

HEADMASTER'S WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

SPRING TERM WEEK 7
27TH FEBRUARY, 2026

Every Moment Matters



Dear Parents

It has been wonderful to warmly welcome back all of our pupils after a much needed half term break to recharge our batteries at the halfway point in the academic year. Mrs Harman and her tutor group welcomed our Prep pupils back to School with a thought-provoking Assembly that introduced them to a range of artistic masterpieces and invited them to think about how the values of The Town Close Way can be applied to each one. As we begin our next half of term, it was a timely reminder of The Town Close Way and the values that underpin school life. Alongside celebrating successes from the first week back (including a raft of Commendations and Headmaster's Commendations) we continued to focus on our values in our Friday Assembly, with the value of respect taking centre stage. We reflected upon the people that we respect, why we respect them and how we can respect something, even if we don't agree with it or like it, such as when we disagree with a decision from a referee but still must respect their role and their decision and play on – an important lesson that applies to school life as well as the wider world in life after Town Close School.

A great example of pupils showing respect to each other this week was when the Upper Prep pupils took to the Woodland Walk for their House Cross Country competition- fully appreciating the milder temperatures and dry conditions for their 3km run. Every runner earned points for their House, were full of energy and House spirit in their running and their support for their fellow competitors! Well done to everyone who competed and thank you to their family and friends for coming along to cheer them on. Good luck to the children involved in the East Anglian Prep School Cross Country Championships tomorrow over at Old Buckenham Hall. It wasn't just running that we had to celebrate this week, as on Thursday, our biggest ever team of 47 Year 5-8 swimmers travelled to Ipswich to compete in the IAPS Swimming Qualifiers. Taking such a large squad reflects the significant and substantial strides forward within our swimming programme since our partnership with Norwich Swans commenced last year. There were some fantastic individual and team results to be proud of, but I was most pleased to hear that the squad were commended for their behaviour, teamwork, organisation, and respect for their fellow competitors. A huge thank you to Mr. Payne for leading the team for this event and I look forward to future swimming success.

On Wednesday our Year 7 pupils performed poetry to their peers and an esteemed panel of judges: Mrs Chitty, Mrs James, and Mrs Beasley, as part of the national poetry speaking competition, Poetry By Heart. Each pupil selected their own poem to learn and present. The selected finalists will go on to represent the School in the wider external competition, with the opportunity to perform at Shakespeare's Globe Theatre in London. Taking part in Poetry By Heart is all about developing confidence with poetry in an enjoyable, accessible and engaging way that leads to its life-long enjoyment.

As part of our World Book Day (UK & Ireland) and National Year of Reading celebrations, we were delighted to welcome independent bookshop, the Norfolk Children's Book Centre, into School with lots of wonderful books to peruse and many going home with a real page turner for the weekend ahead. I look forward to further celebrating World Book Day and seeing all of the wonderful literary costumes on display next Thursday 5th March.

My absolute highlight of the week was when we welcomed musicians from Gresham's School, Notre Dame High School, and Norwich School for an orchestral workshop on Tuesday this week. Teaming up with our own talented musicians in Prep, the combined orchestra of over 100 instrumentalists worked brilliantly together to learn 'Soul Bossa Nova', Abba's 'Mamma Mia' and the Titanic theme tune. A concert at the end of the day to family and friends showcased their day's work, and was the perfect way to conclude a fantastic day of collaborative music. Well done to all, and a special thanks to our Head of Music, Mrs Koczur, for arranging and hosting the event, as well as to all the supporting staff from all of the attending schools.

I hope that you have a great weekend and I look forward to seeing all of the pupils on Monday.

NHS Payne



FRIENDLY REMINDERS

SAVE THE DATE: ASA CAMPING

Friday 17th April: Year 5, 6 & 7 Big Camp Out!

Saturday 18th April: Year 4 ASA School Camp Out!

A letter with more information will be sent soon.

SAVE THE DATE: SPRING INTO SUMMER SHOW

The 'Spring into Summer Show' will take place the morning of Friday 17th April in the Sports Hall. You will receive more information about this if your child is involved, however all parents are welcome to watch.

PRE PREP TOP BIRDS



Avocets- Oliver and Autumn

Barn Owls- Aubrey and Theo



Peregrines- Ethan and Bea



Kingfishers - Mia and Evelyn

NORFOLK COUNTY MUSIC FESTIVAL 2026

Everyone is welcome to support our music groups participating in the festival this year. There is a small entrance fee for audience members on the door. Performances are listed in the 'Dates for the Diary'. If your child is directly involved you will receive a letter with further information.

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA:

Facebook: @towncloseschool

Instagram: town.close.school

BULLETIN BOARD PRE PREP & PREP

PTA NEWS

Please refer to the posters below with details about upcoming events and news.

WORLD BOOK DAY

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



WELLBEING SURVEY

The Wellbeing Survey form is available on the Portal and will remain open until the end of the day on **Monday 2nd March**. If you're able to take a few minutes to complete it, your feedback would be greatly appreciated.

CHARITY INITIATIVE

Henry H, with support from Alice T in Year 5, has launched a fundraising initiative in aid of Finnbar's Force. As part of this effort, Henry is selling his own 3D-printed models to help raise money for the charity.

The price for the different objects ranges from £1.00 - £3.50. If your child would like to purchase an item, kindly ask them to inform Mrs Boyt, who will be collecting cash donations and supporting the project.



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

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
Tuesday 17th 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

NETBALL

The week started with a very excited group of Year 3 girls travelling to Langley Prep on Tuesday for their very first netball festival experience. The girls were split into even teams, and all had the opportunity to play Bee style netball, which involves two defenders and two attackers in each team. It was wonderful to see the girls putting into practice the skills they have been learning during games afternoons. There was some lovely netball on display, with great passing, excellent movement into space, impressive interceptions, and – by the looks of it – a few star shooters for the future! The festival provided a great opportunity for the girls to experience what it feels like to represent the school in sports matches, while also learning about sportsmanship and match etiquette. It was also lovely to see such a supportive group of spectators cheering the teams on.

On Wednesday, 8 teams faced Gresham's. The U13A team faced a tough opponent, in a game where the final score didn't truly reflect how competitive the contest was. A slow start allowed Gresham's to take control early on, but as the match progressed and the team adjusted to the physicality of the game, they began to settle and show their quality. There were some slick passages of play through the court, and Sophie K shot confidently under pressure to keep the scoreboard ticking over. With only seven players available, the squad's versatility was tested, but the girls demonstrated resilience and teamwork right through to the final whistle. Player of the Match was awarded to Annabelle H for her dynamic movement around the court and her composed finishing in the shooting circle. The U13B team worked hard against a tough Gresham's side. Despite the opposition having a height advantage, this didn't stop our B team from bringing the ball down the court. With a very high centre pass success rate, the attackers Annabelle Y, Nikita G, Poppy K and Phillipa C, tried different combinations and worked hard to try and get the ball to the shooters. There were some lovely feeds, especially from Poppy K, into our shooters. Alice B and Isla S in the midcourt created some great transitions and put in the defensive work, as well as a strong attack. Our defenders, Sephe V and Pearl T, did a tremendous job of picking up any interceptions and loose balls. The score in the end was 21-10 to Gresham's and opposition Player of the Match went to Nikita G with coach's Player of the Match going to Poppy K. The U13C team took the first quarter to warm up and get their minds focused. The opposition were taller and faster and this proved a hill to climb from the start. However, throughout the next few quarters we began to work as a team and produced some great play down the court. Geena S worked exceptionally hard and played a big part in the successful transfer of the ball down the court and she was awarded coach's Player of the Match. The defence had a tricky job with the obvious height advantage of the opposition, but they worked tirelessly and Ananti S was awarded opposition Player of the Match. The U13D team faced a challenging fixture against a strong Gresham's side. From the first whistle, Gresham's applied tight defensive pressure, making it difficult for our attackers to settle in. Sienna C and Reina K both faced significant challenges in receiving the ball due to Gresham's strong defence. Despite this, Sienna C worked tirelessly through the mid-court, driving the ball forward with determination and resilience. Her consistently positive attitude and work rate throughout the game earned her a very well-deserved Player of the Match. Reina K also showed great perseverance in the attacking circle, working hard to unsettle the defence and create opportunities under pressure. In mid-court, Simran T and Margot C demonstrated excellent effort and teamwork. They battled hard to transition the ball from defence into attack, showing composure and determination, despite Gresham's height advantage. Defensively, Jess E, Polly H and Coco R all put in strong performances. Coco R worked relentlessly in the circle, applying constant pressure and earning the opposition Player of the Match for her impressive defensive display. Jess E captained the team superbly, maintaining a positive team attitude and encouraging her teammates throughout the game. Polly H, as always, worked hard throughout the game, unsettling Gresham's attackers.

The U11A team blasted out of the blocks in their new blue dresses racing to a 6-1 lead in the first quarter against Gresham's. Georgia S, as GS, converted most of her shots with Lizzie C rebounding any missed. As the game progressed, Nyla S, voted opposition Player of the Match, showed great movement in attack, linking smoothly with an incredibly hardworking and defensively 'annoying' Joanie S. The team increased their lead each quarter with the final score being a 16-6 win for Town Close. The B, C, D and E teams all faced challenging matches against Gresham's this week, each in their own way. The B team found it difficult to move the ball down the court with consistent flow and precision, and unfortunately their shooting was not as accurate as usual. Defensively, they were up against much taller players, which proved to be a significant challenge. Despite this, they maintained a positive attitude and enjoyed the game. Player of the Match was deservedly awarded to Charlotte W for her effort and determination. For the C team, rhythm and movement were, again, areas for development, with players finding it difficult to create and run into space effectively. However, there were strong individual performances, and Player of the Match was awarded to Flo L and Harriet M for their contributions and impact on the game. The D and E teams had similar experiences, with it evident that a short break from netball had interrupted their momentum. It took time for both teams to settle back into the swing of competitive play. Player of the Match for the D team was Jemima T-N while Anabelle H received the award for the E team. Moving forward, the teams will need to focus on improving the accuracy of their passing, and tighter marking across all teams is also a key area for improvement. There is still lots to build on but plenty to be proud of.

MATCH REPORT CONT.

HOCKEY

This week the U9A team played away at Langley Prep. The boys enjoyed a great competitive game with Charlie G awarded Player of the Match. The rest of the U9 teams played some fast paced 'quickstick' matches. These matches enable all the children to participate in fun, friendly matches, developing their skills but in an environment where no scores are recorded. The U9s are out at matches again today, away at Beeston Hall. We wish all the boys luck.

On Wednesday, the seniors all played Gresham's away in a very hard afternoon of hockey. For all teams, our defence was put to the test but the boys showed determination, tried hard and demonstrated great sportsmanship. Player of the Match for the 1st team was Ben S, with Tom M for the 2nd team, Phillip S for the 3rd team and William G for the 4th team all receiving Player of the Match.

The Colts A-E teams also played Gresham's on Wednesday, but at home. It was a great afternoon of hockey with a mix of results. The boys all played with lots of energy and demonstrated improving hockey skills; notably the D and E teams are improving with each opportunity to play competitively. Players of the Matches were; Jack B (A team), Jack B (B team), Felix L T (C team), Jack D (D team) and Ben S (E team).

Your Speak out. Stay safe. certificate

Awarded to:

Town Close School

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A massive thank you and a big well done to all pupils for being such great listeners and taking part in *Speak out*.
Stay safe. with Buddy.



Chris Sherwood
Chief Executive

Date: 09/02/26
.....



Thank you for helping to keep more children safe!



 **Spring**
WREATH
WORKSHOP
WED 25 MAR, 7-9PM
PREPREP HALL, £55PP**

JOIN US TO MAKE YOUR OWN WREATH OR TABLE CENTRE
TICKETS GO ON SALE NEXT WEEK
*DRINKS AND NIBBLES INCLUDED

Town Close PTA is **RECRUITING**

We are looking for **new Trustees** - including a **new Chair** - to join our continuing **Board of Trustees**



Do you have a passion to **make a difference**?
Are you looking to **get more involved** with the school, **charity sector** or develop your **governance & leadership skills**?
Look no further!

Contact pta@townclose.com for further information





UNIFORM+SKI DONATIONS

Please continue to bring in your old school uniform to the shop either to sell or as a donation

The shop relies on your contributions

A reminder that we are also selling **Ski Wear and hockey sticks**, so if you have any no longer needed items, please consider bringing them in especially with the school ski trip fast approaching!





ECOAPRIL CHALLENGE 2026

**DO SOMETHING ECO FRIENDLY IN APRIL AND
RECEIVE AN ENAMEL ECO PIN BADGE**

(THIS COULD BE A LITTER PICK OR SOMETHING ELSE KIND TO THE PLANET)

DO **SOMETHING ECO FRIENDLY** IN APRIL AND SEND
US PICTURES OF YOUR ECO ENDEAVOURS VIA
SOCIALS OR EMAIL



SATURDAY 18TH APRIL, JOIN US FOR A
NATURE/GEOCACHE INSPIRED TREASURE HUNT

*Bring all the family and go wild in nature which includes a reserved
area at **Whitlingham Country Park**. Age appropriate challenges
available for children from Nursery to Year 8.*



SUNDAY 26TH APRIL, JOIN OUR GROUP LITTER PICK

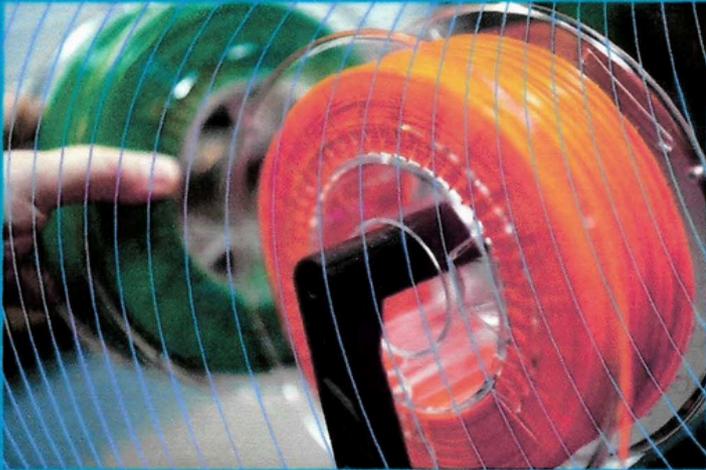
*Join our group litter pick along Lakenham Way. Litter picks
and equipment can be provided or bring your own.*

PROUDLY
SPONSORED BY

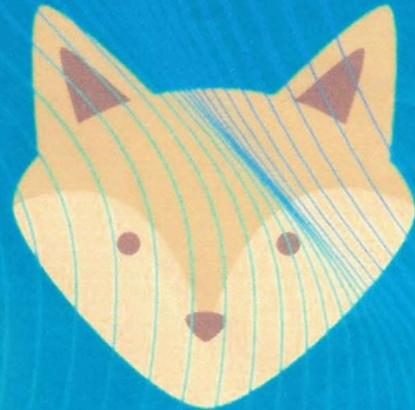
S&P
SMITH & PINCHING



Henry's 3-d prints



it is all
for finnbars
force!



YOU CAN GET A
cone, large
octopus, medium
octopus, small
octopus, spinner
and star.

Colours are
green, see through
green, blue, see
through blue, yellow
and red.