

# HEADMASTER'S WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

SUMMER TERM WEEK 5  
15TH MAY, 2026



Dear Parents

I write you today as we pack down the maypole and remove the bunting from a very successful Teddy Bear's Picnic, where over 40 families joined us for a Paddington themed walk around the woods, crafts, maypole dancing and of course a picnic – the sun even decided to make a welcome appearance, something that we have not had in abundance of late! It was great to welcome so many families (and so many teddy bears), many of whom are soon to join the school or already have links with the school - thank you to Mrs. Jones for arranging such a lovely event.

The highlights of this week include reflecting on some lovely events over the weekend last week. Firstly, we had a great time at the PTA Discos last Friday, where superstar DJ James D provided us with four fabulous discos for different age groups from Nursery up to Year 7. The children had a brilliant time and a huge thank you to the PTA volunteers and wonderful staff for supporting the event - I hope that this will become somewhat of an annual fixture. I also had the joy of visiting Lotus Cars on Sunday with my family to cheer on our race team in the morning session. A biting wind couldn't stop a fine performance from Town Close's 'Team Phantom'. The eight Year 8 pupils each played their part against stiff competition from the rest of the county and beyond in a full day's racing at the prestigious Hethel test track. Although novices, their teamwork showed great strides during the event and contributed to an excellent 3rd place out of twenty-one in the kit-car category. Well done to all the team and thank you to Mr and Mrs. Buck for accompanying the team as ever.

The start of this week kicked off with our whole school photo, where we kept everything crossed for the weather to stay dry. Opportunities where we have every single pupil and most staff together are rare, given the size and busy nature of the school, and it was great to smile in unison as the team at Bentley Photographic did a fantastic job of capturing one of our memorable moments of the week. It has been a wonderful week for performances in Pre Prep this week and I very much enjoyed when our three Year 1 classes came together to deliver a fantastic group assembly that gave a wonderful insight into their learning through the year. Each class covered one of the termly topics of 'Into the Woods', 'India', and 'Castles', with each group demonstrating their undeniable interest in the different themes, and the depth of knowledge they have acquired over the course of the year. A great performance of 'Stick Man', a beautiful Indian dance, a fascinating insight into life in a castle, confident ensemble singing, and well versed poetry ensured that the sell-out audience were given an uplifting and energising start to their day. Congratulations to all of our Year 1 pupils for their hard work and assured public speaking, and to the Year 1 team for rehearsing and leading an Assembly that was a wonderful highlight of their year's work. Hot on the heels of this triumph, was another wonderful performance in Pre Prep, as the very talented and confident Year 2 pupils came together for their concert. As ever, it was an entertaining blend of ensemble singing, soloist performances across a range of instruments and an insight into the approach to musical education in Pre Prep. The performances were delivered with such confidence and it was great to see so many smiling young musicians who were relishing their moment in the Read Hall.

Our Pre Prep pupils also enjoyed a Bird Family Sports Competition this week, competing across a range of energetic challenges to earn points for their respective Family. They balanced bean bags, ran shuttle relays, took penalty kicks, & tested their accuracy with a throwing exercise. Well done to all of the children who competed in great spirit, with special mention to the Peregrines for the overall win! The Bird families are such a special part of life in Pre Prep, as are the Houses in Prep, and one of the things that we will be looking to do more of as a School moving forward is linking our Pre Prep Bird Families with their respective Houses in Prep so that we can harness even more opportunities to build that community spirit that comes with being part of a Bird Family or House.

In Prep this week we have had exams for pupils in Years 5, 6 and 7, as well as Common Entrance speaking and listening exams in Year 8. It has been so pleasing to see our pupils take this process well and truly in their stride and, having caught up with pupils across those year groups this week, it is great to see how proud they are of their efforts in putting their best foot forward in their exams. It hasn't just been about exams though, with a busy programme of events running alongside, including a fantastic Year 6 Swimming Gala, where it was great to see some really close races and exceptional team spirit as the pupils took to the water representing their Houses. Swimming at the school has progressed a great deal since our partnership with Norwich Swans has been introduced and it is clear that there is an increasingly bright future ahead for our swimmers. On a related sporting front, whilst we have had some rain-related cricket cancellations to contend with, our girls are currently in bat against Norwich High School and our athletics teams are over at Gresham's, with another athletics event at UEA to look forward to on Monday – I wish all of our pupils the best of luck in representing the School in their sporting endeavours.

There will be lots to look forward to in the final week of this half term and I sincerely hope that all of our pupils enjoy a restful weekend in the meantime.

*Every Moment Matters*

## FRIENDLY REMINDERS

### SENIOR HOUSE CRICKET DATE CHANGES- GIRLS

Due to the U13 girls getting through to the quarter finals of the Cricket County Cup we have had to move the Senior House Cricket. New dates below;

- Mon 18th May Quarter Finals U13A Cricket County Cup v Langley Prep (A) 2.00pm start
- Monday 15<sup>th</sup> June Upper Prep House Girls' Cricket Heats 2.30pm start
- Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> June Upper Prep House Girls' Cricket Finals 2.30pm start

## MATCH REPORT

### COUNTY CUP CRICKET

Last Friday, the U9 boys travelled to face Norwich School in a block cricket fixture involving every Year 4 boy, alongside Ashwin S B from Year 3. Across the matches, the boys represented the school with enthusiasm, energy, and an excellent understanding of the game, demonstrating strong team chemistry throughout the afternoon. The U9A side produced an impressive performance to defeat Norwich School by 66 runs, finishing on 312 compared to Norwich's 246. Harry M and Charlie G were named Players of the Match following outstanding all-round contributions. Harry M was also nominated by the opposition for his excellent bowling display, while Charlie G was recognised for his relentless effort both in the field and with the bat. The team played positively and supported one another well throughout the game. Moving forward, the boys can continue to improve by showing greater patience at the crease and managing their enthusiasm when the ball is in play.

The U9B team were involved in a thrilling and closely contested encounter that went right down to the final over. Town Close posted a total of 280, with Norwich School narrowly chasing it down with 286 to secure victory by just six runs. Lorenzo O C was named Player of the Match after an excellent all-round performance. He and Theo W both batted superbly, striking numerous boundaries and keeping the scoreboard moving throughout the innings. Lorenzo O C and Teddy K-M also bowled consistently, although unfortunately too many wides and no balls proved costly in such a tight match.

# BULLETIN BOARD PRE PREP & PREP

The team should be commended for their enthusiasm and positivity throughout, constantly supporting and encouraging one another from start to finish. Well played to everyone involved.

The U9C team also enjoyed success, overcoming Norwich School by 20 runs after posting an impressive total of 310 to Norwich's 290. Ashwin S B was deservedly named Player of the Match after bowling economically and taking an excellent catch on the boundary at a crucial stage of the game when the result was still in the balance. The batting unit performed strongly, losing just one wicket to a run out, while Oliver G and Koa K struck the ball powerfully and ran brilliantly between the wickets to help set a challenging target. Hugo B and Leo N also contributed with some excellent bowling performances. It was an entertaining contest and both teams played in great spirit.

On Saturday the Boys' U11A team travelled to Orwell Park School to compete in a competitive six-a-side cricket tournament. The team faced a challenging group stage and began with a narrow defeat against Brentwood School. Town Close posted 45/4 thanks to a strong batting effort, but Brentwood edged the contest by reaching 46/3. Although the batting was encouraging, too many extras in the form of wides and no-balls, each worth four runs in the format, proved costly. The second match against Gresham's School ended in another narrow defeat as Town Close were bowled out for 15 in reply to 24. Despite excellent bowling and sharp fielding throughout the innings, a difficult spell with the bat, including several run outs, ultimately decided the match. The boys responded brilliantly, however, winning their final two group matches convincingly against Beeston Hall School and the hosts, Orwell Park, to secure a place in the Plate semi-final. A strong all-round display against Littlegarth School saw the boys progress to the final, where they met Framlingham College Prep School.

## DATES FOR THE DIARY

**Year 1 Concert**  
Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> May, 2.15pm in the Read Hall

**Oak Class Assembly**  
Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> May, 8.35am - 9.35am

**Spring into Summer Show**  
Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 10.00am in the Sports Hall

**Final Day of Half Term**  
Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May

**Year 7 Residential to France**  
w/c 1<sup>st</sup> June

**Year 6 Humanities Trip**  
From Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> June

**Year 8 Lake District Trip**  
From Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> June

**Year 3 Information Evening for parents in Year 2**  
Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> June, 6.00pm in the Read Hall

**Nursery Sports Day**  
Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> June, 9.00am on the Front Lawn

**Year 1 Sports Day**  
Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> June, 2.15pm on the Front Lawn

**Reception Sports Day**  
Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> June, 9.00am on the Front Lawn

**Year 6 Production**  
Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> & Friday 19<sup>th</sup> June, 6.00pm in Read Hall

**Year 6 French Breakfast Cafe**  
Friday 19<sup>th</sup> June, 8.15am on the Front Lawn

**Year 2 Sports Day**  
Friday 19<sup>th</sup> June, 2.15pm on the Front Lawn

**Bryan Read Summer Concert**  
Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> 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.*

In a closely fought final, TCH scored 45/3 but were narrowly beaten as Framlingham reached 46/2. Despite the disappointment of missing out on the trophy, the boys should be extremely proud of their performances, resilience, and teamwork throughout the tournament. The squad was: James B (Captain), Jonah T, Theo S, J Bunting, Henry A, William C, and Harry A.

## GIRLS CRICKET

Last Friday the U9 cricket teams enjoyed a good start to the season on a sunny afternoon at Norwich School, with honours shared across two closely contested matches. The A team, batting first, showed some understandable early nerves in their opening fixture, particularly in their running between the wickets, which slowed the scoring rate. As confidence grew, the team began to settle and take more opportunities, with Ola T finishing as top scorer. In the field, the bowlers made a strong start but struggled to find an early breakthrough. Two wickets in the second spell lifted the side's confidence, but a couple of costly fielding errors allowed the opposition to edge a tight contest by just nine runs. Despite the narrow defeat, it was an encouraging first performance with plenty of positives to build on. The B team enjoyed a deserved victory after a steady all-round display with both bat and ball. The team fielded well throughout, although there is still room to improve alertness in the field. Anna D impressed with an excellent bowling spell, while Florence H contributed some sharp running between the wickets and took a superb catch. Player of the Match for the A team was awarded to Ola T, while Everly M earned the opposition's Player of the Match award in the B team fixture. Congratulations to all involved on a fantastic afternoon of cricket.

On Saturday, the Orwell Park Sixes Tournament was played in glorious sunshine and provided a fantastic day of cricket for the girls, who once again represented Town Close superbly throughout the competition. One of the biggest challenges of the day was adapting to a different format of cricket. Moving away from the familiar "Pairs Cricket," where batters receive multiple chances but lose five runs for each wicket, the girls had to quickly learn the realities of a different format. That is when you are out, you are out, and some players may not even get the opportunity to bat. It was quite a hard lesson to learn, but the team embraced the challenge brilliantly and grew in confidence as the tournament progressed. Fortunately, with games consisting of just five overs per side, every player had the chance to contribute with the ball, and the standard of bowling across the team was outstanding. Across 20 overs in total, the girls conceded only two wides and two no balls. This level of discipline and accuracy was a real credit to the team. The fielding was once again sharp, energetic, and enthusiastic, with accurate returns to the wicket helping to keep pressure on the opposition throughout the day. Batting continues to be an area for development, but there were very encouraging signs of improvement as the tournament went on. The girls became increasingly brave and confident, beginning to swing fluently at the ball and finding the boundary on several occasions. Joanie S captained and encouraged her side brilliantly, while also leading from the front with excellent batting and bowling performances. Georgia S and Elizabeth C bowled absolutely superbly all day and were supported well by the consistently straight bowling of Emilia A and Nyla S. Behind the stumps, Shreya B continues to develop into a very promising wicket keeper. Overall, it was a truly wonderful day of cricket, with Town Close finishing an impressive 3rd overall. Most importantly, the girls displayed tremendous enthusiasm, teamwork, and determination throughout. They were an absolute joy to coach and should all be incredibly proud of their efforts.

This Tuesday saw another lovely afternoon of cricket for the Under 9A team at Langley Prep. What was especially pleasing was how well the girls listened to the advice from the previous match and applied it brilliantly in the field. It was wonderful to receive such positive comments from the opposition staff member and parents about how well the team performed. Unfortunately, our batting was not quite on point, largely due to some excellent bowling from Langley, who managed to take several wickets. The girls should not be disappointed with the result, as there were plenty of glimpses of great play throughout the match. Special mentions go to Elise M, who achieved impressive bowling figures of 7 for 1, and Molly B who contributed some valuable runs and took a great wicket, as did Eden A with a golden duck! As mentioned, we were a little slow with the bat at times, and this ultimately proved to be our downfall. Langley finished on 318, with Town closing on 232. Credit must also go to Langley's final batting pair, who added nearly 50 runs in the last four overs! It was an amazing performance by a very talented batswoman and helped swing the game decisively in their favour. Player of the Match was deservedly awarded to Grace D, who was outstanding in the field, taking a wicket and a superb catch. Well done to all the girls for their effort, teamwork and positive attitude throughout. The under 9B team scored 276 runs but were unfortunately beaten by just 10 runs, with Langley finishing on 286. The girls fielded and bowled with great enthusiasm throughout the afternoon. Unfortunately, we gave away too many wides and no balls through some inaccurate bowling, which proved costly in such a close match. However, there were many positives to take from the game, including some very keen running between the wickets and a steady batting performance from Freya C. Verity W was deservedly named Player of the Match after contributing well with both bat and ball and thoroughly enjoying her afternoon of cricket. There are still areas for us to sharpen up on, particularly with our batting, but the girls should be very proud of their effort and attitude. Most importantly, everyone thoroughly enjoyed the game and it was a lovely afternoon of cricket.



**FINNBARS  
FORCE**

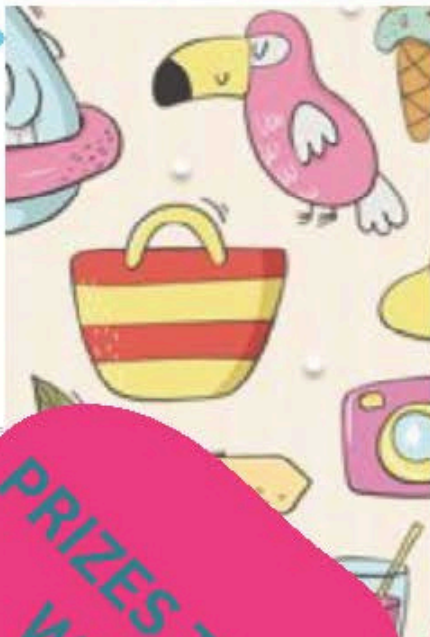
# SCHOOL COUNCIL SUMMER DOODLE COMPETITION

HAND YOUR ENTRIES IN TO YOUR  
SCHOOL COUNCIL REP

**CLOSING DATE - 20<sup>TH</sup> MAY**

**ENTRIES ON A4 PAPER**

**PLEASE PUT YOUR NAME AND FORM ON  
THE BACK OF YOUR DOODLE**



**PRIZES TO BE  
WON!**

**£1 PER ENTRY - ALL  
MONEY RAISED GOES TO  
FINNBAR'S FORCE**



# ECO APRIL 2026 HIGHLIGHTS



## ECO SUBMISSIONS (AWARDED BADGE & CERTIFICATE)

Thank you to **EVERYONE** who got in touch with their Eco achievements. Here is a selection of some of the amazing submissions we received:



**A FEW OF OUR LITTER PICKING CHAMPIONS!**



**LAST YEAR FOR ECO APRIL DECORATED A BIRD BOX..... THIS YEAR - EGGS AND CHICKS!**



**'NO MOW' AREA TO ENCOURAGE BIODIVERSITY**



**SCREENING HOMEMADE COMPOST & GROWING FOOD**



**MAKING OWN WOODCHIP FROM FALLEN BRANCHES**



**DECORATING A BIRD BOX**



**GROWING OWN FRUIT & VEG**



**GROWING CRESS**



**BUILT AND DECORATED A BAT BOX**



**MAKING PLANTERS FROM RECYCLING**

### CONGRATULATIONS

Isabella H \* Billy R \* Arthur S \* Siena S \* Lula L \* Henry McC \* Charlie McC \* Ani M \* Wilf J \* Keira H \* Reuben A \* Teresa d S \* Rosarinho d S \* Elina C \* Otilie B \* Albie B \* Willoughby W \* Ben S-J \* Monty A \* Erin M \* Finn M \* Evelyn B



# ECOAPRIL 2026 HIGHLIGHTS



## GROUP LITTER PICK DOWN LAKENHAM WAY

Around 30 of you joined us on a very sunny April day to litter pick and explore. The children found a LOT of litter in the bushes and had fun. They all received a badge and certificate. It was great to see what a difference we made as a team.



## WHITLINGHAM COUNTRY PARK GEOCACHE TREASURE HUNT

Many families enjoyed our first geocache treasure hunt. We were blessed again with gorgeous weather and some of you stayed hours exploring Whitlingham afterwards which was lovely to see.

Approx £300 raised.



We received some lovely feedback from both events.

100% of attendees said they would be interested in booking again - so watch this space!



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