5!" We were also introduced to the pentagon too! As well as this, we explored our outdoor environments and took part in lots of Valentine's Day and space themed activities. We also talked about internet safety for Safer Internet Day too.



See our Spring 2 newsletter for what we will be up to next half term. Enjoy your half term!

Learning links at home



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- Have a well-deserved rest!
- Go for a walk with a grown-up and look for any signs of spring popping up. Talk about what you can see. Can you spot any flowers growing? Did you see any animals? You could take a picture or draw one of what you see on your walk.
- Lots of daffodils are starting to pop up! Can you draw or paint a picture of your favourite flower?

DIARY DATES

February

24th Thinking Day – Scouting & Guides wear their uniforms

25th SEN Parent/Teacher Meetings

Half term 17th -21st February

March

3rd Yr 4 Level 1 Cycling Training

6th World Book Day*

7th FOSS Quiz and Chips*

13th Reception Class trip to Pensthorpe

12th&13th Yr 5 Level 2 Cycling Training

17th School Photographer – whole class photos

18th Parent/Teacher Meetings

19th Parent/Teacher Meetings

21st Red Nose Day

26th Yr 6 to Duxford*

26th FOSS Mother's Day Lunchtime Shop

28th FOSS Mother's Day Lunchtime Shop

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

21st Year 5 Victorian Day at Gressenhall*

Half term 26th – 30th May

June

2nd Inset Day – school closed

10th Reception Class to Gressenhall

30th – 2nd July Year 6 Residential to Eaton Vale

July

1st Yr 5 trip to Northgate to see Wizard of Oz

5th FOSS Summer Fete*

22nd Last day of term

Summer holiday commences 23rd July

* New addition

