

HEADMASTER'S WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

SPRING TERM WEEK 5
6TH FEBRUARY, 2026



Dear Parents

I write to you today having returned from a rocking Friday Assembly, where our Rock Band kicked off our morning with a rousing rendition of an AC/DC classic. It was a great start to the final day of this busy week that has had performance and storytelling at the heart of it. We reflected in assembly (through one of my favourite stories; 'Odd Dog Out') on the role that each character, each team mate, each member of the band and everyone in our community plays in the wider picture of life at Town Close and how it is greatly enriched by the differences that make each of us unique. The undoubted highlight of the week, the Year 4 Production of 'What's the Crime Mr. Wolf', has very much been testament to this notion. The Year 4 cast of a myriad of amusing animal characters put on a fantastic opening night performance yesterday evening; a twist on some well-known fairy tales that blended confident delivery of their lines, plenty of toe-tapping tunes, and an abundance of amusing puns. We look forward to another sell-out performance this evening and I extend my sincere congratulations and thanks to both the performers and the staff team who have supported them to put on such a wonderful show.

We have been celebrating National Storytelling Week in School, and our programme of activities and visitors began with a day of shared reading sessions on Monday, with our Prep pupils hosting Pre Prep in the Library, listening to readers and sharing stories together. Shared reading between older and younger pupils is always a joy to see and it acts as a powerful, reciprocal learning experience – it was a perfect activity to kickstart the week. On Day 2 of National Storytelling Week, we were delighted to welcome author and illustrator, Kate Read, into our Library for a day of workshops with our Pre Prep children. Kate introduced our Nursery, Reception and Year 1 pupils to her colourful story book, *The Littlest Elephant*, a funny jungle-themed story about kindness and empathy. Year 2 enjoyed her non-fiction book entitled '*Bright Birds: And their Brilliant Brains*'.

On Day 3 of National Storytelling Week, Year 2 enjoyed a special treat in the Library with stories told en Francais and en Espanol by Mr Walker and Miss Lopez! A fun way to bring languages to life and build on their growing language skills; merci and gracias to Mr Walker and Miss Lopez – especially to Miss Lopez who returns to her studies in Spain having been such a wonderful part of our school community since her arrival in November. We wish her the best of luck for a bright and happy future; she will always be welcome to visit us at Town Close School. Over in Nursery, I had the absolute pleasure of popping in to share some jungle themed fun books, reading '*Alan's Big Scary Teeth*' and '*The Gecko and the Echo*'. There were giggles, wide eyes and some brilliant listening as the children discovered that being kind, helpful and caring is always the best choice. What a roarsome morning in Little Acorns and I look forward to visiting them again with my next set of stories.

Every Moment Matters



An incredible Day 4 of National Storytelling Week saw our Library transformed into a magical hub for storytelling as master storyteller Chris Rondel transported our Years 3 - 6 to exotic locations to meet unusual characters and go on thrilling adventures. Chris embodied the art of storytelling, introducing engaging characters through voice and movement whilst creating a sense of place through vivid descriptions. All of the children were totally transfixed and engaged throughout. Thank you very much to Chris for a fantastic day of stories! Thursday also saw Years 7 and 8 enjoying another brilliant trip to the theatre to see Dear England at Norwich Theatre Royal – many who I spoke to on the playground this morning said it was the best one they had seen yet.

In other news, it has been great to see that over in Pre Prep their topic of India has been brought to life in many ways. Thank you very much to Mrs Bains and Dr Bains for leading an incredible Indian Cooking morning on Monday in our Cookery Room with our Year 1 pupils. The children were extremely excited to make their own Aloo Paratha, a roti flatbread filled with potato. They listened carefully to instructions, mixing and rolling the dough before stuffing it with the mashed potato and spices, and rolling again into a circle ready for cooking on the hot plate. They learnt that the bread is traditionally eaten for breakfast accompanied by some butter, dahi (plain yoghurt), raita or Indian pickles. Our Nursery children created their own 'Jungle Smoothie' this week, a one-time recipe that can never be matched or repeated! Their special concoction incorporated dragon fruit, pomegranate, melon, mango, kiwi, passion fruit and lychee! They thoroughly enjoyed the challenge of peeling, scooping and cutting all of the fruit, and learning about what each is and where it grows. In another highlight performance from this week our Pre Prep pupils enjoyed an Indian dance-off in their Bird Families! After each group had been given half an hour to prepare, they then performed their routine to each other and our esteemed judge, Miss Goddard. Congratulations to the winning Bird Family, Peregrines! A fantastic exercise in teamwork and creativity whilst putting into practise what they all learnt from their Indian Dance Workshop earlier in the Term. Our final visitor of the week was Mr Frangimore, uncle of one very proud Reception pupil! Mr Frangimore captivated the children with stories from his incredible climbing adventure in the Himalayas. He spoke about the importance of perseverance, practice, and, most importantly, friendship, sharing how the support of his friends helped him achieve his goal. A truly inspiring visit and a wonderful way to end the week!

I hope that everyone has a restful weekend in advance of what I am sure will be a busy but brilliant final week of this half term next week.



Last week's Cross Country results are in the bulletin.

Every Moment Matters



FRIENDLY REMINDERS

ACTIVATE BOOKING NOW OPEN



Bookings for Activate 2026 are now open. This year, Activate will take place during the following weeks;

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

Book via the forms found on our [website here](#).

SCHOOLBLAZER SPRING SALE

schoolblazer

SALE

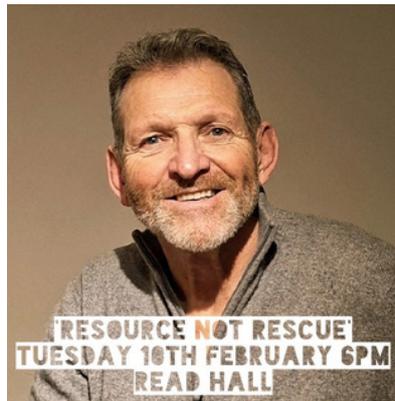
up to
1/3rd OFF

Selected in-stock items*

9th - 13th February 2026

BULLETIN BOARD PRE PREP & PREP

WELLBEING EVENT WITH MIKE CROSSLEY-
'RESOURCE NOT RESCUE'



On Tuesday 10th February 6.00pm, 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.**

THANK YOU MISS LOPEZ

Thank you, Miss Lopez, for your valued contribution to Town Close. We wish you every success as you return to your studies at the Universidad de Valladolid.



DATES FOR THE DIARY

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

MATCH REPORT

CROSS COUNTRY

Our Cross Country team of runners from Years 3-6 represented the School at Norwich Lower School last week, competing individually and in year group teams against athletes from all the Prep schools in the area.

In what proved to be a fantastic afternoon of running for all of the children involved, all 8 teams finished in the top 5 in the team events, with 4 teams only narrowly missing out on the top spot!

Year 3 girls - 3rd

Year 3 boys - 5th

Year 4 girls - 4th

Year 4 boys - 2nd

Year 5 girls - 2nd

Year 5 boys - 2nd

Year 6 girls - 4th

Year 6 boys - 2nd

Individually, there were some notable successes to celebrate:

Lizzie won the Year 3 girls race, Frances won the Year 5 girls race, Lorenzo came 2nd & Harry 3rd in the Year 4 boys race, and Marcus finished 2nd in an incredible Year 6 boys race that went right to the line.

Congratulations to all of our runners.

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.



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Instagram: town.close.school

MATCH REPORT CONT.

HOCKEY

The Colts A travelled to Redmayne on Monday for the county cup tournament. The boys drew 2-2 with Beeston Hall in their opening match and then went on to beat Langley Prep and Norwich School by 5-0 and 3-0 respectively. Our last match of the afternoon against Gresham's was effectively the 'final' of the tournament. The 1-1 draw was not enough for Town Close to move ahead of Gresham's in the final rankings, but it did secure silver medals for the team as runners-up, and a place at the East region finals after half term. Very well done to the whole squad for another fantastic tournament success.

Our block fixture on Wednesday was against Norwich School. Our 1st VII conceded three goals inside the opening five minutes at Redmayne but did fight back to level the score at 3-3 at half time. Neither team could find a second-half winner with Elias Y nominated as POM for his hard work and skilful play. The 2nd VII lost 0-3 and never really clicked into gear. Archie G was nominated by Mr Taylor as the POM. The 3rd VII lost 3-5. Mr Woods did see some encouraging periods of skilful hockey within that game and Rory W was awarded POM for his efforts. The 4th VII won 6-0 with Nathanael G nominated as POM for his hard work and determination. William G, again, made some excellent stops in goal.

The Colts A won 4-0 at the TCH Dragons' Den with two goals scored in each half. Jonah T (2), Freddie G and Marcus A all found the target, with Jonah T awarded POM for his skilful play. The B team were not quite at their best and lost 0-2 with both goals conceded in the first half of the match. The boys raised their game in the second period but could not convert any of the goal-scoring chances created. Harry B and Lewis M were nominated as our POM. The Colts C scored two late goals to clinch an entertaining match by 4-2. Yuvaan V and Seb W were both in very good form with Isaac J making some very effective runs down the right wing. Our Colts D won by a convincing 5-0 scoreline. Henry S controlled the play with some accurate passes and a commanding presence in defence. The Colts E team completed a successful afternoon of hockey with a very pleasing 4-1 win. Mr Coyle was particularly impressed with Eden M's attacking play and Krishna D's skilful stick work.

Unfortunately, the adverse weather has put paid to two of the recent Under 9 hockey fixtures, and we hope for better luck with their matches after half term. Looking ahead, the Colts A and the 1st VII have their respective IAPS East region tournaments taking place on Monday and Friday next week, with the block fixture return matches against Beeston Hall sandwiched in between on Wednesday afternoon. Good luck to all involved!

NETBALL

The U13As had two fixtures this week; On Monday, the girls faced Wymondham College and demonstrated their growing skill level. The opposition were tenacious and strong, making it a closely contested match throughout, but the team showed great determination to secure a narrow one-goal victory. Player of the Match was awarded to Sophia G for her tireless hard work around the court. Wednesday's fixture saw us take on Norwich School, a strong netballing cohort. The final score did not reflect the end-to-end nature of the game. Despite the result, it is clear that great developments are being made. Congratulations to Ellie C, who was a deserved Player of the Match. The U13B played well against Norwich School. It took the first quarter to warm up and get the ball flowing down the court, however, by the third quarter the improvement was obvious and they really gelled together to put in a fantastic performance. Margaux VP and Ananti S shone in defence turning the ball over several times and sending it back to our shooters to score. Ananti S was awarded, deservedly, Player of the Match.

The U12A team also had two fixtures this week. On Monday, against Wymondham College, they had a convincing win. The result was well deserved, with every member of the squad giving their best and working seamlessly for one another. The shooters were on point, particularly Isla M. While the attacking combination of Isla S and Saskia T ensured precise and consistent feeds into the goal circle. In defence, Coco S and Sophie K did an excellent job of limiting the opposition's movement, keeping them out of the circle for much of the game. After building a substantial lead by halftime, players were rotated into different positions, yet the high standard of teamwork and effort remained throughout. All players are to be commended for their great team play. Player of the Match was awarded to Isla M. This great teamwork was again shown on Wednesday against Norwich School. Despite starting off the match with moments of rushed passing and a few too many turnovers by the other team, the girls worked to regain possession, and this only improved as the game went on. Our defenders Coco S, Celina K and Sephe V had moments of great defensive play, going for rebounds and receiving interceptions to help bring the ball down the court and turnover Norwich School centre passes. Our midcourt players Isla S, Saskia T and Phillipa C had some tough competition, but worked very hard to work with the shooters to move the ball nicely and feed it into the shooting circle effectively. The dynamic between the shooters Isla M and Sophie K improved throughout the game with excellent shooting from both girls. The game ended with a deserved win of 19-14. Oppositions POM went to Coco S and coach's player went to Isla M. A tough, highly contested U12B netball match against Norwich School was even throughout, ending in a narrow 7-6 loss. All seven players gave their very best, producing some lovely passages of play. The attacking unit showed great patience, holding space and timing their dodges well as the ball came out of the defensive half. Geena S was a thoroughly deserved Player of the Match, with excellent timing and accurate shooting. It was a cruel way to lose, with the ball circling the rim on several occasions in the closing minutes, and the team deserved more from such a strong performance.

Place2Be's

CHILDREN'S
MENTAL HEALTH
WEEK

9-15
FEB
2026

THIS IS
MY PLACE

WE'RE TAKING PART IN
CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH WEEK

childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk
#ChildrensMentalHealthWeek