

HEADMASTER'S WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN TERM WEEK 4
26TH SEPTEMBER, 2025



Dear Parents

Another busy week at Town Close draws to a close and we reflected in assembly this morning about just how much the pupils have grown already this term (well done to Wolf and Evelyn for their participation in my popcorn challenge this morning). A new school year opens up new possibilities and opportunities for pupils to grow, not just in terms of their knowledge and skills, but most importantly in terms of their character. I have been particularly pleased to see our new pupil leaders stepping into their roles whether that has been as Prefects (who met as a group this week to plan some of their exciting ideas for the year ahead), School Council Reps (who enjoyed a group training session) or our Top Birds who have already been busying themselves carrying out their duties over at Pre Prep.

There have been lots of highlights from the week, including our newly formed Year 8 F24 Team who enjoyed their first racing experience as a team on Sunday, competing at Lotus Cars Hethel Track in the Greenpower Education Trust East Anglia heats. Serving as a fantastic warm up ahead of the International Finals at Goodwood Motor Circuit in October, the team worked incredibly well together, supporting each other in the pit stops and throughout the race. The highlight of the day was undoubtedly winning the second race after an extremely tense final lap although there were plenty of memorable moments to savour from the day! Congratulations to all of the team (who received their trophy and medals in assembly today) and to Mr. and Mrs Buck for their ongoing support of the team.

The 'Into the Woods' topic in Pre Prep continues to provide magical moments, including Monday when we were delighted to welcome chainsaw artist Matt Darge. Matt spoke to our children about the different species of trees native to the UK, his job and the tools he utilises, before giving them a gripping live demonstration over the course of the day. Using a range of different sized chainsaws, Matt expertly transformed a simple log into an incredibly detailed fox, an animal that is very familiar to our Town Close woods. Alongside watching Matt in action, the children had the opportunity to work with a range of woodworking tools that allowed them to explore how Matt carved the wood to create shapes, indentations and detail. A huge thank you to Matt for sharing his expertise with us and for our Town Close fox who will very soon be gracing our Woodland Walk for all to visit and appreciate.

Our Nursery and Reception pupils welcomed Abi from the Norfolk Wildlife Trust into our Outdoor Classroom for a 'Nature Detectives' interactive session. Abi explained what signs we can look for in our woods that indicate an animal is around: mole hills, rabbit holes, droppings, trails and nests; and introduced them to some of the animals that they might meet in the woods. Armed with the knowledge, they then went in search of some clues as to what lives on our school site before enjoying a bird scavenger hunt. Our sincere thanks to Abi for her boundless & infectious energy & enthusiasm throughout the day.



Finally, our Mini Explorers ventured into our Woodland Walk on an exciting Gruffalo Trail. After listening to Mrs Creasey read 'The Gruffalo' in the Outdoor Classroom, they followed a trail to find the mouse, the fox, the owl and the snake before chancing upon our most elusive woodland resident, the Gruffalo! A homemade slice of Gruffalo crumble cake, whilst listening to 'The Gruffalo's Child', proved the perfect end to a wonderful morning of fun. Hearing word that a Gruffalo had been spotted in the Woodland Walk, our Nursery pupils excitedly went on a hunt of their own before enjoying a play in the Outdoor Classroom with some 'owl ice-cream', 'roasted fox' & 'scrambled snake'!

Other highlights from this week have included Science Club, which in response to huge demand has returned with not one but two cohorts enjoying the magic and fun of Science with Ms Gallacher each week! This week the groups were creating oozing oobleck, a substance that can behave like both a solid and a liquid, depending on how much sudden pressure or force is applied to it. The children learnt how oobleck is a non-Newtonian fluid that is used to create special protective body armour for athletes and for the military. As part of their RE syllabus, our Year 6 pupils visited Walsingham to learn about the different Christian denominations. They enjoyed tours of the Methodist, Roman Catholic & Orthodox Churches as well as the Anglican Shrine. A comprehensive exploration of each site gave the children a first-hand experience of the distinctive religious buildings and an insight into how the different denominations worship. Pre Prep also enjoyed a modern foreign languages assembly this morning led by members of Year 8 to mark European Day of Languages, which was very fitting given our recent introduction of Spanish to the Year 2 curriculum – something that I know our Year 2 pupils have been very much enjoying.

With the week almost over we look forward to ASA this afternoon, which has Year 4 as part of it for the first time, as well as the PTA Social Drinks at The York this evening (which whilst I am mentioning PTA, I should remind you that Fireworks tickets are now on sale).

I hope that you have a pleasant weekend.

HB

FRIDAY 7TH NOVEMBER

FIREWORKS SPECTACULAR

ON SALE NOW!

Townclosepta.co.uk

Early bird tickets £9 (until 5th October @6pm). Then £10.50 a ticket.
Under 3's free.

Potash Farm, Potash Lane, NR14 8EY
Parking at Lotus Cars

5PM - 8PM (FIREWORK DISPLAY APPROX 6.45PM)



Every Moment Matters



OPEN MORNING

We welcome parents of children in transition years, such as Nursery and Year 2, to join us at our Open Morning. It will provide you with an opportunity to familiarise yourself with your child's next step at Town Close.



EQUALITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION PARENT SURVEY

Please share your views by taking our Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Parent Survey [here](#). The deadline is October 17th. More information can be found in the letter on the Parent Portal.

PTA DRINKS AT THE YORK TONIGHT

All Town Close parents and staff are invited to join the PTA at The York pub this evening for drinks and nibbles from 6.00pm. Parking is available at School on the main drive.



BULLETIN BOARD

PRE PREP & PREP

FRIENDLY REMINDERS

DATE CHANGE- ROYAL NORFOLK SHOW

Please note that the date for the Royal Norfolk Show has changed. It was previously advertised as 1st July 2026 but has been moved forward to Wednesday 24th June 2026, which is when the School will be closed.

PREP SHIRT, TIES AND SHOE LACES

We kindly ask that you help your children in the Prep Department ensure they can tie shoelaces, do up buttons and tie ties. Being able to do these things will help save time and ensure smart, well presented children.

SKI TEAM

The Town Close U12 boys ski team took their first steps to defending their ESSKIA National Slalom title by taking part in the regional qualifier last weekend. A team of Beau R, Jake B and Percy A worked hard as a team to clock up some of the fastest times of the day. They qualified second to reach the finals which is in Norwich on the 11th October. Congratulations boys and good luck for the finals.

COOKERY ROOM DONATIONS

If you have any unwanted induction saucepans, food mixers or food processors donations would be gratefully received. Please drop them off at either the Pre Prep or Prep reception.



DATES FOR THE DIARY

Parent Consultation: Digital Strategy and EdTech

Monday 29th September, 6.00pm in the Read Hall

Pre Prep 'Settling In' Parents' evening for Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2

Wednesday 8th October, appointments to be booked

Bentley Photography- Sibling photos

Thursday 9th October

Prep School Informal Soloists' Concert

Thursday 9th October, 4.00pm in the Read Hall

Open Morning

Friday 10th October, 9.15am

Year 3 Parents' Evening

Thursday 16th October, from 5.00pm

Friday 17th October

Break up for half term

Please refer to the calendar on the Parent Portal for a full list of events and fixtures.



MATCH REPORTS

HOCKEY

This week the U11A's played a competitive match against Langley, showing great attacking intent throughout. Nyla S made strong runs down the right wing, delivering crosses that gave Georgia S and Joanie S several chances on goal. Elizabeth C was solid in defence, making powerful clearances to keep Langley at bay. Despite their efforts, Langley scored the winning goal in the final minute. The girls should be proud of their performance and teamwork. Player of the Match was Elizabeth C.

The U11B team produced a fantastic all-round performance against Langley, full of determination and teamwork. From the very first whistle, the girls started strongly and maintained their intensity right through to the final moments. It was especially pleasing to see the ball being passed around with real fluency, with everyone working hard to support each other. Our defensive trio, together with Dottie C in goal, stood firm whenever they were called upon. In midfield, the link-up play was excellent, spreading the ball wide and feeding it into the circle with confidence. The goals were shared around, with Frances H, Emily R, Charlotte W, and Clara W all getting on the scoresheet. It was a true team effort and every player contributed to a brilliant display for a 6-0 win. Player of the Match was awarded to Clara W for her outstanding performance.

U11C team were up against the Langley B side. The team were solid in defence with Emelia A, Amelia C and Eva W-H distributing the ball wide. Ani M was determined in her tackling, Persy W did fantastic runs down the wing and scored the only goal, and Victoria W won Player of the Match with solid work in the middle.

The U13A's had a very challenging first half and keeping possession against a strong Langley team was tricky. A much improved second half saw a better performance thanks to some excellent saves by Sephe V and outstanding defending by Phillipa C, gaining Phillipa Player of the Match.

The U13B and C teams delivered a strong display, full of energy and intent. Excellent runs down the wings from Coco S and Isla M stretched the opposition and opened up valuable space in the final third, giving the forwards Sophie K and Margot C plenty of opportunities to press high and create chances. From the back, the defence of Geena S, Pearl T and Alice B worked with composure, moving the ball out calmly and linking smoothly with the midfield. Those quick transitions from defence to attack set the tone, allowing the team to keep momentum and dictate play. It was a positive performance all around. Players of the Match were Margot C, Sophie K, Isla M and Ananti S.

RUGBY

Last Friday, our Year 4 boys travelled to Beeston Hall to take part in their rugby festival. We had two squads playing contact and tag rugby matches against Glebe, Langley Prep, Beeston Hall, Gresham's and Norwich Lower School. Although the match scores were not recorded for this event, all of the boys enjoyed their first opportunity to play some competitive rugby in beautiful sunny conditions. It proved to be a very successful afternoon for building team spirit and gaining match experience ahead of our next fixture in a week's time. Well done to all of the boys involved.

Our block fixture on Wednesday was against Langley Prep. The Upper Prep boys travelled to Taverham and played two games in conditions tailor-made for some expansive running rugby. The 1st XII did not disappoint on that front and used their pace and the width of the pitch to run in some excellent tries. The team recorded a convincing win with Ben S and Alex O C demonstrating some impressive elusive running, and Theo F made some excellent tackles. After a slow opening, the 2nd team raised their game and fought back to score some well-taken tries. Despite the 5-11 defeat, Mr Kendrick was pleased with the second half performance, with Dexter W, Rory W and William G all receiving a POM award.

The Under 11 A and B teams both played against Langley Prep 'A' at our Main Field. The 'A' team impressed in the first match with Freddie G in good form with some strong running in the 9-1 win. The Town Close 'B' team then took to the field and played very well to record a 4-4 draw against their 'A' team opponents. Nico K W was excellent in both attack and defence, and showed himself to be a 'team player'.

The Under 10 A and B teams followed the same format as the Under 11 games. Our 'A' team played Langley Prep first and won 10-0 with Harry A receiving the POM award. Our 'B' team drew 5-5 with Langley 'A' with Felix W nominated as POM in what was a very encouraging team performance.

Well done to all of the boys who have represented the School over the past seven days. We are looking forward to another set of fixtures with Beeston Hall next Wednesday and all of our Year 4 boys will be in action against Gresham's and Glebe at Main Field on Friday afternoon.

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA:

Facebook: @towncloseschool

Instagram: town.close.school



HALLOWEEN SPOOKTACULAR



**OCTOBER HALF TERM WORKSHOPS
YOUNG CHEFS AGED 5-12 YEARS OLD ARE INVITED TO
JOIN US TO MAKE SOME CREEPY CREATIONS**

**TUESDAY 28TH OCTOBER
WYMONDHAM COLLEGE PREP SCHOOL**

**WEDNESDAY 29TH OCTOBER
CRINGLEFORD CE VA PRIMARY SCHOOL**

**10am-12:30pm
£31 PER CHILD
INCLUDING RECIPE CARDS, PACKAGING &
INGREDIENTS**



Boooook here:

<https://www.stir-it-up.co.uk/halloween-2025>

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:
07973 724870
INFO@STIR-IT-UP.CO.UK**