

HEADMASTER'S WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN TERM WEEK 8
7TH NOVEMBER, 2025



Dear Parents

I would like to wish you all a warm welcome back after half term and it has been lovely to catch up with the children this week about all that they got up to over the break.

It was busy at school over half term, with some exciting holiday opportunities. Some of our older children enjoyed a fantastic day out at the Stemex Centre, taking part in a tutor led robotics and coding workshop. They, also, had the opportunity to explore the Science Lab Area before heading back to School to enjoy some team building games in the Read Hall. A team of budding footballers from across the year groups took to Main Field to enjoy a football camp hosted by a team of coaches from the Norwich City FC Community Sports Foundation. We also had plenty of work going on at the School site with the new netball courts now open for children to enjoy during break and lunch. It has been great to see the pupils enjoying this new area and we look forward to seeing it in full action when the netball season arrives.

On Monday, our Eco Council representatives were delighted to welcome Isabelle and Ella from the Norfolk Wildlife Trust into School. The Eco Council gave our visitors a comprehensive tour of our woodland site, pointing out some of the habitats already identified before Isabelle and Ella spoke to our pupils about wildlife conservation (a focus of this year's project with The Royal Society).

Our Year 8 pupils were delighted to welcome The Lady Dannatt MBE, HM Lord-Lieutenant of Norfolk, and Deputy Lord-Lieutenant, Paris Back, into School to speak to them about the Honours and Awards system in the UK. In PSHE, our Year 8 pupils have been learning about the different orders, decorations and medals, working as a pilot school in Norfolk for the 'School Honours Programme' that aims to educate children about the British honours system and encourage nominations from all walks of life. Our Year 8 pupils presented their own nominations to their guests, advocating for a wide range of local and national figures who they feel deserve to be recognised for their significant contribution to national life. Our sincere thanks go to our esteemed visitors for giving their time. A huge well done to our Year 8 pupils for their considered and mature presentations and questions.

It hasn't taken long for trips to spring back into action after the break, with Year 2 enjoying the first trip of the new half term visiting the Bug Parc on Thursday. Next week brings with it the first cultural and sports PSB trip to Haileybury Malta, where our pupils have a wonderful programme ahead of them alongside pupils from other schools who are part of the PSB.

We also look forward to welcoming Richard Shorter, the 'Non-Perfect Dad', into School next Tuesday. Richard will be working with our pupils (Years 5-8) and sports teachers during the day, before leading an inspiring evening session for parents. Having worked with elite teams and schools across the country, as well as organisations such as the England and Wales Cricket Board and England Rugby, it promises to be a fascinating and thought-provoking evening. The session will commence at 6.00pm in the Read Hall. All parents and Town Close Associates are very welcome.

I hope to see many of you at PTA Fireworks event this evening and thank you in advance to the wonderful PTA and staff volunteers who have kindly given up their time to what I am sure will be a fantastic event.

Every Moment Matters



SAVE THE DATE TUESDAY 11TH NOV



'How to raise a child who enjoys and succeeds in sport'

We are delighted to invite you to a very special event designed to support families in the world of youth sport.

Richard Shorter, widely known as The Non-Perfect Dad, has worked with England Rugby, England Cricket, and some of the UK's leading schools, helping families and coaches create environments where young people thrive- not through perfection, but through connection.

Date: Tuesday 11th November
Provisional Time: 6.00pm-7.15pm
Location: Read Hall
Parking: Main drive and Pre Prep playground

ODD SOCKS DAY

On **Monday 10th November** we are participating in 'Odd Socks Day' across the school. Children and staff are encouraged to wear odd socks for the day, in support of Anti-Bullying Week.

POSITIVE NOTICING DAY

Next Wednesday we will be spending some of the day thinking about the power of positive noticing. Being positively noticed by others builds self-esteem, supports behaviour and promotes good mental health. We will be encouraging pupils and staff to positively notice one another, and we encourage this at home also.

NEWS FROM THE PTA

HATS & SCARFS

We've got a great selection of Town Close hats and scarves available from the PTA shop for only **£2.00 each!**

BREAK CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE

In the next two weeks, your child will bring home a label, with a gift suggestion on it. This is part of The Giving Tree, in partnership with the charity Break, to give local children and young people in need a gift this Christmas. Participation in this PTA project, supported by the School, is

BULLETIN BOARD PRE PREP & PREP

FRIENDLY REMINDERS

POPPY APPEAL

Our Year 8 pupils are selling Royal British Legion poppies and other poppy related merchandise ahead of our Remembrance Service on Tuesday. There is, also, a supply in Pre Prep in the Pre Prep Reception.

If your child would like to purchase a poppy or make a donation, please ensure they have some change in school on Monday.



MINI BUS SERVICE



Our mini bus service has been successfully running since the beginning of term, providing children with an efficient, safe and convenient journey to school. The Wymondham route has proven to be particularly convenient whilst the road works take place on A11/A47. To find out more about the 2 available routes, please visit the [website here.](#)

entirely optional, but if you'd like to join in, it's a simple concept. You and your child source the gift suggestion, (the value will be £5-10), wrap it, attach the label to the present, and bring it back into school. 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.

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Odd Socks Day

Monday 10th November

Non-Perfect Dad Talk

Tuesday 11th November, 6.00pm in the Read Hall

4A Class Assembly

Wednesday 12th November, in the Read Hall

Year 7 PSB Trip to Malta

From 13th November

Prep School Informal Concert

Thursday 13th November, 5.15pm in the Read Hall

4W Class Assembly

Wednesday 19th November, 8.30am in the Read Hall

Year 5 Parents' Evening

Thursday 20th November, from 5.00pm in the Read Hall

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

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

Parent Ski Trip Information Evening

Thursday 5th 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 Fair

Friday 12th December, from 3.45pm

Prep Carol Service

Wednesday 17th December, 10.00am at St Peter Mancroft

MATCH REPORTS

RUGBY

The boys in Years 3 and 4 were involved in matches on the Friday afternoon as we broke up for half term. The Under 8 teams travelled to Lower Close to play their first matches of the term against Norwich Lower School. All three teams were involved in some exciting, end-to-end contests and the boys should all be very proud of their efforts. The 'A' team drew 20-20, the 'B' team lost by 12-14 and the 'C' team lost by 6-9. These were all excellent contests, played in a tremendous sporting spirit. Well done to all involved.

The Year 4 player numbers were rather hampered by illness and absence which meant that we played only two matches instead of the three scheduled. That said, they were both well-fought and even contests with the 'A' team drawing 10-10 (POM Oscar D) and the B team winning by 11-9 (Noah W was POM). Hopefully our Under 9 teams will be back to full strength for the return fixture next Friday at Langley Prep.

On Wednesday, our block fixture was against Gresham's. Our 1st team impressed in the first half of their match with some excellent handling and impressive continuity. A few crucial missed tackles allowed Gresham's to pull away in the second period with the final score of 2-7 not quite a reflection of our overall performance. Mr Kendrick has waited 33 years to achieve a win at Gresham's with his 2nd team and he was justifiably delighted with the boys' efforts in their 13-2 victory. Very well done to the whole squad who, in Mr Kendrick's mind, have all written their names into the Town Close history books!

Our Under 11A team drew with Gresham's at the Culford Festival just before half term and a 9-9 draw at Main Field on Wednesday suggested another closely-fought contest. Beltran O C was awarded POM for his all-round efforts and commitment throughout. Our Under 11B team travelled to Lower Close to play Norwich School. The team recorded a 10-5 victory with six different players crossing the try line. Arthur Y was awarded POM for his excellent play. Our Under 11C team hosted Gresham's 'B' team which proved to be quite a tough step up for our boys. Despite the 4-17 defeat, Reggie J showed some determined running with the ball in hand and received the POM award for his efforts.

The Under 10A/B squad won by 13-1 against Gresham's at Main Field with another strong team performance. William C was in fine form and was awarded POM by Mr Woods. Our Under 10B/C squad hosted Gresham's 'B' which again proved to be a challenging step up in play for us. That said, Seb W scored some excellent tries and received the POM award for his attacking play.

The Under 8 boys are in action on Tuesday of next week when they travel to Langley Prep for some 'tag' matches. Our block fixture on Wednesday is against Culford and the U9 teams travel to Langley Prep on Friday. Our Under 11A boys are due to participate in the IAPS St Joseph's Festival on the same day which should give them the opportunity to test their skills against some of the strongest schools in the region. Good luck to all involved!

HOCKEY

The Friday before half term, twelve Year 3's had their very first hockey festival at Norwich Lower School. The 3 teams of 4 had a fantastic afternoon of hockey; they played maturely and demonstrated wonderful hockey skills which they have been practising all term. They showed super passing skills to score lots of goals and their tackling skills prevented many attempts by the opposition. A very impressive start to competitive hockey. Players of the tournament were Autumn S, Sophia W and Rae R.

The Under 9A's played their final matches before half term at Langley Prep School, with one 7-a-side and two 5-a-side teams taking part. The 7-a-side team came up against a very strong Langley side, led by an outstanding player who dominated much of the game and left our team quite in awe. Langley were on the scoresheet very early, and although it was difficult to fight back, the Town Close players showed great determination and spirit throughout. Their perseverance paid off with a well-deserved goal — a clever shuffle finish from Eden A. The two 5-a-side teams really enjoyed their matches and played some wonderful hockey. There was some excellent passing, strong defensive play, and several great goals scored. It was fantastic to see their enthusiasm, teamwork, and developing skills on display. Well done to all the players — we look forward to seeing them continue to grow and develop after half term. Player's of the Match, Molly B, Edith B, Elise M, Everly M, Verity W and Luna S.

On Wednesday, The U13A's came up against a strong Gresham's team. The girls fought hard but found an opponent who's strong shots were too much to handle. They showed excellent strength of character, as despite being 6-0 down, they never gave up and only conceded 3 goals in the second half. Player of the Match was Saskia T. The U13B's played a match in which the final score did not reflect the game; the second half belonged to Town Close, where we dominated. A well taken goal by Isla M earned her Player of the Match. The U13C's played a super intelligent game of hockey this week, passing the ball beautifully and making excellent use of the full width of the pitch. A special mention goes to Isla S, who had an outstanding game on the right wing, creating great attacking opportunities. The team also defended brilliantly, with Pearl T and Geena S clearing the ball efficiently and setting up forward plays. Geena S's composure and hard work earned her the well-deserved Player of the Match award. The score remained even until the final few minutes, when Gresham's managed to score a second goal. Despite this, the girls battled on with determination and were unlucky not to equalise after a lovely cross late in the game. They should all feel very proud of their efforts and teamwork.

HOCKEY CONT.

Despite a 6–0 loss, the U13D team put in a strong performance full of effort and determination. There was excellent defending throughout, keeping the opposition out of dangerous areas in the D. Claudia W made some brilliant double saves in goal to deny further chances. Down the right side, Polly H and Jess E worked well in attack; a standout moment came from a lovely move starting at the back — a touch from Jess E out to Polly H, then on to Margot C, who drove into the D with real intent. Simran T worked tirelessly all game and was rightly named Player of the Match.

The U11 teams faced Gresham's at home. U11A's was an exciting, high-quality game, with the girls playing much faster and more accurately with their passing. The team used the width well, moving the ball consistently out to the right wing and then back into the centre, creating plenty of chances on goal. Although the match ended 1–1, the intensity and energy on the pitch was fantastic, with everyone giving 100%. Player's of the Match were Shreya B and Joanie S. It was a pleasure to see the U11B's back on the pitch for their first game after half term. They put pressure on the opposition right from the beginning and were rewarded with an early goal. Gresham's equalised just before half time so they knew they needed to up the intensity in the second half. Their passing was well organised, and their teamwork was excellent, everyone was looking to support one another and showing true team spirit. Overall, it was a very encouraging performance and a great sign for the rest of the season. Players of the match were Charlotte W and Florence L. The C team faced a very strong Gresham's side and showed exceptional resilience under sustained pressure. Dottie C was outstanding in goal, making numerous crucial saves, particularly in the first half, to keep the team in the game. Despite Gresham's attacking dominance, the Town Close girls remained determined and continued to battle hard, even creating a few chances of their own that were just shy of finding the back of the net. A key moment came when Percy W came on to the wing, using her pace and skill to glide past defenders with ease, adding new energy and competitiveness to the team's play. It was arguably the best performance from the C-Team so far this season, ending in a well-deserved 0–0 draw. Both Percy W and Dottie C were named Player's of the Match for their exceptional contributions. The D-Team match was equally exciting, with play flowing from end to end in a closely contested encounter. Nava C impressed with her dynamic runs down the wing and strong tackles in defence, while Zahra S stood out for her tireless energy, close ball control, and precise passing going forward. The rest of the team worked tirelessly, showing great determination and composure at the back to keep the opposition out. Their teamwork and linking play created some excellent passages of play, earning them another 0–0 draw.



TOWN CLOSE SCHOOL

YEAR 7&8

2026

FUTURES FAIR

supporting our children to be future ready

To make this event a success for our children we are seeking **volunteers** from a **range of professions** to **exhibit at our futures fair**. Jarrolds have kindly agreed to lead the pupil workshop and provide a key note speaker.

Join Jarrolds in making this our biggest fair yet!

WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT

THURSDAY 18TH JUNE, 1.00PM–4.00PM



Jarrolds



Contact Amy Jones to register your interest: admissions@townclose.com

TOWN CLOSE PTA

Giving Tree

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

Collect a label.
10th-21st Nov
(Pupils will do this in classes.)

Drop off a present.
24th Nov - 8th Dec
(This is entirely optional.)

Make a difference.



IN PARTNERSHIP WITH



FULL DETAILS: townclosepta.co.uk

Odd Socks Day



We'll be wearing our odd socks this Odd Socks Day, will you?

Monday 10th November 2025



Andy and the Odd Socks

ANTI-BULLYING ALLIANCE

#AntiBullyingWeek
#OddSocksDay



POSITIVE NOTICING DAY

WWW.POSITIVENOTICINGDAY.COM

12.11.25

WHEN THE ADULTS CHANGE