

HEADMASTER'S WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN TERM WEEK 12
5TH DECEMBER, 2025



Dear Parents

A gloriously sunny morning brings us to the final day of a busy week. The Christmas spirit is truly alive at Town Close and many of my highlights from this week have a festive thread to them. We started the week with Reverend Dr. Patrick Richmond leading our Prep Assembly. Reverend Patrick spoke about the season of Advent and the symbolism of the Advent Ring and the candles that are lit each Sunday in the lead up to Christmas, something which he reminded us of during the Pre Prep Carol Service at Christchurch Eaton yesterday afternoon. There is something truly magical about a carol service and Year 1 and 2 did a tremendous job in delivering festive cheer in abundance with their confident readings and lovely singing – a huge well done and thank you to the congregation for belting out the carols with real enthusiasm. I very much look forward to our Prep Carol Service at St. Peter Mancroft on 17th December – the final day of this term.

My absolute highlight of this week was the return of the House Christmas Music competition which challenged our Prep pupils to learn a Christmas song (drawn from a hat with each House allocated an upbeat Christmas classic) in their House groups in just one morning: the tune, the lyrics and the actions! They then performed to one another in the Read Hall accompanied by an incredible Staff band. The result was an extraordinary morning of House teamwork and festive fun that culminated in a fantastic finale of Christmassy joy, expertly opened by Year 2 who performed their rendition of 'Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree'! Well done to all of the children, particularly those in Barton who were voted by our esteemed judges to have delivered the winning performance. Our special thanks go to A-Level Music pupil, Max, from The Wherry School Norwich who joined Mrs Sims to perform the unenviable job of judging the final performances. Also, to the incredible Staff band of Mrs Kozcur, Mr Gibson, and Mr Legg. But the music competition was not the only festive House event this week; A Christmas Quiz House Competition, with a catchy name of 'A Sleigh Ride to Christmas' led by the Year 8 House Captains took place on Thursday. They devised the questions (including a very difficult 'Home Alone' starter); created the presentation; set up the Read Hall; chose the House teams; and hosted the game show-style quiz with great confidence and energy! Well done to Ilex, Amelia, Edward, Daniel, Sophia, Harriet, Annabelle, & Ananti!

Next week we will have a jam-packed schedule of festive events to enjoy with a host of Pre Prep Nativities, Christmas Ensembles, Christmas Celebration on Friday afternoon and Christmas Jumper Day. I would also like to say thank you again to all who have supported the Break Christmas present appeal and to give a last chance call to bring in presents before Break collect them next week.

It hasn't all been festive frivolity this week and it is pleasing to see the pupils working very hard across the curriculum, striving to make the most out of every moment in the run up to a well-deserved break. Other highlights of the week included welcoming parents in for two after school events; with Thomas Frank's joining us on Tuesday to answer questions about the new catering offering at the school, with plenty of yummy samples from the menu for parents to try, and parents joining me yesterday evening for an information evening on the upcoming ski trip to Passo Tonale – a first for Town Close. In the New Year, we will be looking to launch the ski trip for the next academic year with those pupils who have been on the waiting list for the trip this year being offered first refusal on a place. This was the last week of competitive matches and we reflected in assembly about what a successful season it has been across the myriad of teams that have represented the school. There is so much for them to be proud of and I look forward to the end of season reports from Wolf S and Ellie C, our Rugby and Hockey captains, before we find out who will be Boys' Hockey Captain and Girls' Netball Captain for the season ahead. This week our Nursery children experienced their first taste of 'Wobbel Yoga' with Sophie from The Yoga Feed Norwich. Sophie guided them through a range of poses and breathing exercises, testing their balance and their concentration before the lights were turned down and they finished the session with a period of relaxation on the arched boards. I also found out today that our Pre Prep pupils have been awarded the Green Tree School Award from the Woodland Trust for the environmental work that they have carried out this term during their 'Into the Woods' topic – I can't wait to see the well-deserved plaque proudly displayed over in Pre Prep and thank you to Mrs. Smith who coordinated this. Year 1 also celebrated the 'Into the Woods' theme, throwing a cake sale to raise money for the Bat Conservation Trust Norwich Branch. Well done to them for raising £120 to support this charity.

Our Year 8 pupils and a handful from Year 7 have also enjoyed the opportunity to pop over to Norwich School today; the Year 8 for what I am sure will be an exciting Design and Technology workshop and our Year 7 pupils visiting as part of their Latin and Classics Elective. The Year 7's will be presenting what they have learnt in this elective to myself and Mrs. Sims next Friday and I am very grateful to Mr. Griffiths for leading this very popular elective option this term. Next term will bring the next round of electives for our Year 7 pupils with Latin and Classics being taken up by a new set of pupils, along with options around Art History, Ceramics, Musical Theatre and Architecture. This has been such a welcome addition to the Year 7 curriculum and we look forward to building upon the success of this, both over the course of this year and going into the next year when we will have pupils in both Year 7 and Year 8 enjoying this option as part of the PSB.

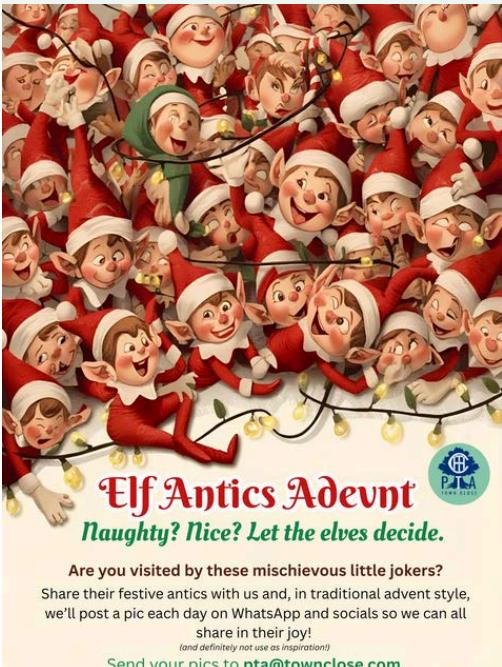
I hope that you have a great weekend and I look forward to seeing many of you at our events next week.

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.



A CHRISTMAS GIFT FOR THE PE, SWIMMING AND GAMES DEPARTMENTS!

The greatest gifts you can give the PE, swimming and games departments this Christmas is ensuring that your child can do the following:

- Undo and do up buttons on shirts
- Tie ties
- Tie shoelaces

Please bring the correct kit on the correct days for PE/swimming and Games, including mouthguard. During the Spring Term the boys will play hockey and the girls will play netball.

BREAK GIVING TREE

The School elves have been very busy with our Giving Tree today- they must know the deadline is close! Last gifts to be delivered by Monday 8th December please.



BULLETIN BOARD

PRE PREP & PREP FRIENDLY REMINDERS

BOYS GAMES NEXT WEEK

Next week some of the boys will have hockey practice for their games lessons. Could you please send them in with their mouthguards and shinpads for these sessions.

- Weds 10th December - Years 7 and 8 will have hockey practice in the afternoon (U12 rugby at Glebe also being played)
- Thursday 11th December - Years 5 and 6 will have hockey at the Astro for games
- Friday 12th December - Year 4 boys will have a short hockey practice at the Astro ahead of the Christmas Fayre
- Monday 15th December - Years 7 and 8 will have hockey practice at the Astro for games
- Tuesday 16th December - Year 4 boys will have hockey practice at the Astro for games

Year 3 will continue with rugby, the other games days will be House Football.

NO GAMES ON WEDNESDAY 17TH DEC

There will be no games on Wednesday 17th December. All children should come dressed in their School Uniform for the Carol Service.

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION POPPY APPEAL

Thank you to everyone who purchased an item, we raised £259.51 for the charity.

MATCH REPORTS

HOCKEY

Wednesday saw the final Hockey matches of the season against Norwich School. The U13As had a tough game against a good Norwich side. Town Close conceded twice early on but reduced the deficit after Harriet W finished off a good run from Sophia G. A poor last 5 minutes of the half meant Town Close trailed 1-5 at half time. The side fought hard in the second half and created chances but were unable to add to their tally. Player of the Match was awarded to Ellie C. The U12As started slowly and quickly went a goal down. Once settled Town Close took control. Using the width well, both Celina K and Coco S created many chances and Saskia T got a fabulous first half hat-trick! The second half belonged to Town Close too, who again created many opportunities. Players of the Match were Coco S & Saskia T.

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Break Giving Tree

Please deliver all gifts by 8th December

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

All families invited. Friday 12th December, Front Lawn, from 4.00pm

Prep Carol Service

All parents invited. Wednesday 17th December, 10.00am at St Peter Mancroft

Last day of term

Wednesday 17th December

First Day of the Spring Term

Wednesday 7th January

Year 8 Parents' Evening

Thursday 15th January, 5.00pm in the Read Hall

Year 7 Parents' Evening

Thursday 22nd January, 5.00pm in the Read Hall

Year 6 Parents' Evening

Thursday 29th January, 5.00pm in the Read Hall

Year 4 Production

Thursday 5th & Friday 6th February, Read Hall

Wellbeing Event with Mike Crossley- Resource not Rescue

All parents invited. Tuesday 10th February, 6.00pm in the Read Hall

MATCH REPORTS

The U13Bs saved their best hockey for their final match this season. What a performance from the whole team, with highlights from Isla Mc down the right wing, and Geena S and Pearl T in defence. This was the girl's best performance, giving them a well deserved 9-1 win. Players of the Match were Isla Mc and Geena S.

The U11As experienced their first indoor tournament at Langley. The girls drew their first match but unfortunately lost some of the other matches in the afternoon, coming 6th in the Tournament. Our lack of experience in using the walls to gain territory and create attacking positions made the game especially challenging. Despite this, Joanie S was electric both in attack and defence, making a significant impact throughout. Hannah B remained steady and reliable in defence, offering much-needed composure at the back. The girls finished the day saying they would love to play more Indoor Hockey—making it a truly valuable and positive experience. Joanie S was awarded Player of the Match.

The U11Bs ended their season in outstanding fashion with an emphatic 5–0 victory over Norwich School. After an even opening spell, Town Close broke the deadlock through a superb finish from Charlotte W. She quickly doubled the lead with a well-executed shuffle, before Frances H replicated the move to make it 3–0. At the other end, Ophelia B produced a string of excellent saves, including stopping a shuffle herself, ensuring the team maintained full control going into halftime. Confidence remained high as Town Close continued to dominate in the second half. A flowing team move saw Emily R convert another shuffle to extend the lead to 4–0, and Charlotte W completed her hat-trick late in the game to round off a superb performance. Every player contributed brilliantly. Charlotte L and Flo L were exceptional in defence and worked superbly as a pair. Jemima T-N provided her trademark stability and structure in midfield, while the forward trio of Charlotte W, Emily R and Frances H worked together fluidly and effectively throughout. Charlotte W's outstanding all-round display also earned her the opposition's Player of the Match award. It has been a pleasure to coach these girls this season, well done to every one of them. The C, D and E teams also enjoyed a great afternoon of hockey. The Cs winning 7-3, the Ds winning 1-0 and the Es finished with a 0-4 defeat. Well done to everyone and to Ani M, Eva W-H and Matilda H who were all awarded player of the match with the C, D and E teams respectively. Altogether 6 wins out of 8 against Norwich School, a fitting end to the hockey season.

RUGBY

Our Under 9A and B teams were joined by the Under 8A team for the trip to Gresham's last Friday. The 'A' team won two matches out of three, with wins against Gresham's and Beeston Hall, before losing to Norwich Lower School in their final game of the afternoon. It was an excellent team effort with Percy A and Charlie G nominated as POMs for their skilful and committed performances. The 'B' team also recorded two wins out of three matches with Harry D earning the POM award for his attacking and strong defensive play. The Under 8A team continued their excellent run of form by winning all three of their games against Gresham's A and B, and Beeston Hall. Jacob B was nominated as POM for his fast and elusive running in attack.

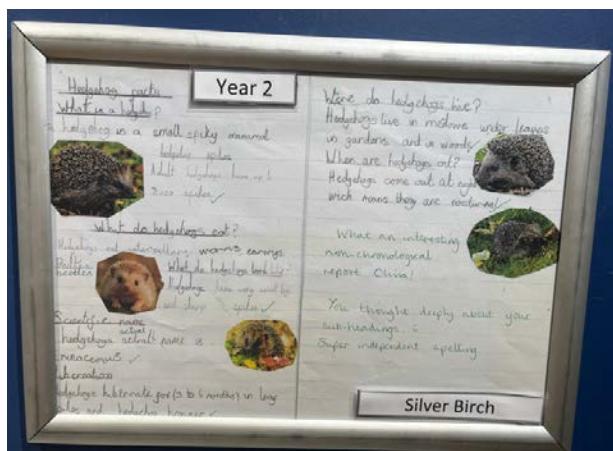
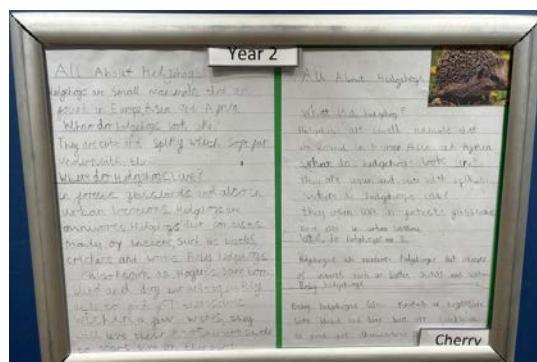
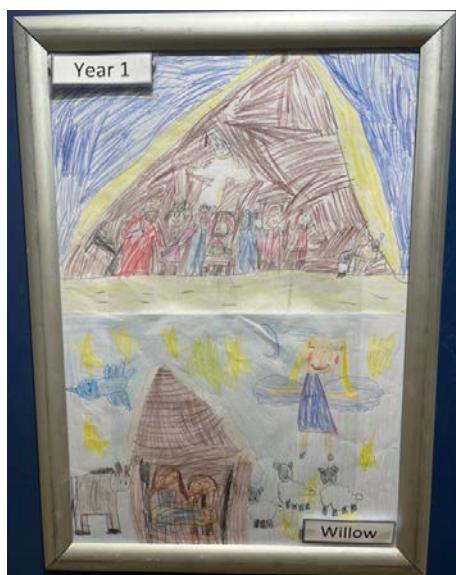
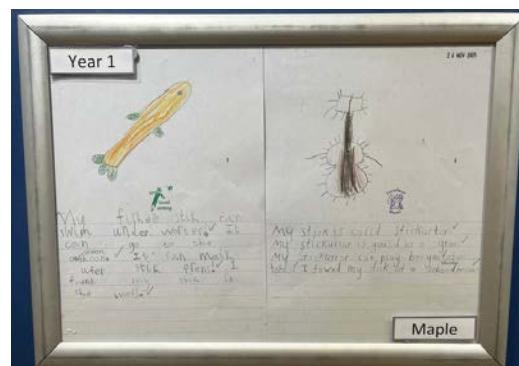
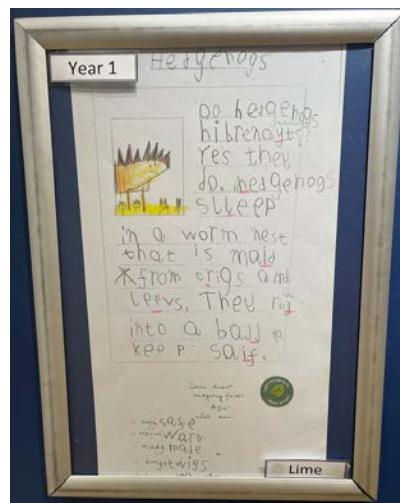
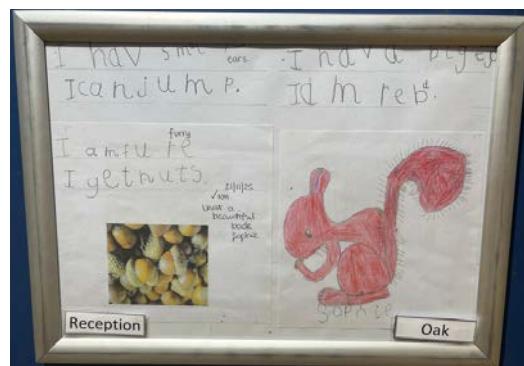
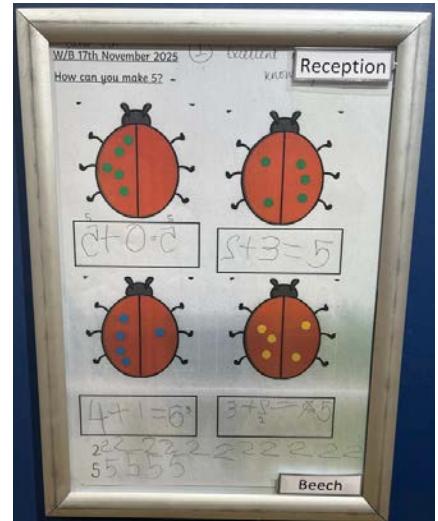
On Wednesday, we had eight fixtures taking place at three different locations. The 1st and 2nd teams travelled to Loddon to play Langley and rounded off their seasons with two pleasing wins. The 1st team played some excellent rugby in their 8-0 victory with Wolf leading from the front with some powerful driving runs and strong rucking, and Archie G finishing off some well-constructed tries. The 2nd team also scored some well-taken tries in their convincing win. Mr Kendrick nominated Rory W, Nathanael G, Sam A and Philip S as the POMs for their all-round efforts.

The Under 11A team travelled to Lower Close, keen on making amends after their home defeat to a strong Norwich School team a couple of weeks ago. Mr Greenhall was very pleased with his team's final performance of the term and nominated Freddie G, Jonah T and Beltran for POM awards in the excellent 7-3 victory. Nico K W came to the rescue in a dramatic late win for the Under 11B team. Trailing by a single score with just two minutes remaining, Nico crossed the try line twice in the dying moments to secure victory in what otherwise had been a rather scrappy affair. The Under 11C team have made encouraging progress this term, particularly with their tackling and rucking skills, and Mr Coyle was very pleased with the performance of the whole squad on Wednesday afternoon. Despite the 6-10 defeat, a large group of players had the opportunity to take to the field and enjoy the opportunity of playing in the team's final competitive fixture of the term. Dixon C was voted by his peers as our POM.

The Under 10 AB and C teams travelled to Culford and enjoyed a very successful afternoon of rugby. The Under 10A team once again performed at a high level, both in attack and defence, to record another win to end their season unbeaten. Yves V D was nominated as POM for his tireless efforts and commitment to the cause. The Under 10B team have scored an impressive number of tries over the course of the term and ended their season on a strong note with a 20-4 win. Seb W was again in fine form with his attacking play to receive the POM award. The C team gave their strongest performance of the term with all of the players demonstrating an improvement in the core skills. Despite the 6-10 defeat, Charlie M (POM) was in good form with the ball in hand and rounded off three well-taken tries. Henry H, Orson W and Ellis R also featured on the scoresheet. Well done to all of our Under 10 boys!

The House rugby competitions have all been completed and the outcome will be announced by the Captain of Rugby, Wolf S, in the Final Assembly on the last day of term. In the meantime, an Under 12 team will travel to Glebe next Wednesday to bring the curtain down on what has been a very successful rugby season across all of the age groups. Very well done to all of the boys in Years 3 to 8 who have represented the School. The final results table certainly gives the impression that exciting times lie ahead for our Town Close rugby teams.

WONDERWALL



- Little Acorns, Clementine, Reindeer Painting
- Little Acorns, Millie, Independent Name Writing
- Beech, Luna Jin, Excellent Number Work
- Oak, Sophie, Squirrel Book
- Lime, Alfie, Hedgehog Facts
- Maple, Louis & Darya, Independent Writing
- Willow, Rafa & Penelope W, Nativity Drawing
- Cherry, Robin & Charles, Facts about Hedgehogs
- Holly, Harrison, Hedgehog Non-Chronological Report
- Silver Birch, Olivia, Hedgehog Non-Chronological Report



TOWN CLOSE SCHOOL

JOIN FOR US A FUN FILLED

Christmas **CELEBRATION**

DECEMBER 12

FROM 4.00 - 5.30PM

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](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

Christmas Holiday Cricket Clubs 2025

At Town Close School Sports Hall

Thurs 18th, Friday 19th & Mon 22nd & Tues 23rd December

For Years 2 upwards

£45 for one day, £85 for two days or £40 per day for three or more days



Our Lead coach will be Mr. Neil Taylor.

Players of all levels and experience will have the opportunity to improve their technical skills in a fun environment.

Suitable for Years 2 and above.

Those wishing to play hardball cricket will require their own kit,
but it's not essential.

Pupils in Year 2 will play with softball cricket equipment, which will be provided.

Players should bring indoor shoes, plenty of drinks and a packed lunch.

10am to 3pm

Venue: Town Close School Sports Hall, Ipswich Rd Norwich NR2 2LJ

Go to www.taylormadecricket.com for full details of booking & payment.

Please submit the online form and pay online

Confirmation of place will be sent by email.