

HEADMASTER'S WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

SPRING TERM WEEK 9
13TH MARCH, 2026



Dear Parents

I write to you today with the sun beaming in through my study window, having just enjoyed a whole school assembly where pupils from across Pre Prep and Prep joined together to celebrate the achievements of the week. It is always so special to have the whole school together and it was even more so this morning as we finished off assembly in the only way that would have befitted our final day of a busy STEM week – a flaming hot live experiment with Mr. Chapman and Miss. Gallacher much to the delight of all, but especially our younger Pre Prep pupils. STEM Week has been a real triumph this week with lots of exciting workshops and activities taking place across the different age groups within the school. On Day 1, we kicked off with some exciting STEM assemblies courtesy of Dr. Alexandre in Pre Prep and Mr. Buck's tutor group in Prep. We then welcomed members of the Royal Air Force Youth Engagement Team from RAF Marham for an engaging afternoon of engineering workshops with our Year 5. Split into groups, they were tasked with a number of kit construction tasks that tested not only their engineering and design skills but, also, their ability to work collaboratively as a team; their organisation; their timekeeping; their safety and consideration for others; as well as their capacity to listen.

On Day 2 Matt from Camouflaged Learning joined our Years 6, 7 and 8 to deliver a fun and invigorating workshop entitled 'Preparing for Space', an intensive STEM-focused experience that specifically nurtures resilience, rigour, and resourcefulness. 6G also carried out a range of important jobs at the School pond, planting a range of plants to aid natural filtration, and clearing large debris and algae from the pond surface. They, also, enjoyed some pond dipping to observe the aquatic organisms, and to consider the overall biodiversity and health of our mini ecosystem!

On Wednesday, Year 1 carried out an experiment with Mrs Taylor entitled, 'How to blow up a balloon without blowing!' I think the photos accurately convey the level of engagement and excitement this particular experiment generated! Year 2 pupils joined Mr Chapman in one of our specialist Science laboratories to explore the science of bath bombs! They thoroughly enjoyed this fun Chemistry activity creating their own bath bombs whilst learning about the neutralisation reaction between an acid (citric acid) and an alkali (bicarbonate of soda) that is triggered when you add water! STEM visitors, Suzanne and Kevin from The East of England Energy Group, inspired our Year 7 and 8 pupils to consider a future career in the energy industry. Speaking about many of the exciting energy projects in the East of England, they outlined all of the potential career options and the pathways available. Year 3 and 4 enjoyed a series of maths carousel activities using a range of investigations to really challenge their mathematical reasoning and problem-solving.

On Thursday we officially open 'The Workshop', a new woodworking space specifically designed and adapted for our Pre Prep children to explore the skills of woodworking in a safe, designated space. A huge thank you to the PTA for their donation towards this exciting new space that our Pre Prep pupils will gain so much from. Year 1 enjoyed engaging in a bat box making workshop lead by Lindsey from Norfolk and Norwich Bat Group, whilst Year 2 used the workshop to create brilliant hedgehog ornaments out wood. Then today we have welcomed Dr Ken's Circus Science Show into School for pupils in Nursery up to Year 4, which I am sure will be a great way to round off our busy but brilliant STEM week.



Every Moment Matters

It hasn't all been STEM related this week though, and in particular, it has been great to see our pupils doing so well at the Norfolk County Music Festival both as soloists and as part of school ensembles. With the Prep Orchestra performing this evening and Year 2 performing next week, we will do a round up of these successes next week. One of my real highlights of the week was Year 2 Cherry Class Assembly which proved to be the perfect way to start the day with an uplifting opening song setting the tone for a confident and entertaining performance. It was also great to award so many Netball certificates this week with our U12 and U13 teams winning the Norwich Development tournaments and our U12s finishing runners-up in the County Cup. Middle Prep put in a fantastic team performance in the House Cross Country this week and our enterprising School Council raised an incredible £244.40 for our school charity, Finnbar's Force, at their Bake Sale on Monday – thank you to all who supported this. I would also like to add a thank you to all who supported the PTA Quiz last Friday and the Parent Consultation evening this week on the topic of Pre Prep Curriculum Development. It has also been great to pop into rehearsals for the senior production of Shrek this week and I am very much looking forward to watching their hard work come to fruition in their performances next week. Excitement is also building for those who depart for the school ski trip next Saturday and a reminder that there are still a small number of spaces left for the ski trip next year for pupils in current Years 4-7 (Year 5-8 next year).

Finally, whilst we plan to celebrate the individual success stories in more detail in the coming weeks, it is with a real sense of pride that we are able to reflect on another very successful year in terms of entrance assessments for our Year 8 pupils. Last year we achieved our best ever Year 8 results with every pupil gaining places at their first choice destination school and a good number receiving awards and scholarships. This year we have continued in this positive vein where once again 100% of pupils have gained their first choice places with 20 scholarships and awards offered (quite the achievement from a year group of 29 pupils). I am sure that Year 8 will continue to apply themselves in the weeks ahead as they prepare for their Common Entrance Assessments in the summer term.

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



Every Moment Matters



Town Close School Proudly Presents




SHREK
THE MUSICAL JR.

READ HALL
Thursday 19th March 6pm
Friday 20th March 6pm

Based on the DreamWorks Animation Motion Picture and the Book by William Steig
Books and Lyrics by David Lindsay-Abaire Music by Jeanine Tesori
Originally produced on Broadway by DreamWorks Theatricals and Neal Street Productions
Original Production Directed by Jason Moore and Rob Ashford
"I'm A Believer" by Neil Diamond

Shrek the Musical Jr. is presented through special arrangement with and all authorized materials are supplied by Music Theatre International, 421 West 54th Street, New York, NY 10019




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

JOIN US TO MAKE YOUR OWN WREATH OR TABLE CENTREPIECE
TICKETS NOW LIVE!
TOWNCLOSEPTA.CO.UK
*DRINKS AND NIBBLES INCLUDED

FRIENDLY REMINDERS

EXTENDED HOCKEY PRACTICE

Extended hockey practice for Year 7 and 8 has now finished and will not take place for the remaining two Mondays.

FORMS ON THE PORTAL

Please remember to check the Forms and Replies section of the portal regularly to ensure you have completed any forms that apply to you. You should also have received a letter with further information about these forms.

MATCH REPORT

HOCKEY

It has been another exciting week of hockey in which many boys represented both school and house with skill and determination.

On Wednesday afternoon, the Upper Prep boys played an excellent and close fought house competition to add valuable points to the Middle Prep competition last Friday. All the coaching staff have been impressed with the teamwork and enthusiasm shown when playing House matches. The full results will follow after the Lower Prep matches have taken place.

BULLETIN BOARD

PRE PREP & PREP

This week our U11E team played Gresham's, and were delighted with a 4-2 win, with Aziz B as Player of the Match. The U11F team played a thriller and drew 4-4 with Elliot W being awarded Player of the Match.

Our Colts A and B teams travelled to Culford for an U11 tournament and both teams remained unbeaten over 12 matches sweeping the board in some seriously impressive displays. Our results this week are testament to the hard work of the boys and the coaching staff and are performances to be proud of.

Some of our Year 3 pupils enjoyed an afternoon of hockey against Langley Prep at home. They conducted themselves brilliantly and worked very hard.

This afternoon the U9A and B teams travel to Norwich School full of confidence, and we wish them luck. This time next week our U11 A team will be competing in the IAPS National finals, no mean feat and one to relish!

DATES FOR THE DIARY

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

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, 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

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

HOLIDAY SWIMMING

Please visit the Swans website for [further information](#).



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Instagram: town.close.school

NORWICH SWAN
Swimming Club

Swimming Lessons
for children aged 4+

Learn to Swim
with Norwich Swan

- Learn an important life skill
- Boost confidence & develop technique
- Fun and enjoyable daily lessons
- Beginner and Improver Courses
- Professionally Qualified Teachers

Intensive School Holiday Courses


Founded 1880



norwichswansc.co.uk

MATCH REPORT CONT.

NETBALL

It has been a very successful week for the Year 7 and 8 netball teams. Monday saw the U12s compete in the Norfolk Cup at Gresham's. The team showed great determination throughout the tournament and the entire squad contributed to particularly strong wins throughout the morning, securing first place in their pool. This set up a quarter-final against Beeston. The match was tight in the opening minutes, but the team soon found their rhythm and pulled away to claim a convincing 13–1 victory. The win sent them into the semi-final against Langley. Once again, the game started tightly contested before the team impressed with some fantastic attacking play. Incredible movement in the circle from Sophie K, combined with accurate feeds from the centre court of Isla M and Saskia T, helped secure a strong 10–2 win and a place in the final. In the final against Norwich High, the first half was closely fought. Town Close held a narrow 2–1 lead, with both teams making errors and neither side fully capitalising on their opportunities. The second half saw the opposition come out strongly and, despite a late comeback effort, the girls were unfortunately defeated 6–4. The team performed incredibly well throughout the day, showing excellent teamwork and determination. They should be very proud of themselves. The Players' Player award went to Isla M, while the Coach's Player of the Day was awarded to Sophie K for her outstanding movement in the circle and accurate shooting.

Tuesday saw the U9 girls travel to Langley Prep School for a full year-group fixture, with a few Year 3 pupils stepping up to help fulfil the games. It was an exciting day for Siena S, Stella W and Lizzie G, who thoroughly enjoyed their match in the four-a-side netball format. The U9A team were also facing a new challenge, having their first experience playing Bee Netball! In the opening rotation it was clear they were adjusting to the much larger playing area than they are used to, but they quickly settled into the game. Their passing became increasingly accurate and their movement to get in front of opponents to receive the ball was positive to see. Langley proved slightly stronger on the day, showing accurate shooting and strong passing throughout. However, with a few more practice sessions in this format, there is no doubt these Year 4 girls will enjoy many more exciting netball matches in the future. Well done to Molly B being awarded Player of the Match.

Wednesday saw the U12 Development Squad travel to Norwich School for a tournament. The weather was absolutely glorious and the girls produced some beautiful netball throughout the afternoon. The team performed brilliantly and confidently won all of their matches. Our defence was incredibly strong, while the shooters displayed excellent accuracy. The team finished the day as tournament winners, with Sienna A being named our Player of the Day. A fantastic effort from all the girls—very well done!

The U13 team was also at their Development Tournament. The team travelled to the Sportspark at the UEA. In the initial pool stage, the team played fast and controlled netball to win 5 of their matches and draw one. This saw them at the top of the table. They then had 3 more second stage matches to play. All three matches were won comfortably and therefore our U13Bs were crowned winners of the day. Player of the Tournament went to Annabelle Y for her exceptional shooting ability throughout the tournament. A fantastic team effort!

With all Year 5 and 6 pupils involved, five U11 teams played at home against local team Norwich School. The U11A had a tough fixture against Norwich School but, started to make an exciting comeback towards the end of the rotations with some swish shooting from POM Lizzie C as she paired up with Nyla S. Individually, players showed much greater control, and they are continuing to develop their ability to adapt to changes in positions and tactics. They should feel proud of their work-rate - 17 wins - 8 losses. The B team also battled hard. There were some clean passages of play and great positional awareness from Ani M and Riya N, tall presence from POM Clara W and calm shooting from Hannah B but the final score was a 3-10 loss - definitely not reflective of the effort and perseverance. It was an exciting game for the C team, made up of our U10s playing against an U11 opposition. The girls gelled well together, producing some beautiful passages of play and taking an early lead. Despite all the switches and rotations, they continued to play confidently and scored freely up until the penultimate quarter. Unfortunately, Norwich then managed to take the lead thanks to their goal shooter, who was scoring from anywhere in the circle! Slightly tired in the final quarter, the team fought hard and pulled it back to within two goals. Although it was a little frustrating not to get the win, the girls should be proud of an excellent performance. Player of the Match awards were given to Charlotte W and Persy W for their outstanding efforts. The D team showed improvement on last week's performance, working well to get free and move into space as suggested. There was some strong marking throughout the game, particularly from Zahra S, which helped keep the opposition under pressure. Similar to the E team, we unfortunately didn't quite have our shooting hats on that day. However, the team stayed within close distance of the opposition and continued to compete well throughout the match. Player of the Match awards were given to Grace C and Amelia C for their excellent efforts. Well done to everyone. The E team also demonstrated great improvement from their performance last week. Their marking was much tighter, and they worked hard to improve the flow of play, with some success. They stayed within touching distance of the opposition throughout the game but unfortunately were unable to convert their chances into goals today. As mentioned, it was a great improvement overall, so well done to everyone for their effort and progress. The Player of the Match award was given to Dottie C.

Easter Holiday Cricket Clubs

At Town Close School Sports Hall

Thurs 9th and Friday 10th April 2026

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 2 and above.

Those wishing to play hardball cricket will require their own kit, but it's not essential.

Pupils in Year 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:

Thurs 9th April and Friday 10th April

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.