

HEADMASTER'S WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

SUMMER TERM WEEK 4
8TH MAY, 2026



Dear Parents

I write to you today as I dust off my trusty sequined jacket and with the sound of lots of excited chat about the PTA Discos coming from the dining hall – I am sure that this will be a very exciting end of to another busy week at Town Close. A huge thank you as ever to the PTA and staff volunteers who have given their time on a Friday to support an event where the pupils will no doubt have a wonderful time.

Even though our week was a shorter one due to the bank holiday, we have still managed to cram lots of memorable moments and opportunities into it. On Tuesday, our Year 7 and 8 pupils welcomed Jason Buckley, founder of The Philosophy Man, for an exciting Philosophy Workshop Day. Over the course of the day, our pupils engaged in a range of thought-provoking activities designed to develop their speaking and listening skills, as well as enhance their critical thinking and reasoning. It proved to be a valuable and enriching experience for all pupils involved, helping them to build confidence in expressing their ideas and engaging respectfully with the views of others. Thank you very much to Jason for a fascinating day. Also, in life at the top of the school, our final Year 7 and 8 theatre trip of the year was a suspenseful one, as our pupils enjoyed the whodunnit Agatha Christie classic, 'Death on the Nile', at Norwich Theatre. The superb cast kept their audience guessing until the very end, with Hercule Poirot delivering his final dénouement with great panache amidst a dramatic finale! Over the course of the year, 130 children have attended our optional theatre trips, enjoying a diverse range of productions that included Hamilton, Merlin, Dear England, Hercules as well as last night's murder mystery. Our sincere thanks go to Mr Coulthart for spearheading these enriching trips and sharing his own passion for the theatre.

In Pre Prep, we have had two trips to Norwich Castle Museum - Nursery earlier in the week and Year 2 today. Our Nursery pupils were extremely excited to visit Norwich Castle Museum & Art Gallery to bring to life this term's topic of 'Castles and Crowns!' The children eagerly explored the Castle through sensory exploration and role play, with a particular focus on the animals who have lived there through the years. Their tour took them below ground to the basement, before a visit to the King's rooms, and an exhilarating experience on the incredible battlements. I very much enjoyed hearing all about the day after their visit when I visited Nursery to chat to them whilst they were enjoying some outdoor learning in the Nursery Garden. Thank you very much to the Museum staff for our thoroughly enjoyable visits this week.

It has also been great to welcome Artist Claire Coles who has spent today with Year 3, working with them to produce beautiful rose paintings, inspired by her own work. They have been exploring building texture and depth with the acrylics and I cannot wait to see the finished pieces!

There has also been lots to celebrate this week, as I continue to work my way through hosting the pupils who have been recognised with the 103 Headmaster's Commendations that have been awarded so far this term in my Study for a celebratory cupcake. This is always one of the highlights of my week as it is so wonderful to talk to so many different pupils about their recent achievements and school life more generally. I have been particularly pleased to see several HMCs awarded for pupils successfully embodying the values of the Town Close Way in recent weeks.

It has also been great to celebrate some early season cricketing success this season as we said well done to our U13 and U11 girls cricket teams for their county tournament performances this week in assembly this morning, before welcoming the U11 boys side up for some well-deserved recognition following their tremendous team performance in winning the County Cup this week (read more in the match reports from this week).

There was also the chance to celebrate music at Town Close with our fifth Informal Soloists Concert yesterday evening, where the audience were treated to some fantastic performances across a range of ages, instruments and genres. One of the lovely things about these concerts is the more informal nature of them, which provides a perfect opportunity for children to hone the skill of performing in front of an audience. A huge thank you to Mrs. Koczur, the music staff and the audience for supporting our wonderful musicians.

There will be another busy week ahead of us next week and in advance of that I wish the Cricket teams playing at Orwell Park on Saturday, and the F24 team at Lotus Cars on Sunday, the best of luck for their events. I hope that you have a great weekend and I look forward to seeing all of the pupils next Monday.

HB

Every Moment Matters



FRIENDLY REMINDERS

WHOLE SCHOOL PHOTO

Our Whole School photograph takes place on Monday morning (11th). Could you please remember to send your child into school with their blazer. Year 7 and 8 should come into school in their academic dress and bring their games kit in with them, which they will get changed into later.

MATCH REPORT

COUNTY CUP CRICKET

Congratulations to our Colts A Team for winning the County Cup; our U13A team for winning their 1st round of the County Cup; and to our U11 girls for placing 3rd in their County Cup Competition.

Our Colts A were crowned County Cricket Champions following a competitive day of cricket at Gresham's. A slow start resulted in the team facing their final crunch game with 1 win and 1 loss. Fortunately, Town Close produced the best performance of the day against the undefeated Gresham's side, with an excellent exhibition of stroke play, running between the wickets & game awareness, before following up with a disciplined bowling & fielding effort to secure victory. The overall tournament victory was secured by virtue of runs scored throughout the day & they duly booked a place in the regional stage at Chigwell (for the 4th consecutive year) on June 11th. Well done to all the squad & their coach, Mr Coyle.

The U13A girls produced an excellent all-round performance in their cup match against Wymondham College on Monday to secure a place in the 2nd round of the County Cup. Batting first, the team made a strong start & continued to build on their early momentum with some notable batting partnerships bolstering our run rate. The bowling performance was equally strong, with the team remaining disciplined throughout & keeping Wymondham well below the target. Well done to all the girls on a fantastic squad effort.

BULLETIN BOARD

PRE PREP & PREP

Town Close U11 Girls produced an outstanding display of cricket at their County Cup tournament this week. Playing as a close-knit team, the girls showed bowling & fielding of the highest calibre, taking an average of three wickets or more in every match. Securing two wins & two losses over the course of the day was enough for our girls to finish in joint first in a three-way tie. Only a run count could split the teams with Town Close placing third on runs scored. The team will know that posting larger batting totals will be key to avoiding chasing scores in every game. Well done to every player for their crucial contributions during an exciting & highly competitive day of cricket.



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Facebook: @towncloseschool
Instagram: town.close.school

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Year 8 Lake District Trip Parent Information Evening

Monday 11th May from 5.00pm in the Read Hall

Year 1 Assembly

Tuesday 12th May, 8.35am - 9.35am

Year 2 Concert

Thursday 14th May, 2.15pm in the Read Hall

Beech Class Assembly

Tuesday 19th May, 8.35am - 9.35am

Year 1 Concert

Wednesday 20th May, 2.15pm in the Read Hall

Oak Class Assembly

Thursday 21st May, 8.35am - 9.35am

Spring into Summer Show

Friday 22nd May 10.00am in the Sports Hall

Final Day of Half Term

Friday 22nd May

Year 7 Residential to France

w/c 1st June

Year 6 Humanities Trip

From Tuesday 2nd June

Year 8 Lake District Trip

From Sunday 7th June

Year 3 Information Evening for parents in Year 2

Wednesday 17th June, 6.00pm in the Read Hall

Nursery Sports Day

Wednesday 17th June, 9.00am on the Front Lawn

Year 1 Sports Day

Wednesday 17th June, 2.15pm on the Front Lawn

Reception Sports Day

Thursday 18th June, 9.00am on the Front Lawn

Year 6 Production

Thursday 18th & Friday 19th June, 6.00pm in Read Hall

Year 6 French Breakfast Cafe

Friday 19th June, 8.15am on the Front Lawn

Year 2 Sports Day

Friday 19th June, 2.15pm on the Front Lawn

Bryan Read Summer Concert

Tuesday 23rd June, 6.00pm in the Read Hall

FURTHER EVENTS TO BE ADDED

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

GIRLS CRICKET

The U11A girls delivered an excellent performance in a closely fought and exciting match against Gresham's. Demonstrating great discipline in the field, the team once again impressed with superb fielding and consistently accurate bowling. The girls maintained a strong line and length throughout, conceding very few wides and keeping the pressure firmly on the opposition. A standout moment came from Nyla S, who bowled a superb maiden over, highlighting the team's control and focus. Wickets were shared between Elizabeth C, Joanie S, and Francis H, each contributing crucial breakthroughs to restrict Gresham's scoring. Thanks to this collective effort, Gresham's were contained to a total of 269 runs. In response, the girls showed composure and teamwork with the bat. Every player contributed positively to the run rate, supported by sensible and well-judged running between the wickets. Georgia, Francis, Flo, Elizabeth, and Joanie all found the boundary, helping to build momentum while the team lost only three wickets. Finishing on an impressive 277 runs, the girls secured a well-earned victory by 8 runs in what was an exciting and competitive match from start to finish. The team should be extremely proud of their performance today. Florence L was deservedly named Player of the Match for her solid and reliable batting display.

After last week's win, today's performance from the Under11B's was a little disappointing and, at times, frustrating. Having put the opposition in to bat first, we made a slow start in the field, allowing Gresham's to build a steady total from the outset with some strong batting. Although there were moments of good play, our fielding lacked focus. Overthrows and lapses in concentration gifted far too many runs, and Gresham's were able to capitalise, eventually posting a formidable total of 337. In response, we gave it a good effort and saw some positive batting, particularly from Charlotte L. However, indecisiveness when running between the wickets proved costly, resulting in too many runouts and a steady loss of wickets. There were, however, some standout individual performances with the ball. Charlotte W impressed, taking four wickets, and was deservedly awarded Player of the Match. Percy W also delivered an excellent spell, finishing with three wickets for 17 runs. Overall, not our best performance, but one we can certainly learn from as we move forward.

For the U11C match the girls elected to field first and produced a generally strong performance in the field, showing good discipline and tight positioning. A special mention goes to Eva W-H, who showed great improvement and confidence in her bowling, delivering a consistently solid spell. Despite maintaining good lines, a lack of pace in the bowling allowed Gresham's batters to play aggressively hitting lots of boundaries setting a challenging total of 336. In response, our batting effort showed promise but was ultimately undermined by poor decision-making when running between the wickets, leading to a loss of valuable runs. Gresham's capitalised, taking 12 wickets and significantly reducing our score. Hannah B was a standout performer with the bat, striking confidently and scoring five boundaries in her over. However, the team finished on 275, falling short of Gresham's 336. Improving communication and judgement when running between the wickets will be a key focus going forward.

A first outing for U11 D girls saw some damp, breezy conditions, some super bowling from opener Amelia C who then paired with Matilda H to rack up 22 runs from their 4 overs. POM Victoria W ended the game with a beauty of a 4 although Gresham's were a little too far ahead and the score ended with a loss of 46 runs - 320-274. Lots to work on: bowling and batting so that's exactly what they did in the next games session with big smiles. Well done, girls.

BOYS CRICKET

Whilst many of our home fixtures were cancelled this week on account of the rain, some of our teams travelled to Gresham's for a block fixture for our Year 5-8 boys.

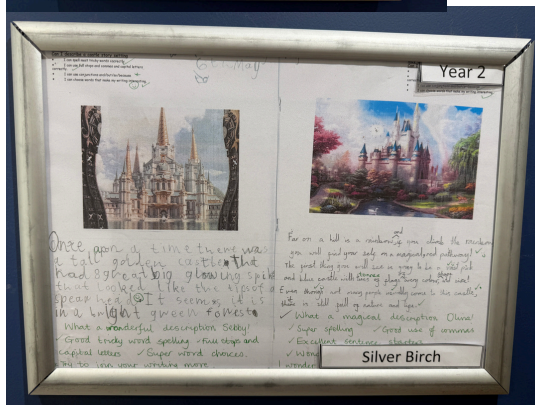
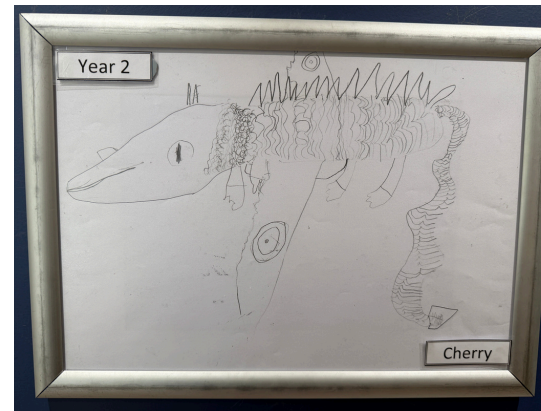
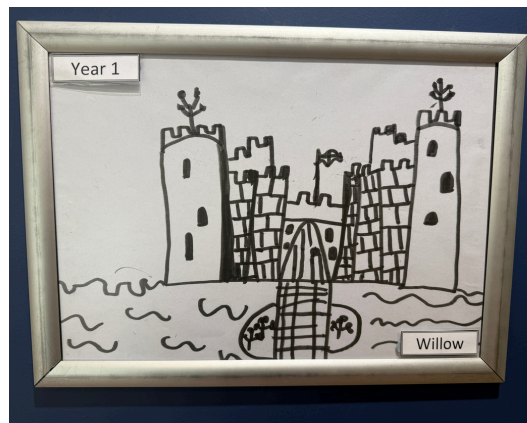
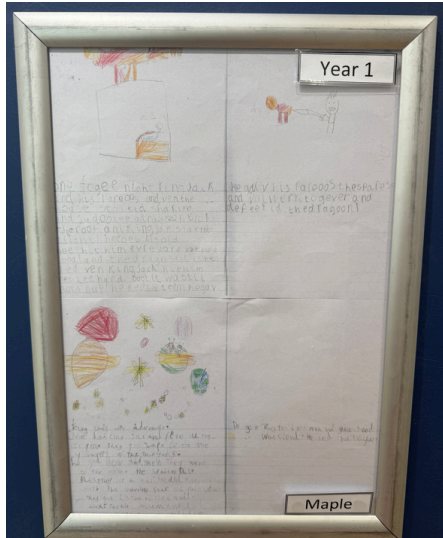
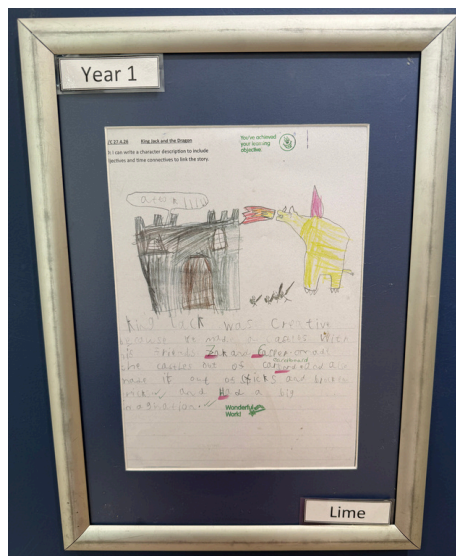
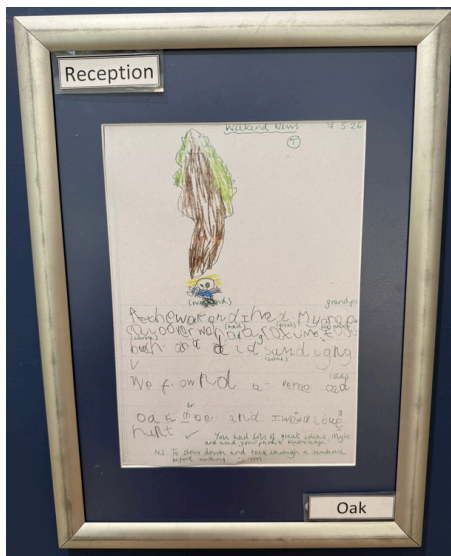
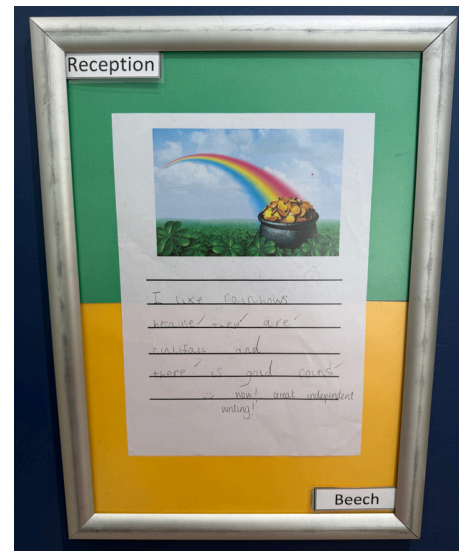
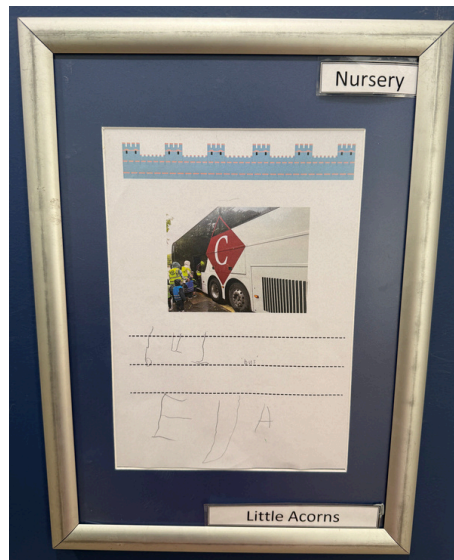
In challenging conditions, the 1st XI lost V Gresham's in a tight fixture, made all the more challenging on account of the persistent rain. Our batters delivered a commendable performance, scoring a total of 121-9 in 20 overs with Elias top scoring with 34. The bowlers all performed well but were hampered by the wet ball. We came close to defending 121 with Gresham's reaching the target after 19 overs. Player of the Match: Elias Y.

Our U13B and U13C teams, also, lost to strong Gresham's teams with a commendable performance from Boris D in the U13B who scored 20 not out who earned player of the match alongside Philip S, and player of the match for the U13C, Cruz C

The Boys U9A hosted Langley Prep on Tuesday for a highly competitive match. TCH bowled first against a strong batting lineup, with all the bowlers performing well, and ably backed up with some strong fielding. In batting, Oscar D and Percy A formed an excellent partnership of 38 runs, but, unfortunately, the team fell 18 runs short of the required total. Player of the Match: Percy A.

Our U9B and U9C teams both put in strong performances to record wins. Player of the matches were Lorenzo O-C (U9B) and Harvey L (U9C). Well done to all of the boys who represented the school this week.

PRE PREP WONDERWALL



- Little Acorns, Charlotte, Butterfly Painting
- Little Acorns, Eva, Castle Trip news
- Beech, Alice, Independent Writing
- Oak, Mylo, Weekend News
- Lime, Monty A, King Jack & the Dragon Story
- Maple, Bea & Dylan, Dragon Story Writing
- Willow, William, Castle Drawing
- Cherry, Ethan, Tiger Drawing
- Holly, Alex, Castle & setting description
- Silver Birch, Oliver & Sebby, Castle & setting description

Whitsun Holiday Outdoor Cricket Clubs

At 'Hilltops' Lakenham Hewett RFC
Main Road Swardeston NR14 8DU

Tues 26th and Weds 27th May

For Years 1 upwards

£45 for one
day and £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 sunblock, hat, plenty of drinks and a packed lunch.

10am to 3pm on the following days:

Tues 26th and Weds 27th May 2026

Venue: 'Hilltops' Swardeston CC 2nd XI ground (not The Common)

At Lakenham Hewett RFC Main Road, Swardeston Norwich NR14 8DU

To book:

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.