

HEADMASTER'S WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN TERM WEEK 10
21ST NOVEMBER, 2025



Dear Parents

This time last week I wrote to you from sunny Malta and I can safely say that the conditions outside this morning are very different indeed. However, there is a brightness and crispness that reminds us that a magical time of the year is only just around the corner. Prep schools are often at their most joyful as we move towards the festive period and I very much look forward to all of the memorable moments that December will bring. We will get a head start on Christmas next week, with the Christmas tree going up in the Green Room from Monday for all of your kind gift donations for the charity Break.

My week began with the final day of the Year 7 Pre Senior Baccalaureate (PSB) Sports and Culture Tour to Malta. With a strong focus on the six core skills that lie at the heart of a PSB education, during the trip our pupils enjoyed a beach sports day; a morning of Padel at the National Padel Centre; a Grand Harbour ferry trip; a Gala Dinner at Haileybury Malta; and an incredible sightseeing day in the capital city, Valletta. The children were a credit to the School, embodying The Town Close Way and approaching every activity with great enthusiasm and energy. They collaborated happily with pupils from the other schools and displayed exemplary teamwork across a range of activities. Free time gave them opportunities to enjoy the two swimming pools in the hotel, play team building games, and socialise with their new friends from Pennthorpe School. Whilst the Halloween-themed Gala Dinner night, brought everyone together for a celebratory evening of fun and dancing! Our sincere thanks to Haileybury Malta for hosting us all and for arranging and co-ordinating a fantastic tour that will live long in the memory.

One of my highlights of this week was the fantastic 4W Class Assembly, which followed on from a brilliant 4A class assembly last week. Our Year 4 pupils have been learning about the Vikings this term, and 4W's understanding truly came to life in a wonderful Class Assembly performed for families and peers. They shared the history of the Vikings with confidence, including a brilliantly choreographed moment in which the children joined together to form the outline of a dragon ship to bring it to life. Their retelling of 'How Thor Got His Hammer' was, also, expertly acted. Some fantastic singing tied the whole assembly together beautifully. Well done, 4W; your hard work really shone through!

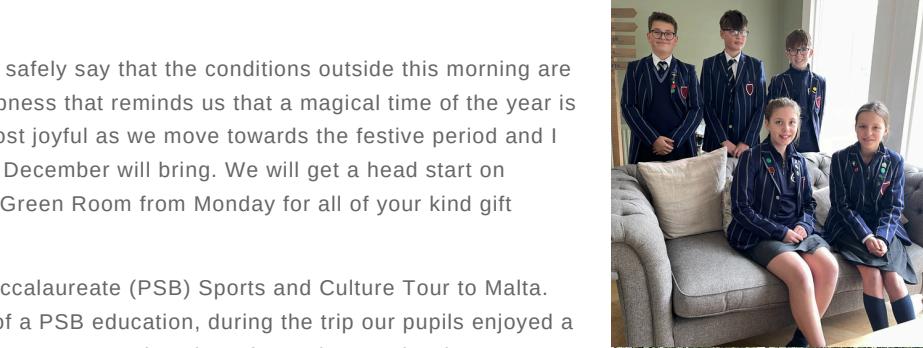
In my assembly this morning, I was so pleased to see a huge amount of Commendations and Headmaster's Commendations being awarded for a tremendous range of achievements – I look forward to cake in my Study with those well-deserving pupils who received Headmaster's Commendations (though I will have to think creatively about how to fit you all on the sofas!)

As part of our project with The Royal Society, our Eco Council carried out an audit of the nest boxes on site, working together to mark their location on a site map and noting the type of nest box and the condition they are in. They will review their findings to ascertain what type of nest boxes we require more of and where they are needed to help fulfil the project's overall objective of attracting more wildlife on to our School site. I equally look forward to seeing the Pre Prep Hedgehog houses out in the woodland. Today, the Bat Conservation Trust visited Year 1 and Ms Bilston delivered an interesting talk to the children who then enjoyed bat related activities.

This week our Wellbeing Prefects hosted a break time drop in session in the Green Room for any Prep pupils who wanted to speak to them for support or advice. Stocked up with cookies and squash, they were ready and waiting to help anyone who needed them. Wellbeing Prefects are there to offer peer to peer pastoral support across the School, to consider potential pastoral initiatives, and to be pupil ambassadors of The Town Close Way. They are an important part of the wider Pastoral network and offer another option for our pupils to seek support and friendship across the ages.

Next week we look forward to a Bake Sale on Tuesday for Finnbar's Force organised by the School Council (kind donations of cakes to be delivered to the front office with an ingredients list). We also have a Swimming information Evening on Thursday 27th as well as our first Town Close Association Evening in London - if parents are in London working please do feel free to join us.

I hope that you have a great weekend



HB M. J. Every Moment Matters



NEWS FROM THE PTA

BREAK CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE

The Break Christmas Tree is now up in the Green Room and ready for your donations. Participation in this PTA project, supported by the School, is entirely optional, but if you'd like to join in, it's a simple concept. You and your child source the gift suggestion on the label brought home, (the value will be £5-10), wrap it, **attach the label*** to the present, and bring it back into school from **w/c 24th November**. Break will collect all the presents and distribute them to the children they support, most of whom are in or leaving the care system. Full details can be found at townclosepta.co.uk. We're hoping lots of you will want to join in with spreading some Town Close generosity this Christmas.

**It is essential to attach the label, however, if it has been misplaced please write clearly on the wrapping paper what is inside.*

CHRISTMAS JUMPER DONATIONS

Ahead of Christmas Jumper Day, which is on 12th December, we will be selling Christmas Jumpers in the PTA shop. Please bring in your donations so we have plenty of stock to sell. With many thanks.

MOVEMBER

If you haven't yet noticed... this month, Mr Coulthart, Mr Walker, Mr Woods, Mr Buck, Mr Legg, Mr Avenal and Mr Kendrick have been growing their facial hair in support of 'Movember'.

Movember is the leading charity changing the face of men's health, raising money to combat prostate cancer, testicular cancer and mental health.

Rather than grow facial hair, Mr Chuter is taking part in the 'Movember' move challenge, and has been cycling 60km each Saturday morning on an indoor trainer to reach a goal of 300km, and Mr Lawry is walking to reach the 'Movember' goal of 60km.

Well done to all involved; if you would like to donate please follow the link in the newsletter.

BULLETIN BOARD

PRE PREP & PREP FRIENDLY REMINDERS

U9 HOUSE RUGBY

Due to weather conditions, the U9 House Rugby was unfortunately cancelled yesterday. This will now take place on Tuesday 25th November.

CHRISTMAS ENSEMBLES CONCERT

The Christmas Ensembles Concert on Thursday 11th December will have the following groups performing; Prep School Choir, String Orchestra, Senior Winds, Flute Ensemble, Junior Wind Band, Guitar Ensemble, Rock Band. Details of the event will be circulated next week.

CANCELLED YEAR 5&6 HOCKEY CLUB

There will be no Year 5 and 6 Hockey Club on Monday 24th at 4-5pm. Year 7 and 8 hockey club will take place Indoors on Monday 24th.

MOBILE PHONES IN SCHOOL

A reminder that parents should not use their phones in the School buildings. All pupil phones should be handed in to the Front Office at the start of the day.

REPORTING ABSENCES

If your child is absent from School and it has not previously been agreed, please email prepsec@townclose.com or preprepsec@townclose.com.

SCHOOL BLAZER FLASH SALE

SchoolBlazer will be running a flash sale from Monday 24th to Tuesday 25th November. There will be a third off ALL in-stock items online during the sale period, while stocks last.



DATES FOR THE DIARY

Break Giving Tree

From 24th November the tree can be found in the Green Room. Please leave gifts here.

Reception Reading Cafe

Wednesday 26th November in the Pre Prep Hall

Swimming Information Evening

Thursday 27th November, 4.30pm in the Read Hall

London Town Close Association Drinks

Thursday 27th November from 6.00pm at True House, 29 Buckingham Gate

Catering Meeting: New menu discussion & questions, all parents invited

Tuesday 2nd December, 5.00pm in the Read Hall

Pre Prep Carol Service- Year 1 & 2

Thursday 4th December, 2.15pm at Christchurch Eaton

Parent Ski Trip Information Evening

Thursday 4th December at 4.30pm in Read Hall

Reception Christmas Production

Tuesday 9th December at 9.00am in Read Hall

Year 2 Christmas Production

Wednesday 10th December at 2.00pm in Read Hall

Nursery Christmas Production

Thursday 11th December at 9.00am in Read Hall

Year 1 Production

Thursday 11th December at 2.00pm in Read Hall

Christmas Ensembles Concert

Thursday 11th December, 6.00pm in the Read Hall

Christmas Jumper Day

Friday 12th December, all children and wear a Christmas Jumper to replace their school jumper

Christmas Celebration

Friday 12th December, Front Lawn, from 3.45pm

Prep Carol Service

Wednesday 17th December, 10.00am at St Peter Mancroft



MOVEMBER®

DONATE HERE

MATCH REPORTS

RUGBY

Our 1st and 2nd teams made the short journey to Redmayne on Wednesday afternoon. The 1st team were involved in an end-to-end encounter in the first half with Ben S, Wolf S and Alex O C all running strongly with the ball in hand and scoring well-taken tries. The team found the second half tough going and rather ran out of steam in the closing stages. The final score was 4-9, with Wolf S nominated as POM for his tireless efforts throughout the contest. A depleted 2nd team were on the wrong end of a heavy defeat against Norwich School Under 12A, with Henry M (POM) scoring our only try. Ilex S also impressed with his all-round play and determination.

Two Under 10 squads travelled to Lower Close on Wednesday for another set of fixtures against Norwich Lower School. The Under 10AB mix enjoyed a good win by 3-0, with Simon C nominated as POM for his skilful play. Mr Taylor was impressed with a number of his B team players who tackled strongly and demonstrated excellent handling skills against 'A' team opposition. Mr Coyle's Under 10 BC squad lost by 11-15 in another entertaining contest. Seb W was nominated as POM for his all-round play with Hjalmar HP, Henry P, George E-W and Seb W all scoring well-taken tries.

Our Under 11 A, B and C teams were all in action against Norwich Lower School at Main Field. Our Under 11 A team were not at full strength and lost by 5-8. Willoughby W, Jacob B and Freddie G were all nominated as POM by Mr Greenhall for their determined play in what was a good effort against strong opposition. The Under 11 B team won by 6-2 in a rather scrappy contest. Mr Parker nominated James B as POM for his excellent work rate in attack and defence throughout the game. Mr Lawry's Under 11 C team lost narrowly by 10-11 with Reggie J (POM) once again leading the way with some strong running with the ball in hand.

Well done to all of the boys involved in the matches this week. Looking ahead, we have some return fixtures against Beeston Hall next Wednesday, with the Under 9A and Under 8A travelling to Gresham's on Friday afternoon. Good luck to all involved!

HOCKEY

This week the U11A's faced a very strong Beeston side, however the girls showed outstanding determination throughout the game. They worked tirelessly in a disciplined defensive shape to limit the goals against us and never once gave up. Player's of the Match, Joanie S and Georgia S linked up brilliantly, creating a few shots on goal, and Clara W reacted superbly to a rebound, calmly flicking it into the net. Despite the tough match, the team's improvement is clear, with glimpses of a more structured passing game and an impressive work rate. Well done girls—great spirit and effort! Despite a slow start in very cold conditions, the U11B team secured a well-deserved 3-1 victory at Beeston. Numerous first-half chances were kept out by an impressive Beeston goalkeeper, and a breakaway goal meant we trailed 1-0 at half time. A focused half-time team talk sparked an excellent second-half performance. The girls moved the ball confidently, created sustained pressure, and finished their chances calmly. Charlotte W levelled the score, reacting quickly to a rebounded shot, before Frances H added two well-taken goals, including one showcasing outstanding individual stick work. The defence remained solid throughout, with Flo L named Player of the Match for her consistency and composure. Frances H also earned Player of the Match for her contribution. A great team effort—well done, girls!

In a pair of competitive fixtures against Beeston, both the U11C and D teams demonstrated impressive effort and teamwork. The D team worked hard to put into practice their lesson focus on passing into space for teammates to run onto. Despite their determination, they came up against a couple of particularly strong Beeston players and were unable to secure a win. Player of the Match was Ella H, recognised for her excellent tackling and relentless defensive work. The C team enjoyed a much more evenly balanced match. There were some fantastic drives down the wing from Ola B, who was named Player of the Match for her attacking energy and delivery into the D. Although the team created some promising chances, they just lacked a clinical edge in front of goal. Defensively, the group worked tirelessly to clear the ball into space, with Ani M and Persy W making strong runs along the wing to support the attack. Overall, both teams showed great progress and commitment throughout their matches.

An even first half for the U13A team saw chances missed by both teams, with Sephe V in goal and her opposite number pulling off some good saves. The deadlock was broken just before half time when Saskia T found Phillipa C in the circle, who calmly slotted the ball into the corner. We then took control in the second half with Saskia T scoring twice with strong strikes, and Annabelle H capitalising on a defensive mix up. Player's of the Match were awarded to Coco S and Saskia T. A slow start saw the U13B team a goal down early, however they picked themselves up to score twice before half time. The girls had a strong second half, with Alice B commanding at the back and Coco S running riot on the right, creating numerous chances for the girls. Harriet W, was the big benefactor, scoring a hat trick, whilst Beeston managed a late goal. Player of the Match was Coco S. The U13C team had a super game with Pearl T showing her usual strength in defence, gaining her Player of the Match. There was a lot of teamwork and intelligent play. It was a tense 3-3 score with one minute to go; but the Town Close girls worked together and scored a last minute goal for victory! The U13D team had a cracking match with the ball going from end to end. Strong defending by Margaux VP and Simran T kept the ball out of the D. Polly H on the wing was a great influence and fed the attackers the ball with efficiency, which earned her Player of the Match. Coco R's hockey has improved so much and she did a sterling job on the wing. Jess E was the hardest working player on the pitch working up and down the middle of the pitch. Margot C worrying the opposition in front of goal and she managed to score. Well done the D team.



SCHOOL COUNCIL BAKE SALE

**TUESDAY 25 NOVEMBER, 4PM ON
THE MIDDLE PLAYGROUND**

raising funds for Finnbar's Force!

CALLING ALL BAKERS!

PLEASE BRING BAKED
DONATIONS
INCLUDING
INGREDIENTS LIST*
TO THE PREP OFFICE
ON TUESDAY MORNING



**It is essential to include the
ingredients list.*

Cakes MUST NOT contain nuts.



TOWN CLOSE SCHOOL

JOIN FOR US A FUN FILLED

Christmas **CELEBRATION**

DECEMBER 12

FROM 4.00 - 6.00PM

Music, Food, Mulled Wine and more

ACTIVITIES

- Year 3 & 4 Christmas Craft Stalls
- PTA Mulled wine, mince pie and cake stall
- Year 8 Elf Grotto Games
- Mini steam train rides on the Front Lawn
- Carol Singing
- Wear your Christmas Jumpers!



**FINNBARS
FORCE**



**Money raised is for our
school charity, please
bring cash!**

Around the Front Lawn



Christmas WREATH MAKING FRI 5TH DEC

Get yourself in the festive spirit
and create your very own
Christmas wreath.

Fi-Be's flowers & crafts will guide
you to make sure your home
décor looks stunning!



£55
INCLUDING ALL MATERIALS,
DRINKS AND NIBBLES

7pm - 9pm
(Adults only)

IN THE GREEN ROOM, TOWN CLOSE SCHOOL
(PARKING AVAILABLE)

BUY NOW AT TOWNCLOSEPTA.CO.UK





PTA UNIFORM SHOP DONATIONS PLEASE!



CHRISTMAS JUMPERS

Bring your outgrown Christmas jumpers to the shop and or **buy** a jumper and use at this year's Christmas Jumper Day on 12th December - **all proceeds will go to Finbars Force**



JOLLY HOCKEY STICKS

We are now accepting **good condition hockey sticks**. Please do bring these in.



SKI CLOTHES

We are trialling the acceptance of **ski clothing in the Uniform Shop** for a limited time ahead of Ski Season and the TC School Ski Trip!

We will accept: **salopettes, ski trousers and jackets, gloves, and like-new snow boots (No thermals or helmets please).**

If you wish to sell items, our usual **60:40 terms apply***, but please **price your ski wear yourself**. Any unsold items at the end of the season will be offered back for collection. Items not collected will be automatically donated to the PTA.

More terms info at [*townclosepta.co.uk/uniformshop](http://townclosepta.co.uk/uniformshop)

PTA SCHOOL SHOP IS OPEN MON 14:30 - 16:00 & WEDS 8:00 - 9:00
DONATIONS CAN BE DROPPED OFF IN THE SHOP OR EITHER RECEPTIONS

Town Close School

SATURDAY MORNING CRICKET ACADEMY

For 9 weeks from Saturday 10th January 2026



Our Lead coach will be Mr. Neil Taylor,
Cricket Coach at Town Close School.

Players of all abilities will have the opportunity
to improve their technical skills in a fun environment.
No experience needed.

Pupils in Years 1 & 2 will play with softball cricket equipment which will be provided. Older pupils wishing to play hardball cricket will require their own kit, but it's not essential. Please bring a drink and indoor shoes.

9 sessions on Saturday mornings:

10th Jan 2026, 17th Jan, 24th Jan, 31st Jan, and 7th Feb

Half term, then 28th Feb, 7th March, 14th March and 21st March

Group A: 1hr from 9am - 10am for Year 1 & Year 2 = £144

Group B: 1.5hrs from 10am - 11.30am for Year 3, Year 4 and Year 5 = £216

Group C: 1.5hrs from 11.30am - 1pm for Year 6, Year 7 and Year 8+ = £216

Venue: Town Close School Sports Hall

To book: go to www.taylormadecricket.com

for full details of booking & payment or use the QR code

Submit the online form and pay online

Confirmation of place will be sent by email

Open to non Town Close Pupils too

Dates may alter if the school sports hall availability changes.