

HEADMASTER'S WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN TERM WEEK 11
28TH NOVEMBER, 2025



Dear Parents

Another busy week draws to a close and when we return to school on Monday we find ourselves in one of the most magical months of the year; December. I said in my previous newsletter about how Prep School's such as Town Close are often at their most joyous during this special time of the year and it has been lovely to see Christmas Trees popping up, hearing carols being rehearsed and I even had my first mince pie of the season – delicious! My assembly this morning, reflected on advent being a period of waiting, but that we must ensure we make the most out of every moment in the run up to the end of the term. One of the most heart-warming sights from this week has been seeing the number of gifts in support of our giving tree appeal in aid of Break - a sincere thank you to all who have supported this with your kind donations. It was also lovely to see that our School Council led a bake sale on Tuesday in aid of our chosen charity, Finnbar's Force, and raised an incredible £356.65; well done to all of the pupils who helped to organise and run the event. On a final charitable note, there are a number of staff who will be very relieved that November is nearly over as they will be able to say farewell to some fairly dodgy moustaches that they have been sporting in aid of Movember, another well-deserving cause and one that I urge you to consider donating to through this [link](#).

Year 7 and 8 have been busy this week with their exams and I have been impressed by the way that they have taken this in their stride in typical Town Close fashion - I hope that they enjoy a restful weekend as a pat on the back for their endeavours. Year 3 and 4 have enjoyed their trips this week. As our Year 3 pupils prepare to hand in their first topic book homework on the Ancient Egyptians, their knowledge base received an added boost thanks to a fascinating visit to the Norwich Castle Museum and Art Gallery for an immersive workshop on Ancient Egypt. Our pupils met with a 19th-century archaeologist to explore Egyptian artefacts from the Castle's collections; learned about mummification and heard the story of Ankh Hor, a mummified person at the Castle, from a modern day conservator; joined a 19th-century campaigner to discover more about Ancient Egyptian daily life; and explored the significance of Egyptian jewellery with a jewellery-maker before making an Egyptian collar of their own to take home. The Year 3 teachers eagerly anticipate their Project Books to discover what parts of Ancient Egypt have captured their imaginations – I am sure that there will be a few commendations being awarded as well in due course. As part of their history topic on Invaders and Settlers, Year 4 visited West Stow Anglo-Saxon Village. Whilst there, they explored the recreated Anglo-Saxon village and took part in various activities in the interactive museum on site. They thoroughly enjoyed viewing the wide variety of displays that told the story of how the Anglo-Saxons lived and worked through the jewellery they wore, the tools and weapons they used, and the items they were buried with.

We also enjoyed welcoming parents for a number of events this week, with our Reception pupils excitedly welcoming their parents into their classrooms for a Reading Café. After tea, coffee and a delicious selection of pastries, our parents joined their children to experience a fun phonics session that focused on their new sound 'ch'. Our pupils were extremely proud to demonstrate their progress in phonics and share their wider work with their loved ones. It was a lovely morning that truly demonstrated the joy of reading and the power of sharing stories with one another. We would also like to thank all those who were able to attend the Swimming Information Evening last night and there is information alongside the Newsletter mailings this week for those who could not attend. We also hosted our first London Alumni Event yesterday evening at the incredible True House, where we were joined by a whole host of pupils from many different eras of Town Close School. It was wonderful to hear so many positive stories from life at Town Close and I look forward to seeing many of our alumni again at our upcoming Christmas Carol Service.

I hope that you have a great weekend and I look forward to seeing all of the children on Monday.

Every Moment Matters



NEWS FROM THE PTA

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.



MATCH REPORTS

RUGBY

The 1st and 2nd teams hosted Beeston Hall on Wednesday in what were perfect conditions for some running rugby. The 1st team scored some excellent 'team' tries in the 15-4 win, moving the ball through the hands throughout the game. Theo F impressed in both attack and defence, finishing off some well-taken tries with some elusive running and making some strong tackles. He was a worthy recipient of one of the POM awards, alongside Alex O C who had another outstanding game. Mr Kendrick's large 2nd team squad found themselves up against an injury-depleted '8 man' Beeston side. The coaches decided to play three short matches to allow all of our players the opportunity to have some pitch time. Beeston won the mini-series of games by 2-1, but it was pleasing to see Town Close finish the afternoon on a strong note with a 5-0 win. Mylo C was awarded POM for his determined play.

A mixture of Under 11 A and B players travelled to Beeston Hall and recorded a convincing 10-1 win. Lewis M and Marcus A were in good form (POM awards), and the team demonstrated encouraging levels of organisation and commitment in defence. The Under 10 B team played against the Beeston Hall 'A' team in what was a very entertaining and high-scoring affair. The match ended in a 10-10 draw, with George E-W nominated as POM for his excellent tackling. Mr Taylor was very pleased with the team performance against much bigger opponents.

There are some Under 8 and Under 9 teams in action this afternoon at Gresham's Prep and we will report back on those games next week. A busy afternoon certainly lies ahead for next Wednesday with our 1st and 2nd teams travelling to Langley (Loddon), the Under 11 ABC making the short journey to Lower Close to play Norwich School and the Under 10 ABC will be travelling to Culford for their final matches of the season. Good luck to all involved!

BULLETIN BOARD

PRE PREP & PREP

FRIENDLY REMINDERS

BAKE SALE

Well done to our School Council for a very successful Bake Sale, **raising £356.65** in aid of our School charity, Finnbar's Force!

MOVEMBER

As a reminder, a number of our staff are taking part in Movember. If you would like to donate please follow the link to their giving page.



DONATE HERE

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Break Giving Tree

Please deliver all gifts by 8th December

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 can wear a Christmas Jumper to replace their school jumper

Christmas Celebration

Friday 12th December, Front Lawn, from 4.00pm

Prep Carol Service

Wednesday 17th December, 10.00am at St Peter Mancroft



HOCKEY

Last Friday, spectators were treated to a thrilling display of hockey as Town Close and Norwich High produced one of the most entertaining matches of the season. The U10A's moved at a relentless pace, with end-to-end play. Norwich High opened the scoring, capitalising on an early opportunity. However, Town Close responded superbly, refusing to let their heads drop. Their determination was rewarded when Emily R finished confidently to bring the scores level. Both teams pushed right to the end, and the match concluded with a well-deserved 2–2 draw — a fair result in a game that highlighted the skill and spirit of both sides. Opposition's Player of the Match was awarded to Flo L. The U10B team enjoyed a positive and encouraging match against Norwich High, demonstrating the developing skills they have been working hard on in training. Persy W made several impressive runs down the right wing, consistently putting the opposition under pressure, while Eva Mc stood out with a composed and dependable performance in defence. Throughout the match, the girls showed determination and resilience, refusing to give up despite the challenges. Player of the Match was awarded to Persy W. The U10C team had a great game and they have shown real improvement, not only on their individual skills but also on their cohesion of working together as a team. Player's of the Match, Grace C, Ella H, and Olivia Mc particularly shined, Grace C for her hard work in defence and Ella H and Olivia Mc for there attacking skills in the D.

On Tuesday, the U9A team once again came up against a very strong Langley side. Despite this, they showed great determination and spirit throughout, growing in confidence as the game went on. Langley however were in fine form and won the match. The team should be proud of their effort, resilience, and positive attitude. Player of the Match was awarded to Eden A. The U9B team played a most enjoyable match, with the girls showing some flair and glimpses of passing. Luna S and Verity W managed to keep the ball on their sticks brilliantly, dribbling for some distance before playing it forward. Luna S scored a superb goal, which created huge excitement among the team, and consequently was awarded the Player of the Match. There were encouraging signs that the girls are starting to develop solid hockey skills.

On Wednesday, the U11B team put on an impressive display as they braved cold weather conditions at Pelicans Hockey Club for their fixture against Glebe House. The focus for the match was clear: let the ball do the work. The team embraced this instruction superbly, moving the ball confidently and purposefully across the pitch. Their positive play paid off early, with a swift opening goal that set the tone for the first half. Confidence continued to build, and by half-time the girls had secured a commanding five-goal lead through excellent teamwork and clinical finishing. The second half proved more challenging. The team momentarily lost their shape, allowing Glebe House to push forward and earn two shuffles, both of which they converted. Despite this shift in momentum, our girls showed great resilience and determination, working hard until the final whistle and securing a well-deserved victory. Player of the Match went to Charlotte W and Coach's Player of the Match was awarded to Flo L for her outstanding defensive performance. Impressively, all three forwards found themselves on the scoresheet—an excellent reflection of the team's attacking strength. Alongside the U11B's at Pelicans Hockey Club the U13B team had a super match. At half time it was 1-1, this score did not reflect how well they were playing as the Glebe GK was on fire, with kicks and dives to save many shots aimed at her goal. Isla Mc was a wizard down the right wing and in the second they were rewarded for their hard work. Isla S was fantastic in defence. Player of the match was Harriet W and coach's player was Isla Mc. It was a long but successful journey.

The rest of the U11 teams were at home playing NHS and wow, what a performance from the U11A girls! This was the best hockey they have played all season. Every player worked tirelessly in both attack and defence, showing real determination and teamwork throughout the match. The team finally mastered the early pass, allowing them to move the ball quickly, avoid tackles, and keep possession with confidence. Their passing was sharp and accurate, creating plenty of opportunities in the circle. Despite a flurry of shots on goal, they were unlucky not to score. Against the run of play, NHS managed to slip in a very soft goal, a shame, given how much possession our girls enjoyed. Even so, the team never let their heads drop. Elizabeth C and Joanie S were once again outstanding—covering huge ground, controlling the tempo, and driving the team forward at every opportunity. Nyla S was nominated Player of the match, which was very well deserved. The U11C's played a highly competitive game against NHS. NHS struck first with an early goal, but Town Close responded quickly to level the score. Both teams showed strong defensive work throughout, making it a tightly contested match. Town Close impressed with excellent ball distribution, spreading play wide and creating space. Clementine H-J was a standout performer, earning her Player of the Match, driving the ball forward with power and determination. Overall, it was a great game showcasing teamwork and resilience from both sides. The U11Ds thoroughly enjoyed their match against NHS, despite unfortunately losing 2–0. Persy W was deservedly awarded Player of the Match after making several superb runs down the wing, keeping the ball tightly on her stick before delivering powerful, accurate crosses into the circle to set up shooting opportunities for the forwards. The team showed encouraging moments of accurate passing in attack, demonstrating how far their skills and confidence have developed. Amelia C tackled tirelessly throughout the game and should be very proud of her efforts. Overall, there were many positive passages of play, reflecting clear improvement across the whole squad. The U11E's played an exciting end-to-end contest. Both goalkeepers were kept busy with some excellent saves. NHS proved sharper in front of goal, capitalizing when Town Close were a little slow to react, resulting in a 3-0 defeat. Despite the scoreline, the improvement from many players was clear and commendable. Annabelle H earned Player of the Match for her relentless drives down the right wing, showing determination and skill throughout.

To top it all, the U13A had their first indoor tournament where five schools met at Langley Prep for the annual event. Langley Prep proved to be the strongest side, winning every match, but there was very little between the other 4 schools. Town Close, with very little indoor experience, did exceptionally well to take the runners-up spot. Starting with a defeat against Langley, the team won their next 2 matches but finished with a disappointing defeat. It was great to see how well they improved as the afternoon progressed. What a week of hockey!



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



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

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 PTA

Giving Tree

**Give a local child in need
a gift this Christmas**

Collect a label

10th-21st Nov

(Pupils will have hopefully
brought home in their bag!)

Drop off a present

24th Nov - 8th Dec

(Entirely optional)

Make a difference

FULL DETAILS: townclosepta.co.uk/givingtree

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH





Protect your festive season with a flu vaccine

The NHS is making it easier than ever to get vaccinated

Clinics available across Norfolk

Call **0300 555 5055** or email

hct.csaisnorfolk@nhs.net to book your child's flu vaccination at a clinic near you today.