

HEADMASTER'S WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN TERM WEEK 9
14TH NOVEMBER, 2025



Dear Parents

I write to you today from the beach sports complex at Pretty Bay in sunny Malta as our Year 7 sports tourists take part in their first session of their PSB trip; Beach Volleyball. The trip is our first, as part of the Pre Senior Baccalaureate (PSB), and we are kindly being hosted by Haileybury School Malta. One of the most exciting elements of this trip is that we are joined by other PSB Schools and our pupils will be in mixed teams comprising of pupils from different schools today meaning that they get to work with and compete against pupils who they would not typically come up against in their usual sporting fixtures. They will also be competing in sports and games that they do not usually take part in and I know that there is lots of excitement for the Padel tournament tomorrow! We are also looking forward to the cultural elements of our visit, especially our day in Valletta on Sunday. School trips are such a vital part of life at Town Close School and it is always such a pleasure to accompany our pupils on trips both near and far.

Before leaving for Malta, we had a busy week at School as ever and we kicked off the week with Odd Socks Day to mark the beginning of the Anti-Bullying Alliance Anti-Bullying Week, with children and staff wearing Odd Socks with pride to celebrate our individuality. This was followed up by Positive Noticing Day on Wednesday, where we all set aside some time to write a note to someone to actively demonstrate that we have noticed them in a positive way. We reflected on how positively noticing each other can be transformative, and is a simple and highly effective way of building self-esteem, promoting good mental health and supporting each other. These values and aims are intrinsically linked to The Town Close Way that we strive to follow each and every day. It was so lovely to see lots of children (and staff) beaming with pride at the kind comments they had received.

On Tuesday, Mr Kendrick led a special Prep Assembly, uniting our community in remembrance as we observed a two-minute silence after Mrs Koczur's poignant performance of The Last Post. A number of our Year 8 pupils represented the School at the Eaton War Memorial, joining the wider community to remember those who gave their tomorrow for our today. Our Pre Prep children marked the day creating some beautiful poppy-inspired artwork before observing their own moment of silence in their classes.

The 'Non-perfect Dad', Richard Shorter, also joined us in School on Tuesday to lead a number of insightful workshops around the subject of sport and values. Our Year 7 and 8 Sports Award pupils focused on 'distractions' in their session, as Richard encouraged them to think about what distractions affect their performance and how they can minimise these on match days. He taught them a valuable breathing technique to help them reset when needed, as well as encouraged them to consider and create their own personalised mantra to draw on to focus their minds. Richard expanded on the idea of dealing with distractions in his wider session with our Years 5 - 8 pupils that looked at the values and characteristics of successful sports people. A very interactive session saw pupils offer some thoughtful ideas on what attributes are important before every pupil took a moment to think about their own super powers and how these can help them achieve in sport as well as in their day to day lives in school. A session with our sports staff considered 'process over results' and the importance of language in developing athletes and positive relationships with all stakeholders. Finally, an evening session with our parents entitled 'The Best Season Yet: How to raise a child who enjoys and succeeds in sport' concluded Richard's visit with some valuable advice and insights into how parents can communicate with their children before and after a game, empowering the child to own their sporting journey and grow through the inevitable highs and lows of competitive sport. Our sincere thanks go to Richard for giving us the benefit of his expert knowledge and experience, whilst delivering each session with boundless enthusiasm and good humour, perfectly pitched to each distinctive audience.

Every Moment Matters



We look forward to building on Richard's visit, continuing to ensure that every child at Town Close has a rewarding, empowering and fun sporting journey throughout their time with us.

Further highlights of the week included, our Year 2 welcoming Julia from Hodmedod's Hedgehog Support and Rescue Centre, who gave them a fascinating insight into their valuable work. Julia offered our pupils some practical advice on how we can help protect and strengthen our hedgehog population at School (Year 2's Sustainability Pledge committed to supporting hedgehogs at Town Close School), and she was thrilled to accept the children's kind donations of pet food in support of the charity's work. 4A's Class Assembly gave their family and peers a fascinating insight into Post-Roman Britain. Displaying their knowledge of the period through their accomplished acting and strong singing, they thoroughly entertained their audience and demonstrated why these Class Assemblies are so important for building confidence in public speaking and performance. Chris from ZooLab gave our Nursery and Reception pupils their memorable moment of the week, introducing them to a corn snake, tarantula, cockroach and gecko! Chris gave the children a brief introduction to each animal before circulating with them, allowing the children a closer look and in some cases, a quick hold! I have also heard that the Thursday Prep Soloists' Concert in the Read Hall was a great success and whilst I was unable to attend due to being en route to Malta at that time, I am so proud of all who performed. I also know that Sean Taylor kicked off today with an assembly in Pre Prep about being an author. Throughout the day he shared a range of his books about woodland animals such as 'Hoot Owl' with the children in Pre Prep. Year 1 and 2 enjoyed a poetry workshop whilst Reception and Nursery focused on number rhymes.

Finally, The Town Close School PTA Fireworks Spectacular was an incredible evening in our community's calendar all down to the hard work, energy and dedication of our PTA and staff volunteers and the generosity of our parents in giving their time, raffle prizes and baked goods! Thank you so much to everyone who contributed and to those who supported the event by attending. A memorable moment of the school year to treasure!

I hope that you have a lovely weekend.

Every Moment Matters



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

break
Changing young lives

FULL DETAILS: townclosepta.co.uk


TOWN CLOSE SCHOOL

YEAR 7&8 FUTURES FAIR

2026

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

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

Hopefully your child has brought 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. If you have not seen a label come home, you can collect one from the Prep Front Office. 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, (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**, which is when the Christmas Tree will go up in the Green Room. 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.



BULLETIN BOARD

PRE PREP & PREP

FRIENDLY REMINDERS

DATE CHANGE U9A & U8A RUGBY

The previously advertised U9A rugby fixture against Glebe has been cancelled. The U9A and U8A teams will now play Gresham's away on Friday 28th November in replacement. The matches start at 2.00pm.

PRE PREP TOP BIRDS



Avocets: Dot & Wilf



Barn Owls: Sebby & Keira



Kingfishers: Billy & Isabella



Peregrines: Phoebe & Georgia

PARENTS- ONE LINE THAT CHANGES EVERYTHING ON COMPETITION DAY.....

A TIP FROM RICHARD SHORTER 'NON PERFECT DAD'

Before the next match or competition, try this line:

"I love watching you play."

Say it. Then stop.

No tactics. No last-minute reminders. Just love.

It tells your child that your support is not tied to their performance. That they're free to risk, make mistakes, and enjoy the game.

DATES FOR THE DIARY

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 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 Celebration

Friday 12th December, Front Lawn, from 3.45pm

Prep Carol Service

Wednesday 17th December, 10.00am at St Peter Mancroft



MATCH REPORTS

RUGBY

On Tuesday, all of the boys in Year 3 travelled to Langley Prep for their second set of fixtures following the exciting games against Norwich Lower School before half term. All of the boys demonstrated some strong running in attack alongside excellent team work. The 'A' team won 11-7 (Edwin C was nominated as POM), the 'B' team lost 7-11 (Oliver A was POM) and the 'C' team drew 11-11 in an end-to-end contest with Summer X receiving the POM award from Mr Kassulke for his all-round efforts.

Our block fixture on Wednesday was against Culford Prep. Our 1st XII were involved in a tough, physical contest against a well-organised Culford team. Despite the 2-8 defeat, all of the boys deserve praise for their resilience and team spirit throughout the contest. The Culford team nominated Ben S as POM for his skilful play and elusive running which earned him a try in the opening seconds of the game! The 2nd team lost 5-8 but also put up a good fight after a rather lacklustre opening period. Asadallah S was nominated as POM for his efforts which included a brief cameo in the 1st team game.

The Under 10 and 11 teams hosted Culford at Main Field, and it proved to be a particularly successful afternoon for all four of the TCH sides in action. The Under 10A continued their excellent form with a 12-2 win. Strong tackling and determined defensive play were in evidence throughout, with Jack D nominated as POM by Mr Woods. The Under 10B enjoyed a very pleasing win by 11-8 with Eric E again putting in a POM performance. The Under 11A won by 7-3 (Freddie G was POM) and the Under 11B completed a 'full house' of victories with a convincing win by 17-4, having been 2-3 down after ten minutes of play. Rupert M (excellent work rate and enthusiasm) and Elliot W (strong tackling and a super individual try) received the POM awards from Mr Parker.

Well done to all of the boys who represented the School in the matches this week. We were due to have the Under 11A and Under 9 teams in action this afternoon but both of the hosting schools heeded the weather warning that was put in place yesterday and cancelled the matches. We are hoping to find alternative dates for these fixtures before the end of term.

We look forward to the upcoming house matches which take place over the next couple of weeks. Please refer to the School Calendar for the dates; these highly anticipated matches are always great fun to watch!

HOCKEY

This week the U11A team had a fantastic afternoon at the triangular tournament against NHS and Culford. Every player demonstrated great effort and teamwork. Thank you also to the parental support which was wonderful and truly lifted the team. In the girl's first match against NHS, they produced an excellent 2–1 win. Joanie S and Elizabeth C were superb in defence, turning play into attack with strong hits out wide. A fine cross from Georgia S led to Clara W's well-taken deflection for our opening goal. The team's confidence and control on the ball were impressive throughout. The second game against a skilled Culford side tested the girls' stamina after their earlier efforts. Despite a 6–1 loss, Clara W played some of her best hockey, showing real growth, while Joanie S and Georgia S linked up beautifully in midfield and were unlucky not to score. Overall, the girls should be extremely proud of their hard work, teamwork, and continued progress. POM was Clara W.

The U11B team also enjoyed a fantastic afternoon. After being challenged last week to move the ball around more and pass earlier to avoid tackles, the girls really took that advice on board. The result was some excellent team play, finding space and creating plenty of attacking opportunities. At times, the ball moved effortlessly from one end of the pitch to the other, resulting in a flurry of goals. The first match against Norwich High was a solid 6-0 win, and the team went on to perform even better in their second match against Culford, winning 9-1. Flo L and Betty B were outstanding in defence, calmly breaking down the play and feeding the ball out wide to the wings. Jemima TN was rock solid in the centre, distributing the ball intelligently too. Charlotte W was on fire up front, relentless in attack, while Frances H worked tirelessly on the right wing. Emily R played superbly at centre forward, providing a great target for the team's attacking play. Ani S, joining us from the C team, settled in seamlessly. Ophelia B had a quiet day in goal but remained sharp and focused throughout. It was an excellent all-round team performance, and the girls should be very proud of themselves. The Players of the Match were Frances H and Flo L while the Coach's Player award went to every single member of the team — a true reflection of their teamwork and spirit.

The U11C team played two very different teams. Against NHS, a sleepy first half gave way to sharp passing and strong attacks in the second. The match was won on shuffles from Emilia A and Persy W, with Harriet Mc named Player of the Match for her fearless tackling despite an injured finger. Culford proved tougher, fielding a skilful U10A side. After regrouping at half-time, the girls showed real fight and determination. Players of the Match were Dottie C, Emilia A and Alice T.

The U11D team showed excellent progress, particularly in their passing against NHS, using the width and finding space to attack. Despite some strong goalkeeping from the opposition, the girls worked tirelessly, with Ola B named Player of the Match for her powerful runs down the wing. Against Culford, the team battled bravely without a goalkeeper, showing resilience, teamwork, and adaptability through constant changes. Ola B impressed again with her attacking drives. A tough fixture, but one full of effort, improvement, and valuable lessons learned. Well done, everyone!

HOCKEY CONT.

The U13A's first match against Norwich High proved to be a fairly even first half, ending with Town Close being a goal down. However in the second half we took control scoring 3 great goals without a reply from the opposition. Well done to scorers, Saskia T, Sienna A, and Player of the Match Matilda C. In the second match the team fought hard against a strong Culford side, however unfortunately lost despite defending strongly. Player of the Match was Phillipa C.

The U13B team drew 1–1 against Norwich High School after a strong all-round performance. Coco S scored a brilliant solo goal in the second half, dribbling from halfway and finishing perfectly into the corner. Our wingers showed great energy, with Isla M delivering excellent balls into the D and earning Player of the Match. The defence stayed solid throughout, and Nikita G made some amazing saves to keep us level. A fantastic team effort from start to finish!

They then put in a strong effort but fell 3-0 to a well-organised Culford side. The girls defended bravely, keeping Culford out wide and protecting the most dangerous areas of the pitch. Celina K played some brilliant balls through the press to set up attacks, while Coco S and Sophie K linked up well with Isla S on the wing. Nikita G made several outstanding saves to keep the score line down. Coco S was named Player of the Match for her energy and creativity throughout.

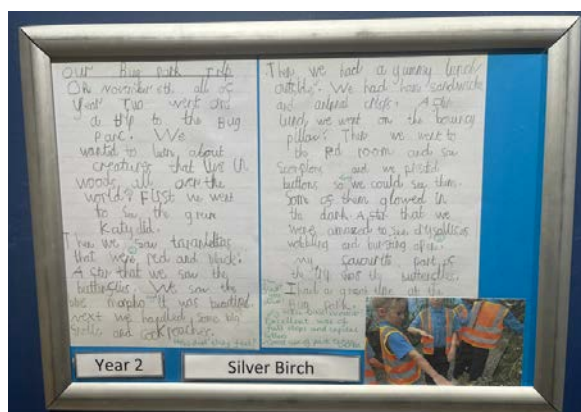
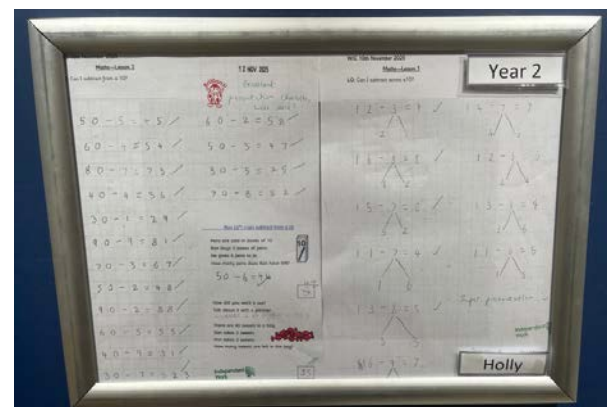
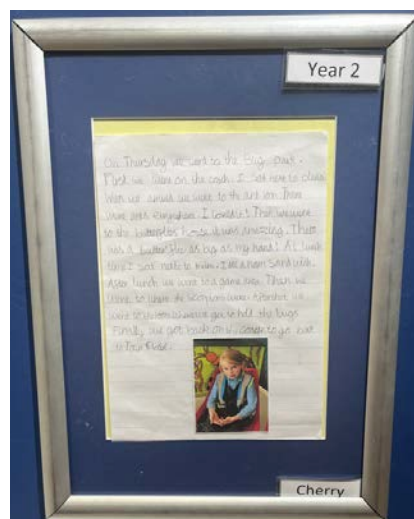
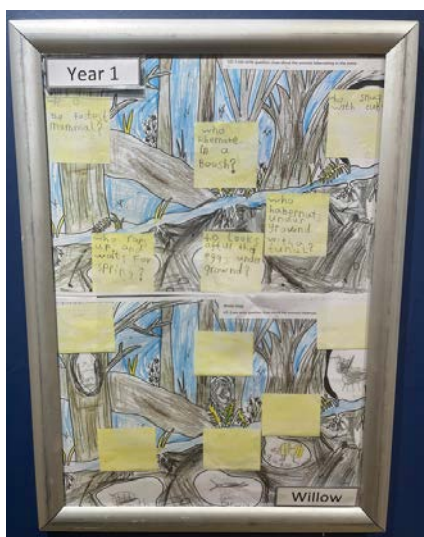
The U13C team had a very positive afternoon of hockey. Their first match produced flowing passes down the middle and on both wings, impenetrable defence and accurate passing into the shooting D. After several attempts at finishing the play into the back of the net, the team were finally rewarded with a 2-1 win. The second match was tougher but the U13C team proved to be just as strong and it finished with a 2-2 draw. Absolutely wonderful game play from the whole team. Each player playing their part to produce excellent hockey. They were a joy to watch and coach. Players of the matches were Pearl T and Annabelle Y.

The U13D team's first game against Norwich High School was a very even match. The girls worked hard from start to finish while doing their best to continue their attack and defence. With Norwich High scoring a goal in the first ten minutes, the girls were determined to score one too. In defence, Margaux VP and Simran T worked hard to sweep the ball out of the oppositions D and Ananti S made some excellent saves. With excellent game control from Jessica E and Margot C at the front we were able to swiftly move the ball down the pitch slipping it to Polly H on the left who finished it off by firing it into the goal. This then brought the score to 1-1 up until the final whistle. Players of the match were awarded to Jessica E and Polly H.

The second match against Culford started off tricky as the opposition were very skilful and we unfortunately conceded quite a few goals, despite Simran T's excellent efforts in goal. With such a high scoring side, it can be difficult to keep going but the girls showed true determination and didn't give up all the way through to the final whistle. With a few positional changes and excellent passing skills from our forwards and wings, Ananti S was able to put away two fantastic goals before the match ended, carrying it quickly down the right wing and sending it straight into the goal. With effective defending from Coco R and Polly H we were able to hold our own against a strong side. The score in the end was 8-2 but this is not a reflection of the hard work that the girls put in. Players of the match were Margot C and Simran T.



PRE PREP WONDERWALL



- Little Acorns, Remi, Painting of Baby Bear
- Little Acorns, Fenley, Painting of Mummy Bear
- Beech, Alice, Half Term holiday news
- Oak, Hugo, Fireworks painting
- Lime, Ottilie, Hapa-Zome
- Maple, Aidan, Fireworks painting
- Willow, Roshan, Hibernation lift the flap questions
- Cherry, Evelyn, Bug Parc recount
- Holly, Charlotte and Anna, Beautifully presented independent maths
- Silver Birch, Winnie, Bug Parc recount



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



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.