

HEADMASTER'S WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

SPRING TERM WEEK 4
30TH JANUARY, 2026



Dear Parents

January draws to a close with another busy week at Town Close School. As ever, there have been plenty of highlights from this week and in assembly this morning I reflected on the idea of ingredients, with the focus being on the ingredients that make for a good friendship. This concept of ingredients can be applied to school life at Town Close more generally and it has been so pleasing to see some of our key ingredients at Town Close coming to the fore this week. There has been a healthy dollop of academic curiosity, with highlights including our Year 5 pupils joining schools from across the country for a BookTrust livestream with British-born Chinese author, Maisie Chan. Maisie spoke about her childhood, the inspiration behind her work, before talking in more depth about her book, 'Nate Yu's Blast from the Past'.

This evening is the first Year 7 and 8 academic award holders' 'Supper with Substance' and the focus is looking at architecture and the conundrum of preserving the past versus building for the future. We are being joined by Tom Lefever and Jonnie Reynolds, both of whom are former pupils and experts in their chosen field. I am sure it will be an evening of thought provoking and engaging conversation for our academic award holders.

Perhaps one of my favourite elements of my job is the ability of being able to pop into lessons, and again, that special ingredient of academic curiosity, has stood out in the lessons that I have visited this week. It was pleasing to see so many commendations awarded in assembly this morning with many recognising the fruits of academic curiosity across the breadth of our curriculum.

There has been more than a spoonful of enrichment this week, with plenty to savour from our Co-Curricular Programme, which is designed to ensure it appeals to children with all interests and curiosities. We have worked hard to develop our range of classroom-based clubs (alongside our more outdoorsy and active opportunities), which allow children to learn a new language, explore the world, practise their maths and so much more. This week, in Swedish Club, our pupils were learning basic greetings and practised writing the words as well as conversing with one another; in Travel Club, Mr Coulthart was exploring the landmarks of Singapore with his group of children; whilst in Sumdog Club, they were competing in the East of England School's Sumdog Maths Challenge where we are currently placed 5th overall. Congratulations to our boys' 1st VII who won a bronze medal at the Norfolk County Hockey Tournament on Monday. A series of tight encounters saw our boys secure two wins, a draw and two losses. They produced their best performance of the afternoon against the eventual overall winners, Gresham's, with a 1-1 draw that was hard earned through a lot of determined play and teamwork. Well done to the whole squad on a commendable morning of hockey with plenty to build on in the season ahead.



Every Moment Matters

This afternoon our Cross Country teams in Years 3-6 take part in the Norwich School Cross Country race and at the weekend Alex, Archie, Evan and Isla all represent Norfolk in the East Anglian Cross Country Championships – we wish all of our runners good luck.

Another key enrichment ingredient is that of speakers visiting the school to share their experiences, knowledge and enthusiasm. This week, linked to their topic on 'India', our Reception pupils have been looking at the iconic buildings of India and comparing them to our local landmarks in Norwich. They have been thinking about the building process, from the planning stage and architect drawings through to the actual building process itself. They were joined by builder, Craig White, who introduced them to the skill of bricklaying: showing them a building plan, the tools and products required, and the final method. They listened very well, asking lots of questions, and were very interested to hold the tools and try on the protective equipment. Thank you very much to Craig for giving his time to enhance Reception's topic work.

As Year 4 ready themselves for their upcoming production of 'What's the Crime, Mr Wolf?', they were thrilled to welcome criminal defence lawyer, Mrs Coupland, into School to give them some important tips on court etiquette & process. Mrs Coupland spoke about the performative nature of her role, the 'costumes' of the court, and what makes a good or a bad lawyer. She, also, listened to the children deliver excerpts from the script, offering useful advice to help elevate their performances. Thank you very much to Mrs Coupland for her time and expertise. We are all very much looking forward to seeing her advice play out in the Year 4 production on Thursday 5th February and Friday 6th February next week.

There has also been plenty of community opportunities to fold into the recipe of this week, with one of my highlights being our House Captains battling it out in a tightly contested Town Close edition of Blankety Blank! The panel of six 'celebrities' were drawn from across Prep and came up with some very 'interesting' answers to test our Year 8 prefects, much to the delight of their audience! As part of our drive to encourage reading across our community in The National Year of Reading, Mrs Guymer has introduced a Community Bookshelf in the Pre Prep Reception in the hope that children will browse, share and swap books with one another. Please do encourage your children to have a look at the titles on offer and to bring in 'swaps' to exchange. She will be looking to extend the bookshelf, to include books for staff and parents, in due course. In the face of some miserable weather, our Mini Explorers diverted to the Sports Hall for a Tumble Time session this week, thoroughly enjoying the expanse of the facility and the equipment on offer. A group parachute exercise was a particular highlight with balloon popping a source of great hilarity! Next week, we look forward to Splish Splash Splosh in the Swimming Pool with Norwich Swan Swimming Club. We also enjoyed welcoming parents from Year 6 for Parents' Evening – always a great opportunity to catch up and share personal success stories and next steps.

One of the most important ingredients in our community is that of pupil voice and it was particularly pleasing to see our School Council representatives from across Prep joining forces with our Year 2 Top Birds to brainstorm ideas on what and who makes them feel happy, healthy and safe in the different areas around School across the school day. They then considered what they felt could be done to improve or augment the distinct areas to increase pupil wellbeing. It proved to be a lovely exercise in collaboration, and heartening to read the volume of positives the children put forward, as well as to see how tricky it was for them to think of any recommendations! The School Council and Top Birds play such an incredibly important role in the School and I am so grateful for their ongoing hard work in representing the wider body of pupils that make up our School community.

I hope that you all enjoy a great weekend and look forward to seeing all of the pupils on Monday ahead of another vibrant week, jam-packed with special ingredients.

Every Moment Matters



FRIENDLY REMINDERS

STORY-TELLING WEEK
Feb 2nd-6th

PREP
Chris Rondel
Storyteller

PRE PREP
Kate Read
author/illustrator

Paired reading
Story-telling games
French and Spanish
story session

HALF TERM FOOTBALL CLUB

For a place on the half term football club please [book here](#).

HALF TERM CRICKET CLUB

For a place on the half term cricket club please [book here](#).

EXTENDED NETBALL PRACTICE

Due to a 4.00pm Netball fixture against Wymondham College on Monday 2nd February, Extended Netball practice is unfortunately cancelled. Thank you.

WHAT'S THE CRIME, MR. WOLF?

Well done to Everly M who designed the brilliant poster for 'What's the Crime, Mr. Wolf?'. Tickets are now available to book via the Portal.

ACTIVATE BOOKING

Bookings for Activate 2026 will open later this term. This year Activate will take place during the following weeks;

- w/c 20th July
- w/c 27th July
- w/c 3rd August



FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA:

Facebook: @towncloseschool
Instagram: town.close.school

BULLETIN BOARD

PRE PREP & PREP

DATE FOR THE DIARY WELLBEING EVENT WITH MIKE CROSSLEY- 'RESOURCE NOT RESCUE'

On Tuesday 10th February, we invite parents and family friends to join us in Read Hall for a talk by Mike Crossley; freelance instructor for a leading mental health charity. Raising a child can feel challenging at times, but understanding what's happening beneath the surface can make all the difference. This informative and practical session focuses on prevention rather than crisis management, helping parents feel confident, prepared, and informed.

A key element of the session will address social media and smartphone use, drawing on current research, including findings from Jonathan Haidt and statistics from Smartphone Free Childhood (SFC). These insights should offer guidance to help navigate digital boundaries with confidence. **No booking necessary, please feel welcome to bring close family and friends who might find this talk useful.**

DIRECTOR OF SPORT

We are pleased to announce that Lauren Mickleburgh will be joining Town Close School as Director of Sport from September 2026. For more information please refer to the letter on the Parent Portal.

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Year 4 Production 'What's the Crime, Mr. Wolf?'

Thursday 5th February at 5.00pm & Friday 6th February at 6.00pm in the Read Hall

Nursery & Reception Parent Teacher Meetings

w/c 9th February, bookings open

Wellbeing Event with Mike Crossley- Resource not Rescue

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

3H Class Assembly

Wednesday 11th February, 8.30am in the Read Hall

Prep Informal Soloist's Concert

Thursday 12th February, 4.15pm in Read Hall

Year 5 Theatre Days

Thursday 12th & Friday 14th February, parents are invited to attend the 30 minute performance at 3.15pm in the Read Hall (Friday 13th only).

'From the Heart Day'- Charity non-school uniform day

Friday 13th February

Half Term Begins

Friday 13th February

CARS QUEUING OUTSIDE SCHOOL

We kindly remind you that the gates on Ipswich Road open at 3.20pm, and the gates on Newmarket Road open at 3.50pm. To help avoid queuing, which can block driveways, particularly on Newmarket Road, **please do not arrive before the gates open**. We also ask that you do not block the cycle paths on surrounding roads.

PTA TOWN CLOSE

QUIZ NIGHT

FRIDAY 6TH MARCH

£132 per team of 6
Includes two course meal [£22pp]
FROM 6.30PM | GOAT SHED | NR9 5DJ

GET YOUR TICKETS NOW!
townclosepta.co.uk

PROUDLY SPONSORED BY **S&P**
SMITH & PEARSON

MATCH REPORT

HOCKEY

Last Friday, all of our Year 4 boys travelled to Redmayne to play some 4v4 'quicksticks' matches in some pretty testing conditions. Mr Taylor and Miss Thomas were very encouraged by the boys' skills at this early stage of the season which bodes well for their upcoming fixtures. Our 1st VII also travelled to Redmayne at the start of this week to participate in the county tournament. In what proved to be a very competitive morning of hockey, the boys finished as bronze medallists. Very well done to them! For a more detailed report covering all of the matches played, please see our social media post.

Our senior boys travelled to Beeston Hall on Wednesday afternoon. The 1st VII lost an entertaining encounter by 4-5, with Alex O C impressing throughout the game. The 2nd VII lost 0-3 (Daniel M was POM) and the 3rd VII showed some encouraging signs of form despite their 1-3 defeat. Tom M was nominated as POM in that game. The 4th VII drew 2-2 with a solid performance, and Mr Woods nominated Ted A-W as POM for his determined play.

The Colts enjoyed a busy afternoon of hockey at the TCH Dragons' Den. The A-D teams played Norwich School in the first round of games with our A team on the wrong side of a narrow 1-2 scoreline. Jacob B scored our goal with Jack B awarded POM. The B team drew 2-2 with Harry B and Arthur Y both finding the target. Nico K W was nominated as POM for his skilful play throughout. The C team lost 2-4. The boys created a number of clear-cut goal scoring opportunities, but it was our opponents who proved to be more clinical in front of goal. Simon C picked up the POM award for his excellent play down the right-hand side of the pitch. Our D team proved to be too strong and won comfortably by 8-0. Isaac J was nominated as POM by Mr Coyle with Arthur G, Jimmy L, William C, Alex Z and Zac S all in fine form in front of goal.

Following the Norwich matches, our AB squad played another game against Beeston Hall which allowed Mr Thomas to give all of the players some pitch time ahead of a busy schedule before half term. The 2-4 final score line did not reflect what had been a tight contest, and it will be an interesting rematch when the 'A' teams meet at the county tournament on Monday. Jacob B was, again, amongst the goals, with Jonah T also finding the target. It was Jonah who picked up the POM award for his skilful play.

Our Colts E rounded off a very enjoyable afternoon of hockey with a 4-2 win against Beeston Hall 'B'. Eric E scored two well-taken goals and our goalkeeper, Henry A, produced a superb POM performance to thwart our opponents' goal-scoring attempts on several occasions.

We have a busy week ahead with the Colts A in action on Monday at Redmayne in the county tournament. Our Under 9 boys travel to Langley Prep on Tuesday afternoon and we have a full block fixture on Wednesday against Norwich School. Our Under 9 teams round off the week at the Dragons' Den on Friday when we host teams from Gresham's and Norwich School. Plenty of hockey action to look forward to!

NETBALL

The U13s travelled to Beeston for their second fixture of the season. The A team were eager to put into practice what they had worked on in Monday's training session. A slow start meant the girls were chasing the game early on, but their overall performance was a clear improvement on the previous week. The match was exciting to watch, with the team showing great determination to bring the score back to within two goals at one stage. Unfortunately, they were unable to maintain that structure until the final whistle. Despite the result, there were many positives, with all players showing stronger performances and continued improvement throughout the game. Coco S was deservedly awarded Player of the Match for her excellent interceptions and impressive ability to track her player. Overall, a real step forward from week one to week two, and the girls are looking forward to learning, adjusting, and building again ahead of next week's match.

The U13Bs worked very hard throughout all four quarters of their match. They started off with effective marking and accurate passing, which continued throughout the game. Defenders Nikita G, Pearl T and Margaux V P created lots of turnovers, picking up many interceptions and jumping for rebounds. Poppy K and Alice B allowed the ball to flow smoothly through the mid court and worked hard to get the ball back after some interceptions by the Beeston defence. Annabelle Y and Phillipa C created some lovely movement and worked well together in the shooting circle, scoring lots of goals in the first half. Nikita G came out of WD to play GA in the second half, scoring lots of goals also. Overall, the girls worked very hard and ended the match with a winning score of 23-9. Opposition's POM went to Phillipa C and Coach's player to Nikita G.

The U13Cs were in a very strong position right from the start and were leading by several goals. The positional play was smooth down the court and culminating with solid goal scoring performances from Harriet W and Geena S. Sephe V was outstanding in defence, intercepting many passes from the opposition, and this gained her a deserved Player of the Match. We took the opportunity to mix the team up and play in different positions. It was a great team effort finishing with a positive win, 20 goals to 3.

MATCH REPORT

NETBALL CONT.

The U11As faced a strong Beeston side and grew in determination as the match went on. Although accurate linking of passes proved challenging, there were some encouraging passages of play. Nyla S and Joanie S showed feisty defending, while POM Georgia S scored a superb goal in the first rotation. Final score: 25–7. Plenty to build on as the team continues to adapt to the 5-a-side format.

An exciting afternoon of netball for the B team, saw end-to-end action throughout. There were seven rotations, with players taking turns in different positions, though this seemed to disrupt our flow slightly this week. The game remained evenly balanced until the sixth change, when Beeston edged ahead with a two-goal lead. Despite a valiant effort, we were unable to claw back the deficit, and the match finished 13–11 to Beeston. Player of the Match was awarded to Willa C. The C team also enjoyed a good game against Beeston Hall. It was a pleasure to see them moving so well around the court for one another and passing the ball accurately on most occasions. They embraced playing in all the different positions and shot particularly well. The game ended with Town Close taking the win, 9–4. Player of the Match was awarded to Eliza C. Well done all on a great first match.

Feb 2026 Half Term Holiday Cricket Clubs At Town Close School Sports Hall

Tues 17th & Weds 18th February

For Years 1 upwards

£45 for one
day or £85
for two 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 1 and above.
Those wishing to play hardball cricket will require their own kit, but it's not essential.
Pupils in Year 1&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:
Tues 17th & Weds 18th February 2026

Venue: 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.



JUNIOR

TENNIS CAMP

Eaton Park
Heigham Park
East Anglia Tennis Club
Cringelford Tennis Club
Waterloo Park

17th - 20th February 2026
9:00-11:30am / 12:00-2:30pm
5-15 years

Action packed holiday
camps with team
challenges, tennis skills,
games and prizes.



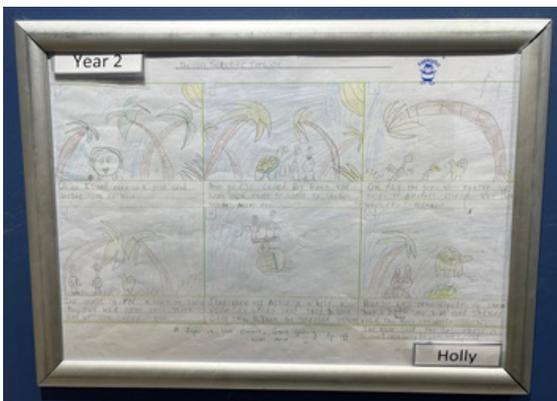
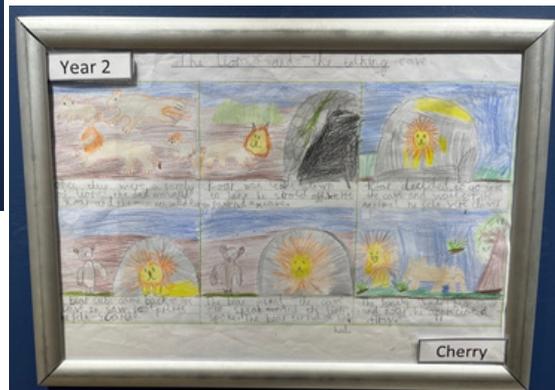
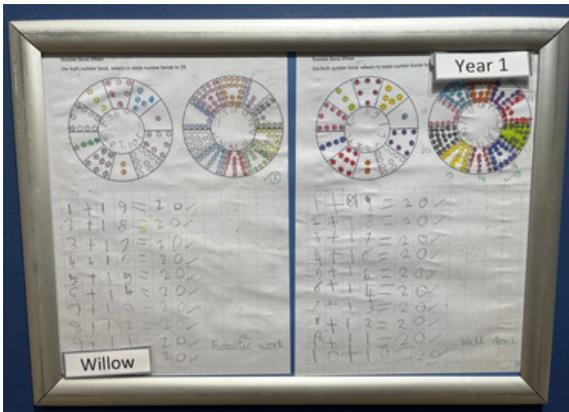
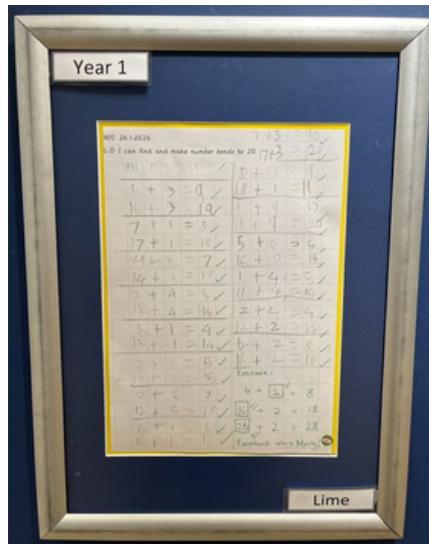
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CONTACT FOR FURTHER INFORMATION -
HELLO@NATIONALTENNIS.ORG.UK

STA
YOUTH

PRE PREP WONDERWALL



- Little Acorns, Bou, Tiger Painting
- Little Acorns, Hallé, Collage of Jungle Bird
- Beech, Charlie, Peacock Feather Printing
- Oak, Lula, Drawing of the Taj Mahal
- Lime, Monty A, Number Bond Work
- Maple, Thea & Hamish, Peacock Feather
- Willow, Rupert & Faith, Number Bonds to 20 Work
- Cherry, Aubrey, Re-telling of the Lion and the Talking Cave
- Holly, Emmie, Re-telling of the Talkative Tortoise
- Silver Birch, Dot & Noah, Indian Elephant drawing



Town Close School Lower Prep
Presents



What's the Crime, Mr. Wolf?

Crime Scene - Do not cross.



Thursday 5th February
at 5pm

Friday 6th February
at 6pm



TICKETS CAN BE BOOKED ON PARENT PORTAL FROM FRIDAY 23RD JANUARY

From the
Heart Day
Friday 13th
February

NON SCHOOL UNIFORM DAY

From the Heart Day- a special day dedicated to **kindness, caring, and sharing happiness!**

Let's spend the day thinking about how we can look after one another and spread a little joy.

Wear clothes that make you feel happy and express your wonderful self!

All donations from this **non-uniform day** will go towards supporting our School Charity — helping us make a difference, from the heart.

