

HEADMASTER'S WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

SPRING TERM WEEK 6
13TH FEBRUARY, 2026



Dear Parents

The final week of the half term draws to a close and I write to you today having just enjoyed a Whole School assembly where there were so many successes to celebrate from both our Pre Prep and Prep pupils. It is always great to join together as one school for these assemblies and it was most heart warming to see our Pre Prep pupils lead the rest of the school in a rather fitting rendition of 'Magic Penny' this morning; the perfect start to our 'From the Heart Day'. It has also been Place2Be Children's Mental Health Week and this year's theme, 'This is My Place', is focused on encouraging peers, families, schools and communities to create inclusive and nurturing environments, where children and young people feel they belong and can confidently say "This is My Place". Mrs Boyt and our Wellbeing Prefects led the Prep Assembly on Monday, introducing the theme of the week by asking our pupils to think about all the aspects of their lives where they feel they belong: a sports team, with friends, a hobby group, home, their classroom, or the wider School community. They, also, considered, how we can all help people belong by including each other, being kind, and taking interest in each other's interests and strengths. Our pupils in Year 3 - 6 completed the NSPCC 'Speak out, Stay safe' Activity, a short course that prompted them to think about the worries that might arise in their lives, and how sharing their concerns with trusted adults at home and at school helps to alleviate these worries and stay safe. Our adult community reaped the benefits of Mike Crossley's experience on education and children's mental health on Tuesday night, coming together for a talk entitled 'Resource Not Rescue'. Mike outlined a range of startling statistics on Children's mental health in the UK before equipping those present with the knowledge and tools to successfully navigate the potential pitfalls of childhood and adolescence. It has also been wonderful to see that as part of our Library activities this week, children have been encouraged to write on post it notes where they feel they most belong, where is 'their place' of happiness.

We end Children's Mental Health Week on a truly uplifting note with our special 'From the Heart' day. Linked to the upcoming Valentine's celebrations, the day beautifully reflected the theme of caring for and loving one another within our community. Children came to school in their home clothes, helping to create a relaxed and joyful atmosphere, while also raising money for Finnbar's Force. The day was filled with meaningful activities, including a calming morning mindfulness meditation session. At lunchtime, pupils were invited to write messages of love and appreciation to their community, friends, and families on paper hearts, which were then displayed around the playground as a wonderful celebration of kindness and connection. A special thank you to our PTA, who helped make the day even more memorable by providing a sweet treat for every child and member of staff.

There have been lots of other highlights this week where our pupils have come together to prove that the whole is greater than the sum of their parts. 3H kicked off our Wednesday for their peers, family and friends in the best way possible, delivering a consummate Class Assembly that showcased their learning on the Egyptians whilst demonstrating how much they have grown in the first half of their year in 3H. They reeled off an incredible array of facts about the Egyptians before entertaining their audience with a shadow puppet story entitled 'The Pharaoh's Cat', and a confident retelling of the ancient Egyptian myth of 'Isis and Osiris'. It is hard to believe that we are nearing the half point of the year; marking their 23 weeks in 3H, they reflected on their 'moments' of the year so far and how much they have enjoyed the transition to Prep with particular mentions for wristbands, the DT Room, Headmaster's Commendations, Art; and playing with friends in The Woodland Walk!



Every Moment Matters

Sticking on a dramatic note, Drama practitioner Liz Margereson joined Year 5 on Thursday and Friday this week. The children spent the two days learning about the Suffragette Movement, putting this learning into an emotive performance for parents to enjoy this afternoon.

Another example, amongst many recent sporting highlights, was our U11A boys team who came runners up in the IAPS Regional Tournament this week, securing qualification for the National Finals due to be hosted at Repton School at the end of March. In another display of defensive maturity, they reached the finals without conceding any goals in open play across 7 matches, winning 6 and drawing 1 to top their group & progress through the quarter and semi-finals in a strong position. A tense final against Gresham's saw full time conclude with the score tied 0-0. Only a golden goal could split the teams with a loose ball falling to a Gresham's player at the top of our defensive D & a strong strike catching us on the back foot. A fantastic squad performance; all of the boys should feel extremely proud of how they played and conducted themselves. When combined with an excellent performance from our U11 girls in coming 2nd in the IAPS Netball Plate Competition, it has been a pleasing endorsement of how teamwork and supporting each other to be their best plays such a vital role in life and success at Town Close. Good luck to our U13 boys who play their tournament in Ipswich today.

My final highlight of the week further underlined this sense of everyone playing their part, which was a very enjoyable Prep informal Soloist's concert on Thursday evening. For some pupils, this was their first of such a concert at Town Close, but all pupils who performed did so with confidence and I am hugely proud of each and every one of them. I look forward to further upcoming performances and wish all of our performers who will take part in the Norfolk County Music festival the best of luck after half term.

I hope that all of the school community at Town Close has a wonderful half term break; a chance to recharge batteries in advance of what I am sure will be another busy but brilliant half term ahead.

Margereson



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](#).

DATE CHANGES

Due to the Colts A qualifying for the IAPS national hockey finals on Friday 20th March, the following events have been moved to new dates:

Middle Prep boys' house hockey is now on Friday 6th March, 2.30pm at the TCH Astro

Middle Prep house cross country is now on Thursday 12th March, 2.15pm

Middle Prep house netball is now on Friday 20th March at 2.15pm

EXTENDED NETBALL PRACTICE

There will be NO extended netball practice on the following Mondays:

Monday 23rd Feb: Year 8 Indoor Cricket Practice for forthcoming competition

Monday 2nd March: U13 Netball County Cup at Greshams' School

Monday 9th March: U12 Netball County Cup at Greshams' School

Monday 16th March: Year 8 Indoor Cricket Competition at the UEA

STORM PROOF COATS- SCHOOL BLAZER

Schoolblazer has limited stock of Storm Proof Coats, and some sizes appear to be 'out of stock' online. However, we have been assured by Schoolblazer that if you order an out of stock item, they will be able to embroider the coat and deliver by 27th February for purchases this week.

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA:

Facebook: @towncloseschool

Instagram: town.close.school

BULLETIN BOARD

PRE PREP & PREP

EXTENDED HOCKEY PRACTICE

On Monday 23rd February the Upper Prep Cross Country will be taking place, therefore extended hockey practice for the Year 7/8 boys that afternoon is cancelled.

WORLD BOOK DAY

A reminder that we will celebrate World Book Day on Thursday 5th March. We look forward to seeing the children's costumes.



COME TO THE BOOK FAIR IN THE READ HALL
EVERYONE WELCOME!

NORFOLK CHILDREN'S BOOK CENTRE

SPECIAL £1 BOOKS OR REDEEM £1 OFF ANY BOOK
WORLD BOOK DAY TOKENS CAN BE USED TO BUY THE
CASH AND CARDS ACCEPTED

3.30pm - 4.30pm in the Read Hall
THURSDAY 26TH FEBRUARY

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Please always refer to the live calendar on the Parent Portal or website for a full list of events and sports fixtures.

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Upper Prep Cross Country

Monday 23rd February, 2.15pm on the Front Lawn

Massed Orchestra Workshop

Tuesday 24th February, 5.00pm performance in Read Hall

Norfolk Children's Book Fair

Thursday 26th February, Read Hall 3.30pm-4.30pm (cash and card accepted)

3M Class Assembly

Wednesday 4th March, 8.30am in the Read Hall

World Book Day

Thursday 5th March

Middle Prep boys' house hockey

Friday 6th March, 2.30pm at the TCH Astro

STEM Week

w/c 9th March

Norfolk County Music Festival

Tuesday 10th March, Shrek Cast Years 7 and 8 Performing at Central Baptist Church, Norwich, 11.30am

Norfolk County Music Festival

Wednesday 11th March, Junior Wind Band and Flute Group at St Peter Mancroft Church, Norwich

Cherry Class Assembly

Thursday 12th March, 8.30am in the Read Hall

Middle Prep House Cross Country

Thursday 12th March, 2.15pm

Boys' Upper Prep House Hockey

Monday 16th March, 2.15pm at the TCH Astro

Year 2 Norfolk County Music Festival

Monday 16th March, 9.45am-11.00am (TBC)

Lower Prep House Cross Country

Tuesday 17th March, 2.15pm on the Front Lawn

3B Class Assembly

Wednesday 18th March, 8.30am in the Read Hall

Lower Prep House Hockey and Netball

Thursday 19th March, 2.15pm

Middle Prep House Netball

Friday 20th March at 2.15pm

Senior Production- Shrek

Thursday 19th and Friday 20th March

Open Morning

Friday 20th March, 9.15am - 11.30am, booking via the school website

Middle Prep House Netball

Friday 20th March, 2.15pm

School Ski Trip

w/c 23rd March, departing Saturday 21st March

Pre Prep Grandparent's Day

Tuesday 24th March, 10.00am

Holly Class Assembly

Wednesday 25th March, 8.30am in the Read Hall

Silver Birch Class Assembly

Thursday 26th March, 8.30am in the Read Hall

Prep Informal Soloist Concert

Thursday 26th March, 4.15pm in the Read Hall

MATCH REPORT CONT.

HOCKEY

On Monday, our Colts A team travelled to Framlingham College for the Under 11 IAPS East tournament. We won five out of our six group games against Ipswich Prep, Norwich School, Barnardiston, Orwell Park and South Lee, all without conceding a goal, and drew 0-0 with The Perse. The quarter-final match-up with King's, Cambridge, proved to be a tense affair and was settled by a single goal from Jonah T. This set us up with another contest against The Perse in the semi-final. Once again, there was very little to separate the two teams and the game moved into 'golden goal' territory after another 0-0 deadlock at the end of normal time. Midway through the allocated minutes, Jonah T found Freddie G with a neat pass to set up a 1v1 with the goalkeeper. Freddie G kept his nerve to slot home the goal which sent us through to the tournament final, and also gave us a guaranteed place at the IAPS national finals. The tournament final against Gresham's was another closely-fought affair, and once again the match was settled in 'golden goal' time. For the first time in the competition, Gresham's managed to breach the TCH defence, and the afternoon came to a close with a narrow 0-1 defeat. As a consequence, silver medals were awarded to the Town Close squad, all of whom had shown superb levels of effort, enthusiasm and teamwork throughout the day. The boys are really looking forward to participating in the IAPS national finals competition which is to be held at Repton School on Friday 20th March. This will provide them with the opportunity to test their skills against the strongest hockey schools in the country and should be a fantastic experience for all concerned. Well done to all of the Colts A players involved in this superb achievement.

Our senior teams hosted Beeston Hall on Wednesday afternoon at the TCH Dragons' Den. The 1st VII won a good game of hockey by 2-1, having fought back after conceding the first goal of the game. Elias Y and Ben S both found the target, with Ben S receiving the POM for a superb captain's performance in terms of his leadership, effort and attitude. Wolf S made some important saves in goal and Alex O C produced a skilful performance in what was a very pleasing win. The 2nd VII lost 0-4 (POM Wolf S) and the 3rd VII failed to capitalise on 6 penalty 'shuffles' in their 0-5 defeat. Freddie T received the POM from Mr Woods for his efforts throughout the game. The 4th VII lost narrowly by 2-3. Will G was again in fine form in goal and Nathanael G continued to impress outfield.

The Colts AB squad travelled to Beeston Hall and were involved in an entertaining game which ended 3-3. Beeston scored a late equaliser from a penalty corner after Jacob B had given TCH a 3-2 lead with a trio of well-taken goals. The Colts BC team were in excellent form on the adjacent pitch, winning by 7-1. Willoughby W (3), Eden M (2), James B and Arthur Y were all on the scoresheet, with Beau R making a string of fine saves in goal. POM awards went to Beau R and Jack B.

The 1st VII travelled to the Rushmere sports centre in Ipswich today for the Under 13 IAPS East tournament and both our Under 9 teams and Colts A have tournaments in the pipeline for when we return after half term. Full reports of these events will appear in due course, and we wish every success to all of the boys involved.

NETBALL

The U11s travelled to St Joseph's College, Ipswich, on a very soggy Friday last week to compete in the IAPS qualifiers. With the weather testing everyone's resilience, the pool stages offered the team the chance to face unfamiliar opposition. Our opening match against Littlegarth proved challenging. Having already played two games, they started sharply while we took a little time to settle. Despite some determined passages of play, we found ourselves on the back foot and unfortunately went 4-10 down. We were back on court immediately for our second match against The Perse, thankfully indoors this time, and this game showed exactly what the team is capable of. From the very first centre pass, the attacking combinations were slick and confident, while the defence grew stronger and more assertive in the circle as the game progressed. It was a joy to watch some flowing netball, and the hard work was rewarded with a narrow but well-earned 8-7 victory. After a short break, we faced Widford Lodge in our final pool match. Play switched rapidly from end to end, but missed scoring opportunities proved costly. Despite some excellent moments, we weren't quite tight enough in defence, allowing their talented shooters to capitalise. With one win and two losses, we moved into the Plate competition. In the Plate quarter-finals, we were drawn against familiar opponents Norwich High. From the outset, the team took control and maintained their lead throughout, producing a confident and composed performance to secure a comfortable 7-5 win. This set up a semi-final against local rivals Langley Prep, where confidence was clearly high. Once again, we dominated proceedings and played some excellent netball to claim an impressive 8-1 victory. The final saw us meet The Perse, a team we had beaten earlier in the day. However, fatigue began to show, and with an injured player reducing us to our base seven, we were often just one step behind. Despite a brave and commendable effort, we were unable to take the win. There was some fantastic netball on display throughout the day, and the Coaches Player of the Tournament was deservedly awarded to Joanie S for her relentless effort and outstanding work at centre. Well done to all the girls — the team showed great spirit, resilience, and promise, which bodes extremely well for the remainder of the season.

On Wednesday we were facing the second meeting between Beeston. The U11A team anticipated a challenging game against a well-drilled side. We were slow out of the blocks and often found ourselves a step behind. However, the girls showed real resilience and fought hard until the final whistle. Beeston did an excellent job of keeping our shooters away from the post, limiting our scoring opportunities. Player of the Match was awarded to Charlotte L who made a significant impact when she came on in defence, making several crucial interceptions. A good game overall, with valuable lessons learned for the future. The U11 B team also faced strong opposition and, having narrowly lost to Beeston last time, we knew it would be a tough encounter. Unfortunately, we were slow to get started, which allowed Beeston to take an early lead, and we were unable to recover. A special mention goes to Persy W who was outstanding with her passing and distribution, and to Charlotte W, who was once again a dynamo on court. Both were deservedly named Players of the Match. The 11C team enjoyed a thrilling match, coming from behind to secure a fantastic 5–3 victory. Jemima T-N, Alice T and Frances H defended superbly, while the whole team deserves great credit for moving into space to receive the ball, something we have been working hard on in training. Players of the Match were Flo L and Alice T for their excellent performances. It was a wonderful result for a great team.

At home the U13s saw the return fixture against Beeston. The A team made a strong start, determined to improve on last month's performance. The ball moved slickly down the court, with Annabelle H and Isla Mc finishing confidently in the shooting circle. Beeston responded well in the second quarter, and the game became a fast-paced, end-to-end contest. Ultimately, one difficult quarter proved decisive, allowing Beeston to secure the win. However, it was a vastly improved performance from Town Close and one the girls should be proud of. POM Saskia T and Isla Mc. The B team delivered a thoroughly impressive all-round team performance, dominating their match. Phillipa C stood out with her accuracy in shooting, while the defensive pairing of Nikita G and Sephe V made it extremely difficult for Beeston to gain access to the goal circle. Overall, it was a very positive afternoon of netball, with the girls clearly putting into practice the skills and tactics worked on in training. POM Phillipa C and Poppy K. The C and D teams were combined to play Beeston's C team. With lots of rotations throughout the 4 very wet quarters, we managed to keep consistently ahead by 3 or 4 goals. It was good to see novice netballers play along side the more experienced players and lots of encouragement inspired good play. Although a lot of our shots were missed the defence fought hard to get the ball back down to our shooters with fair success. Good defending rewarded Margaux V P the oppositions' Player of the Match. Final score produced a win of 11-8. A special mention to Reina K and Coco R for their huge improvement since the start of the season, well done!



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

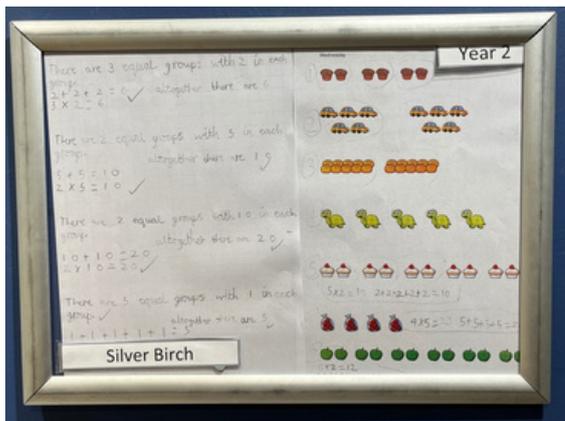
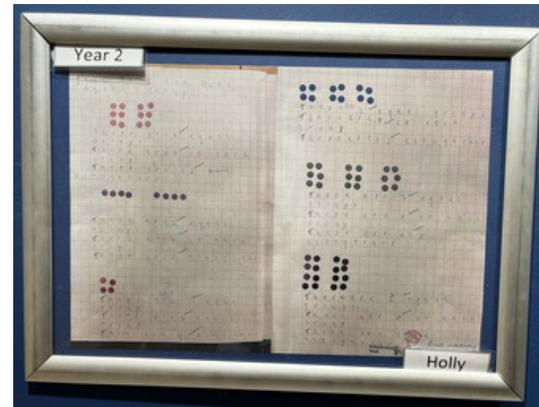
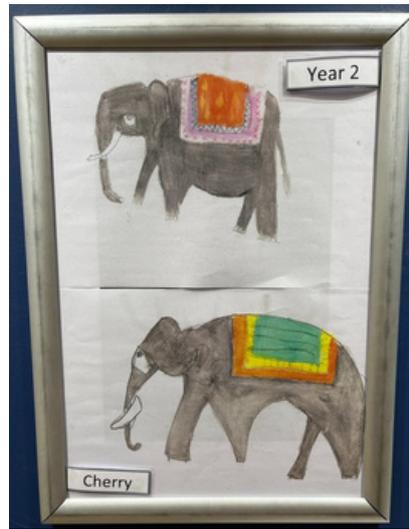
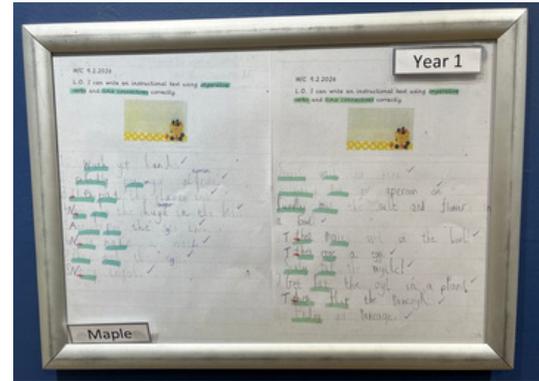
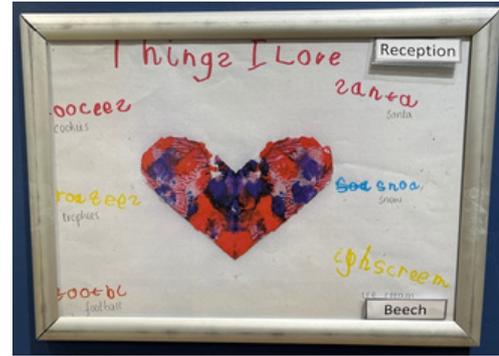
Venue: Venue: Town Close School Sports Hall, Ipswich Rd Norwich NR2 2LJ

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.

PRE PREP WONDERWALL



- Little Acorns, Martha, Porcupine Drawing
- Little Acorns, John, Tiger Collage
- Beech, Rowan, Things I love
- Oak, Orlando, Card to Talking Ted
- Lime, Teyi, Missing Number Calculations
- Maple, Felix & Hugo, Independent Writing
- Willow, Kitty & Olivia, Clay Ganesha
- Cherry, Evelyn & Theo, Elephant Drawings
- Holly, Jack, Independent Equal Groups Work
- Silver Birch, Autumn, Repeated Addition & Multiplication

After school and weekend children's vaccination clinics

Number 10 Whiting Road, Norwich, NR4 6DJ:

Tuesday 24th February, 1:30pm - 6pm

Friday 27th February, 3pm - 6pm

Thursday 5th March, 3pm - 6pm

Friday 6th March, 1:30pm - 6pm

Saturday 7th March 9am – 3:30pm

Monday 9th March 11:30am – 6pm

Thursday 12th March, 2pm - 6pm

Vancouver Quarter, 24 New Conduit Street, PE30 1DE:

Saturday 21st February, 10am – 3:30pm

Wednesday 25th February, 1pm - 5:30pm

Wednesday 4th March, 12pm-5pm

Monday 9th March, 12pm-5pm

Saturday 21st March, 10am – 2pm

**To book an appointment, please call 0300 555 5055,
option 2, or email hct.csaisnorfolk@nhs.net.**