

# HEADMASTER'S WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

WEEK 9, 14TH MARCH, 2025



Dear Parents

I write to you today having just delivered the last assembly of a busy STEM week. Alongside the usual Friday Assembly features of celebrating the achievements and notable successes of our pupils (particularly well done to our U13 netballers for the bronze IAPS medals), I also had the chance to share some of my favourite mathematical curiosities, including Durer's Magic Square hidden in the piece of artwork 'Melencolia I' and Kaprekar's Constant. I was particularly pleased to see an email ping into my inbox as I type this from Mrs. Sim's Year 5 maths set, not only thanking me for my assembly, but also challenging me on whether my use of 0 as a place holder was correct (it was in this instance, but you were right to question it!).

There have been lots of fantastic events as part of our STEM week, including pupils from Nursery to Year 4 going on a magical trip to the moon and beyond as we welcomed in Andy, a fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society, from StarDome Planetarium. They rocketed to the moon before looking down at the Earth and the evolution of life on our planet. An incredibly immersive experience, it was a wow moment for all of our children. On Tuesday, Years 4 - 6 took part in a maths workshop in the Sports Hall, completing a rotation of problem-solving puzzles and challenges. They enjoyed applying their mathematical knowledge to find solutions and supporting each other in the varied tasks. Having spent the weekend baking for their STEM challenge homework, the Year 7 and 8's Bake Sale on Tuesday was a huge success, raising £218.00 for our School charity, Able2B. On Wednesday, we focused on careers in STEM. Our Year 8 pupils were very fortunate to welcome into School Barnabas Shelbourne, Greenpower Education Trust CEO. Barnabas began his career as a youth worker, and he explained how the transferrable skills he acquired helped him in his role at Greenpower, a charity dedicated to inspiring young people around the world to enjoy and participate in science, technology, engineering and maths. Our Year 8 pupils have experienced first-hand the incredible work of the Charity through their participation in F24. Having hands-on, practical access to engineering has enhanced their understanding of the discipline and fuelled their passion for the subject. Barnabas's key takeaway messages were to encourage our pupils to say 'yes' to new experiences, and to learn from everyone and everything around you. I had the pleasure of joining Greenpower and Mr Buck later that day, for the Norfolk Community Foundation 'Illuminate' event at the Norfolk Showground. Year 5 and 6 were treated to an insightful STEM talk from Town Close alumni Fred Anthony. Fred, a Lotus Cars Product Designer, related his journey from Town Close to his role at Lotus, explaining his love of all subjects at school. He joined Lotus after graduating, working on the design of the 'Evija' and the Olympic bike design. The Lotus Emira made a special appearance on the Prep playground to great interest from all of our pupils, helping to inspire the next generation of engineers. On Thursday, Year 5 went on a trip to the Exploring Science Amusement Laboratory in Bowthorpe, a hands on scientific lab allowing children a fully immersive experience. In the afternoon, we were joined by Emily Holloway who gave Year 7 a careers talk about her route into Formula E – another fantastic talk and thank you to Emily for joining us. Alongside all of this it has been so lovely to see so many different experiments on the go this week, with the perennial favourite of 'Elephant's Toothpaste' being a highlight.

My non-STEM related highlight was 3H's class assembly, which was an absolute triumph in providing a blend of entertainment (great rendition of 'Ice, Ice Baby!'), information (I didn't know about the doctor removing his own spleen!) and food for thought (the power of perseverance). It was wonderfully rounded-off with the first performance from the Town Close Trebles – our new choir that involves every single pupil in Years 3 and 4, who sang beautifully. On a choir related note, we were also treated to a lovely performance this morning from the Prep choir ahead of their performance at the Norfolk County Music Festival – well done to all who have already taken part in the County Music Festival this week and good luck to those performing next week.

I hope that you have a lovely weekend.

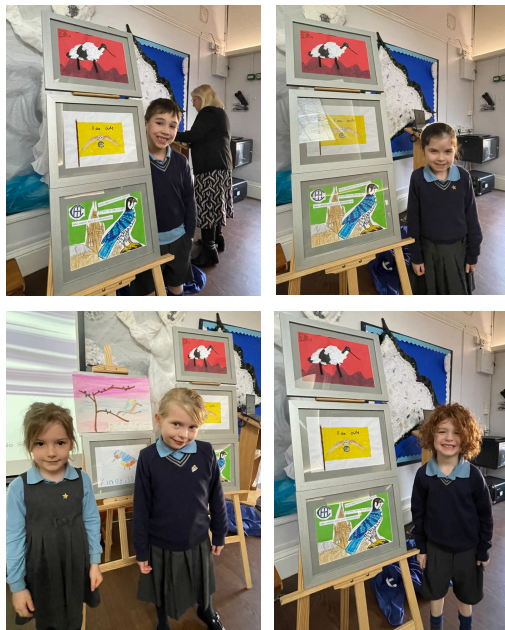
Mr. Nick Tiley-Nunn





**BIRD FAMILY FLAGS**

Well done to Henry P (Barn Owl), Georgia C (Peregrine), Ottilie M & Evelyn B (Kingfisher) and Noah T (Avocet), who won the Bird Family Flag design competition. The children voted as runners up were, Rae R (Peregrine), Jack G (Avocet), Bella J (Barn Owl). All entries will be printed onto 'Bird Family Bunting' whilst the winning entries will be made into flags. Well done!



**BOOK FAIR**

Thank you to everyone for supporting the Book Fair last week. From the purchases made, Town Close will now be able to choose a selection of books for the library.

**Easter Holiday Cricket Clubs 2025**  
**At Town Close School Sports Hall**  
Mon 7<sup>th</sup>, Tues 8<sup>th</sup> & Weds 9<sup>th</sup>, Weds 16<sup>th</sup> & Thurs 17<sup>th</sup> April  
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 on the following days:  
Mon 7<sup>th</sup>, Tues 8<sup>th</sup> & Weds 9<sup>th</sup>, Weds 16<sup>th</sup> & Thurs 17<sup>th</sup> April 2025  
Venue: Town Close School Sports Hall, Ipswich Rd Norwich NR2 2LJ  
Go to [www.taylormadecricket.com](http://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.

**BULLETIN BOARD**  
**PRE PREP & PREP**  
**FRIENDLY REMINDERS**

**PARENT CONSULTATION EVENING**

All parents are invited to join us on Monday 17th March in Read Hall at 6.00pm for our second Parent Consultation on the School's Strategic Priorities.

**EXTENDED HOCKEY**

Monday 17th March is the final extended hockey session of the term for the senior boys. Monday 24th March is senior house hockey, with the house cross country taking place the following week, Monday 31st March. It will still be 4.00pm pick-ups for both of these house events.

**PRE PREP GRANDPARENTS DAY 31ST MARCH**

If your child has a grandparent or special person attending on Monday 31st March, please complete the form on the Portal so we know to expect them.

**RED NOSE DAY**

Children are welcome to wear red noses next Friday to mark Red Nose Day should they like to. We will not be raising money on this occasion.



**DATES FOR THE DIARY**

- Parent Consultation Evening**  
Monday 17th March, 6.00pm in the Read Hall

**Year 1 & 2 Parent Teacher Meetings**  
Thursday 20th March, 4.30pm- 7.30pm, in Pre Prep

**Year 6 Humanities Trip to France and Belgium**  
Tuesday 25th March - Friday 28th March

**3B Class Assembly**  
Wednesday 26th March, 8.35am in the Read Hall

**Matilda, Senior Production**  
Thursday 27th March and Friday 28th March, 6.00pm in the Read Hall

**Open Morning**  
Friday 28th March from 9.15am

**Pre Prep Grandparents' Day**  
Monday 31st March, 10.00am - 11.45am

**Year 6 Soloists' Concert**  
Tuesday 1st April, 4.15pm in the Read Hall

**Year 2 Assembly**  
Wednesday 2nd April, 2.00pm, in the Read Hall

**3M Class Assembly**  
Thursday 3rd April, 8.35am, in the Read Hall

**Year 7 Soloists' Concert**  
Thursday 3rd April, 4.15pm in the Read Hall

**Prep Spring Variety Performance**  
Friday 4th April, 10.45am, in the Sports Hall

**End of Term, no After School Care**  
Friday 4th April

*Please remember to check the calendar on the Parent Portal for a full list of events, including matches and House competitions.*

**HOUSE HOCKEY & NETBALL DATES**

- The remaining dates for the House matches are:
- Senior girls- Monday 17th March (2.30pm at CAN)
  - Senior boys - Monday 24th March (2.30pm start at the TCH Astro)
  - Under 9 girls- Tuesday 25th March (2.30pm at CAN)
  - Under 9 boys - Tuesday 25th March (2.30pm start at the TCH Astro)

Parents are welcome to attend these and take their children home from the Astro at the end of the tournaments.

# MATCH REPORT

## NETBALL

Last Friday, the U10's enjoyed a fantastic afternoon of netball against Norwich High School. The A team demonstrated brilliant determination and teamwork. It is great to see them developing their skills and game awareness. Well done to Charlotte Land Nyla S, who were awarded POM. The B team had enjoyable matches and, although there were losses, this did not reflect how well the teams played. POM was awarded to Willa C. The C and D team played well together; in the first half, despite solid defensive pressure, they struggled with their transition through the thirds and were unable to convert possession into goals due to some inconsistent shooting. The second half, the girls improved their movement off the ball, creating better attacking channels and executing more accurate feeds into the shooting circle. This allowed for increased scoring opportunities, and they were thrilled to secure a well-deserved win. It was encouraging to see stronger attacking plays and more effective court balance. Well done to all the player and POM Harriet Mc.

The U13's travelled to Ipswich last Friday to compete in the Netball IAPS, facing strong opposition throughout the tournament. They started with a close match against Gresham's before taking on two tough opponents, Barnardiston and Felsted, the eventual runners-up. Despite the challenges, the team remained in high spirits and secured a place in the plate competition. Their determination shone through with a brilliant victory over Langley, earning them a spot in the semi-finals against Culford. After an intense match that ended in a draw at both full-time and extra time, the game went to a golden goal. Unfortunately, a turnover in the centre third allowed Culford to capitalize and secure their place in the final. Though disappointed, the girls refocused for the 3rd/4th playoff against Chigwell. The standard of competition was high, and the team should be incredibly proud of their resilience and commitment throughout the day. It was great to come away with Bronze medals.

This Wednesday the U13's travelled to Culford, where the A team played an extended match while the B and C teams participated in a triangular fixture with Orwell Park. The A team started confidently, displaying strong skills and moments of impressive play, however, they were unable to secure a victory. Millie W and Leila M were named POM for their standout performances. The B team had several matches playing various combinations of teams. There were moments of excellent play and moments of losing possession. A balanced result of two wins and 2 losses. Well done to Kitty K, Anastasiia S and Ellie C for being awarded POM's for consistent good play. The U13C team showed great resilience and improvement throughout their matches! Despite a tough start, they adapted well and nearly clinched a win in their second game, losing out in the final seconds. Finishing with such a dominant 9-1 victory was a fantastic way to end the day on a high note. Well done to the team for their perseverance and teamwork! POM's awarded to Nikita G and Pearl T.

## HOCKEY

The Year 5 boys were involved in the U10 fixture against Norwich Lower School last Friday at a warm and sunny TCH Astro. The A team won 4-0 (POM Theo S), the B team drew 2-2 (POM Harry B), the C team lost 1-5 (POM Yuvaan V) and the D team drew 4-4 in a very entertaining contest. Eden M was POM for the D team with some very well-taken goals.

On Tuesday, the sun was still shining but the temperature had dropped somewhat as our Year 4 boys hosted Langley Prep. All three teams had the opportunity to play in the VII-a-side format and it proved to be an excellent afternoon of hockey. The U9 A team drew 4-4 with goalkeeper, Henry A, nominated as POM for a string of fine saves. The B team recorded an excellent 4-1 win. Mr Thomas was impressed with the levels of skill and team work throughout the match and nominated Sam S-J and Yves VD for the POM awards. The 'C' team won 6-0 with Arthur G in fine form, passing and shooting with pace and power.

The senior teams travelled to Langley School in Loddon on Wednesday. The 1st VII recorded a pleasing 1-0 win with a hard-working performance. Ben S scored the important goal and Riccardo received the POM award. The 2nd VII lost 1-2 but produced a much better second-half performance. Edward G scored our goal with Daniel M nominated as POM. The 3rd and 4th teams both lost their games by 0-4 and 0-3 respectively. Patrikas G and Hayden C were awarded POM for their sterling efforts.

The Colts ABCD teams travelled to Culford to play in a four team 'mini festival'. The Colts A lost to Langley Prep (0-1) and beat Culford by 2-0 with Elias (POM) scoring both goals. The third and final match against Orwell Park was abandoned after four minutes due to an unfortunate injury to an Orwell Park player. The B team played some skilful hockey to beat Langley (2-0) and Orwell Park (1-0) with a 0-0 draw recorded against Culford. Beltran (POM) showed some really good touches of skill, particularly in the 1v1 battles. The C team won all of their three games without conceding a goal and played some impressive attacking hockey with POM, Theo F, always threatening with his pace down the right-hand side. The D team also won all three of their matches with convincing scorelines in each one. Mr Kendrick decided on a whole team POM award which reflected the excellent team play and spirit on show throughout the afternoon.

Well done to all of the boys who represented the School in matches this week. Our Under 9A and B teams are in action this afternoon against Norwich School at Redmayne and the Colts A will be travelling to Stamford a week today to play in the Under 11 regional finals. Wednesday sees the seniors travel to Culford and the Under 11 boys are hosting Norwich Lower School. Good luck to all involved!