

HEADMASTER'S WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

SPRING TERM WEEK
16TH JANUARY, 2026



Dear Parents

I write to you today as I observe one of our Year 7 electives groups who are designing a community centre as part of their new Architecture course for this term. It is great to see our pupils engaging in these enriching electives options and I look forward to seeing this programme continue to develop in future years.

The first full school week of 2026 draws to a close with plenty of highlights to reflect upon. Our Pre Prep pupils enjoyed an energetic and colourful start to their week of learning, welcoming Tina from [JavaDance](#) to lead a day of Indian dance workshops. The vibrant costumes and exhilarating music that accompanied the dance were incredibly popular with all the children and offered a wonderful insight into Indian traditions and culture. I am very much looking forward to seeing their 'India' topic come to life in Pre Prep in the weeks ahead. We, also, welcomed a new cohort of Mini Explorers who enjoyed free play in our Nursery and the opportunity to explore the different rooms and jungle-themed activities on offer. It was lovely to welcome so many new families as well as some familiar faces and I look forward to next week when they will have an exhilarating dance session with Central School of Dancing & Performing Arts.

One of the things that I am most excited about in the term ahead is the upcoming productions that will be gracing the stage in the Read Hall in the not too distant future. Year 4 are busy working hard on 'What's the Crime Mr. Wolf' and it was, also, great to see our cast of the Senior Production of 'Shrek: The Musical' in fine form during rehearsals – I am sure that both productions will be highlights of the term and I look forward to seeing these come to fruition in the weeks ahead.

My personal highlight of the week was celebrating all of the Commendations and Headmaster's Commendations in my Friday Assembly today, where we awarded more than we have ever awarded in a single week before. Having already enjoyed my first Headmaster's Commendation cake session of the term earlier this week, I am sure there will be plenty of cake consumed by more well-deserving recipients in the weeks ahead. We, also, took the opportunity this morning to celebrate a host of other achievements at the start of this term ranging from music grade certificates to fencing awards. It was particularly pleasing to kick-off the new sporting term by celebrating the success of the U11A hockey team who started the season with a tournament at Framlingham College, where they were undefeated en route to winning and should be proud of a real team effort that meant that they did not concede a single goal in open play – a positive start and hopefully an early indicator of a great season ahead. I have, also, very much enjoyed watching netball training sessions on our new onsite courts where the girls are now getting much more time actually playing netball itself rather than having to travel offsite for their games sessions.

Today marked the start of our annual Bikeability programme with Year 4 the first group up and further sessions continuing next week. This week, also, saw our Year 7 pupils taking part in a lifesaving session in the swimming lessons. These opportunities provide vital training in valuable life skills that will serve the pupils well in the future and form part of our commitment to ensuring that we seek to develop the whole child through all of the different experiences that they enjoy at Town Close. This narrative has come through loud and clear during my practice interview sessions with our Year 8 pupils, many of whom are currently in the entrance processes of their destination schools. Last year we had a 100% success rate of pupils gaining their first choice places for their next school and when you listen to our Year 8 pupils it is easy to see why. They are able to confidently articulate just how much they have grown as pupils and young people in their time at Town Close, as a result of all of the moments that have mattered personally to them. It gives me a great sense of pride to lead a school that truly prepares pupils to become the best versions of themselves and sets them on a path to a bright and happy future.

I hope that you have a restful weekend and look forward to seeing all of the pupils at the start of what I am sure will be another exciting week at Town Close School.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'HB P. ...'.

Every Moment Matters



NEWS FROM THE PTA

QUIZ NIGHT

Get your teams of 6 ready and nominate your team captain to buy your table.

TICKETS GO ON SALE NEXT WEEK and they traditionally sell very fast!

ECO APRIL

Get ready to spring into sustainability again with our Eco April Challenge for 2026!

A fun, family-friendly way to take small actions that make a big difference. More details coming very soon...

SCHOOL DISCO- FRIDAY 8TH MAY

We'll be running a number of discos for different age groups, so save the date and let the kids start planning their outfits!

Three brilliant events to look forward to... more info coming soon!

BULLETIN BOARD PRE PREP & PREP



DATES FOR THE DIARY

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

Nursery & Reception Parent Teacher Meetings

w/c 9th February, bookings opening soon

Wellbeing Event with Mike Crossley- Resource not Rescue

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

Charity non-school uniform day

Friday 13th February

Half Term Begins

Friday 13th February

Town Close School

SATURDAY MORNING CRICKET ACADEMY

For 8 weeks from Saturday 10th January 2026



Our Lead coach will be Mr. Neil Taylor, Cricket Coach at Town Close School.

Players of all abilities will have the opportunity to improve their technical skills in a fun environment. No experience needed.

Pupils in Years 1 & 2 will play with softball cricket equipment which will be provided. Older pupils wishing to play hardball cricket will require their own kit, but it's not essential. Please bring a drink and indoor shoes.

8 sessions on Saturday mornings:

17th Jan 2026, 24th Jan, 31st Jan, and 7th Feb

Half term, then 28th Feb, 7th March, 14th March and 21st March

Group A: 1hr from 9am - 10am for Year 1 & Year 2 = £128

Group B: 1.5hrs from 10am - 11.30am for Year 3, Year 4 and Year 5 = £192

Group C: 1.5hrs from 11.30am - 1pm for Year 6, Year 7 and Year 8+ = £192

Venue: Town Close School Sports Hall

To book: go to www.taylormadecricket.com

for full details of booking & payment or use the QR code

Submit the online form and pay online

Confirmation of place will be sent by email

Open to non Town Close Pupils too

Dates may alter if the school sports hall availability changes.

MATCH REPORT

NETBALL

Netball fixtures will commence from next week.

HOCKEY

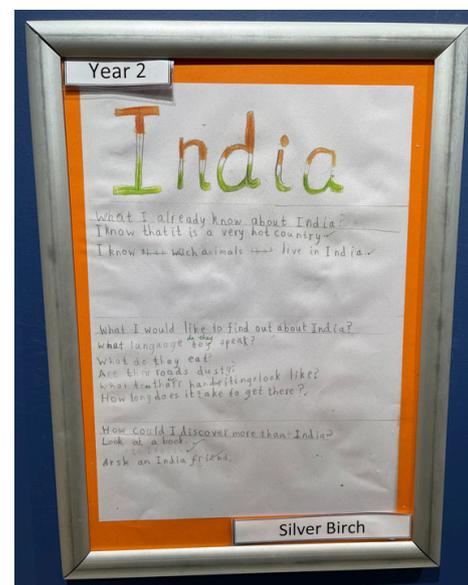
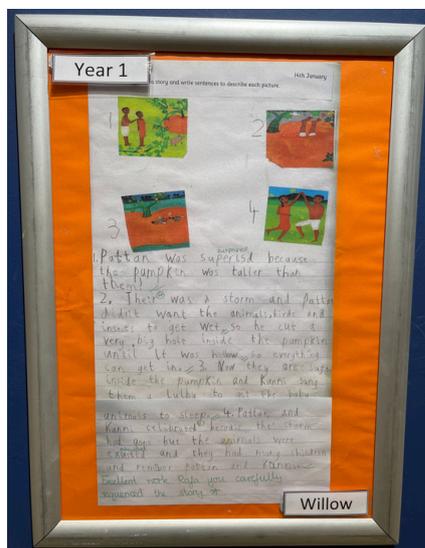
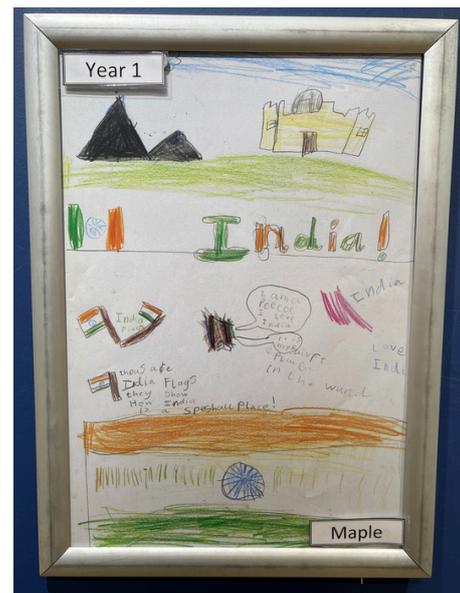
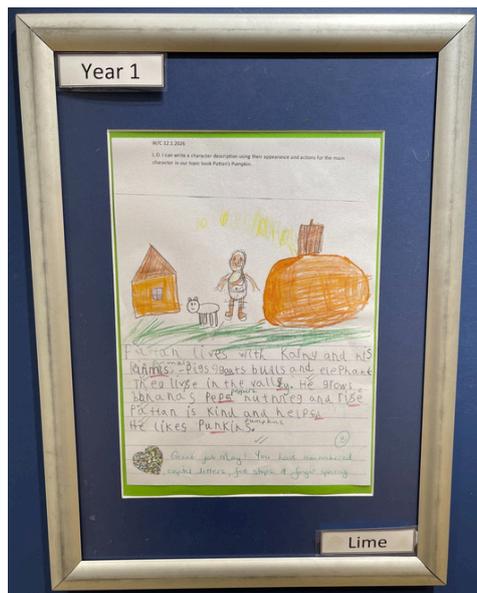
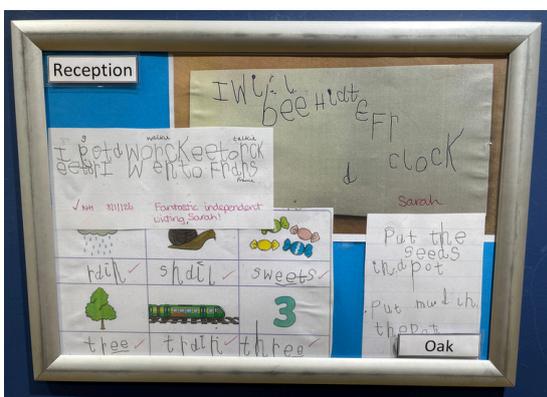
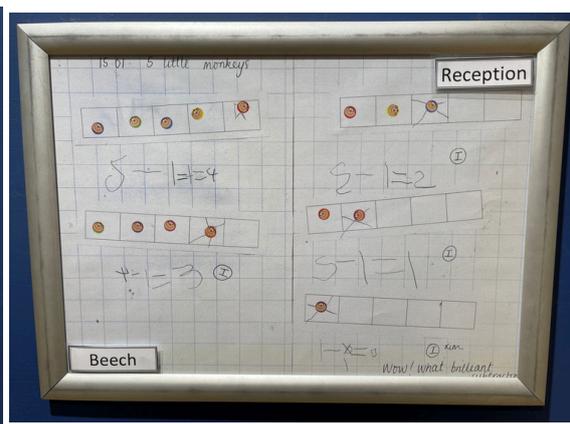
Our U11A boys enjoyed a very successful afternoon of hockey on Wednesday at the Framlingham College Festival. Mr Thomas reported that after a slow start against Culford, the boys got into their stride and won their next four group games against Fairstead, Ipswich Prep, Langley and Old Buckenham Hall, all without conceding a goal. As a consequence, they qualified for the semi-final stage of the main competition to play Felsted. At the end of normal time, the two teams were locked at 0-0 and the game was decided by penalty flicks. Jonah, Jack B and Theo S all kept their cool to convert their flicks to send the team through to the tournament final for a second encounter against Ipswich Prep. The boys completed a superb afternoon of hockey with a comfortable 4-0 win with Jonah T, Marcus A (2) and Freddie G all finding the target. That said, it was a tremendous squad effort throughout the afternoon, and the boys should be extremely proud of their achievement. A very encouraging way to start the season!

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Facebook: @towncloseschool

Instagram: town.close.school

PRE PREP WONDERWALL



- Little Acorns, Otto, Painting of Ducky
- Little Acorns, James, Literacy super star!
- Beech, Sam, Brilliant subtraction work
- Oak, Sarah, Independent and beautiful writing
- Lime, May, Character Description
- Maple, Olive, India Poster
- Willow, Rafa, Story sequencing work
- Cherry, Theo & Isabella, Partitioning amounts of money
- Holly, Mia & Alex, Mendhi hand patterns
- Silver Birch, Isabel, India Research questions