

HEADMASTER'S WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

SUMMER TERM WEEK 7
25TH JUNE, 2026



Dear Parents

Welcome back everyone to the final half term of the academic year. I write to you today having just joined Year 8 for a well-deserved Kit-Kat, a catch up and the handing out of their Year 8 Leavers' Hoodies at the end of their busy week of Common Entrance exams. The completion of these exams is not only a significant achievement (something that we marked in assembly this morning), but it also represents a major milestone in their time at Town Close drawing to a close – though not before a great programme of activities and events in the final weeks. Next week, they look forward to their fun-filled residential trip to the Lake District and their exam results envelopes will await them on their return next Friday – I am sure that they will have results to be truly proud of, but equally they should be proud of the hard work that has led to this point.

Year 8 leave on their trip as Year 7 and Year 6 return today from their respective trips to France and Belgium, which they have enjoyed over the course of this week. Based at the Peace Village in Messines, the Year 6 children have spent the last few days exploring an array of significant historical sites, including the In Flanders Field Museum in Ypres, the Christmas Truce 1914 Memorials, Sanctuary Wood, the Bedford House Commonwealth War Graves Commission Cemetery, the Ploegsteert Memorial, Hooze Crater Museum and the Menin Gate Memorial. The group, also, enjoyed discovering the beautiful city of Bruges. Travelling on foot and by boat, they explored its picturesque canals and visited the Frietmuseum, the Medieval Church of Our Lady, and the Historium, where an immersive virtual reality experience brought medieval Bruges vividly to life. Alongside the educational visits, there was plenty of time for fun, including ten-pin bowling, games and activities, karaoke and, of course, sampling an impressive amount of Belgian chocolate, waffles and fries! It looks like they have had a truly memorable time, filled with learning, laughter and countless special moments that will stay with our pupils for years to come. A huge thank you to Mrs Boyt for organising and leading the trip, together with Mr Coulthart, Mr Leverage, Mr Billman, Miss Smith and Miss Wilcox, whose support helped make the experience so successful.

Our Year 7 pupils have enjoyed an action-packed week at Chateau de la Baudonniere fully immersing themselves in French language and culture while taking part in an exciting programme of outdoor activities. From raft building and aeroball to archery, climbing and the muddy assault course, pupils embraced every challenge with enthusiasm. With all activities led by French-speaking instructors, they had countless opportunities to strengthen their listening and speaking skills, while their daily journal entries allowed them to practise their written French each evening. A highlight of the trip was a memorable visit to the magnificent Mont Saint-Michel. Exploring its historic streets and ramparts, pupils climbed to the summit, taking in breath-taking views, keeping count of the many steps along the way whilst enjoying the odd break in the numerous shops and eateries on the way! A huge thank you to the dedicated Château staff for their warmth, energy and encouragement throughout the week. Their support helped create an unforgettable experience filled with learning, adventure and special memories. Special thanks, also, to our incredible team of Town Close staff: Mr Walker, Mrs Walker, Mrs Wilcox, and Mr Kassulke. We look forward to welcoming everyone home later today (fingers crossed for kind traffic on a Friday!).

Meanwhile back in NR2, it has been lovely to see our Reception children bringing their castle topic to life through a wonderful combination of dance, music, and art. The children explored castle life by moving like brave knights, graceful princesses, and even fierce dragons in their music and dance session, with Miss Skinner's expert accompaniment on her violin. They then created a piece of collaborative art using their creativity to design their own magnificent castles and royal inhabitants, taking inspiration from a slideshow of castles from around the world. This cross-curricular learning experience has encouraged imagination, creativity, confidence, and self-expression while helping the children deepen their understanding and enjoyment of their topic.

It was wonderful to welcome parents into our Year 1 Reading Café this week. Families joined their children for an engaging phonics lesson, where they discovered how the children learn and practise sounds, recognise tricky words, and develop their spelling skills. Our Year 1 children were fantastic ambassadors for their learning, confidently demonstrating their phonics knowledge and impressing their parents with their recall of tricky words. It was a joy to see their enthusiasm and growing confidence on display. The session ended with a special shared reading time, giving parents and children the opportunity to enjoy a book together and celebrate a love of reading. Thank you to all of our parents who gave their time to join us and support their child's phonics journey. We are so proud of our young readers and the progress they continue to make every day!

I hope that all of our pupils enjoy a wonderful weekend and I look forward to seeing them all next week.

Every Moment Matters

FRIENDLY REMINDERS

BRYAN READ SUMMER CONCERT

The following groups will be involved in the Bryan Read Summer Concert on Tuesday 23rd June at 6.00pm in the Read Hall. Full details to follow shortly: Prep Orchestra, Junior Wind Band, Rock Band, Flute Group, Junior String Ensemble, Harmonique and Rising Voices Choir.

UKMT CHALLENGE SUCCESS

Mr Lawry is delighted to share the results from the recent Junior UKMT Challenge, which a selected number of Year 7 & 8 pupils sat before half term. Town Close were awarded 8 Bronze, 5 Silver and 3 Gold certificates. Well done to Edward G and Ellie C who have qualified to take part in the Kangaroo paper due to their high mark gained.

MATCH REPORTS

With the weather disrupting much of the week's cricket programme, only two fixtures were completed against Beeston.

The U10A side faced a strong Beeston U11A team and battled hard despite difficult fielding conditions. Johnny C was named Player of the Match, while both he and Henry S claimed wickets in a spirited performance. Although Town Close fell 40 runs short, the boys showed resilience against older opposition and gained valuable experience.

BULLETIN BOARD PRE PREP & PREP

The U10B team were involved in a closely contested match, eventually losing by just 12 runs. Henry P earned Player of the Match honours, with strong contributions from Eric E, Jack D and Simon C helping Town Close take a narrow first-innings lead. Despite some costly run-outs and late fielding errors, the boys produced an encouraging display and showed great potential for the remainder of the season.

GIRLS CRICKET

Following a week of unpredictable weather, and with our Year 6 and Year 7 pupils away on various school trips, there were no official fixtures to report. The scheduled triangular cricket event on Wednesday at Beeston was also affected when NHS withdrew due to the threat of inclement weather, leaving only Beeston's U11A and U11B teams available to play against our U10 squad. Rather than cancelling the afternoon, the teams were mixed to create a series of friendly and highly productive matches. The girls embraced the opportunity to play alongside different teammates, developing new partnerships and learning from one another in a relaxed and enjoyable environment. It proved to be a valuable afternoon of cricket, with plenty of skill development, teamwork and sporting spirit on display.

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Year 8 Lake District Trip
From Sunday 7th June

Year 2 Reading Cafe
Tuesday 9th June, 8.00am in the Pre Prep Hall

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

Nursery Celebration Assembly
Tuesday 23rd June, 2.30pm in Read Hall

Bryan Read Summer Concert
Tuesday 23rd June, 6.00pm in the Read Hall

Norfolk Show - School Closed
Wednesday 24th June

Prep Sports Day
Friday 26th June

Art Exhibition
w/c 29th June in Read Hall

Year 4 Residential to Horstead
From 1st July

Year 2 Moving Up Celebration
Wednesday 1st July, 2.15pm in Read Hall

Year 8 Leavers' Dinner
Friday 3rd July, 6.30pm at The Assembly House

Prep Summer Fete
Monday 6th July, 2.00pm on the Front Lawn

Final day of Term for Pre Prep
Tuesday 7th July

Prize Day and Final Day of Term for Prep
Wednesday 8th July

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

PTA AGM FRIDAY 12TH JUNE

Everyone is invited to join the PTA AGM on Friday 12th June. Do come along to hear about the achievements from 25/26 and plans for 26/27.

The event starts at 8.30am at the Arlington at the George Hotel (opposite the Newmarket Road entrance).



EVERY FRIDAY ICE CREAMS AND ICE LOLLIES WILL BE AVAILABLE OUTSIDE OF THE PTA SHOP AT PICK UP FROM 3:30 UNTIL 4:30 PM

Year 6 Town Close presents...

William Shakespeare's

THE COMEDY OF ERRORS



**What happens in Ephesus, stays in Ephesus
...if anyone can work out who they are?**

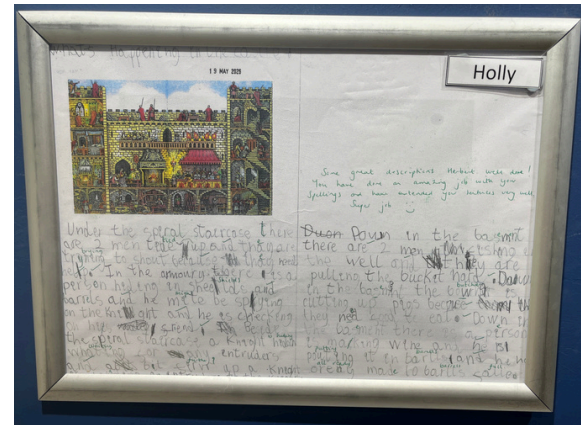
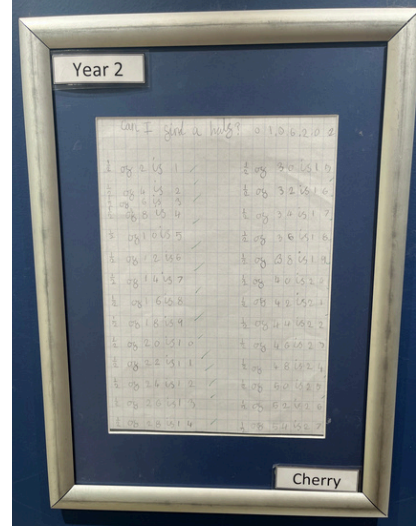
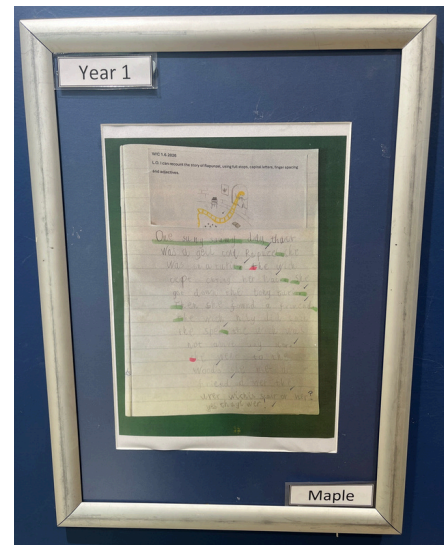
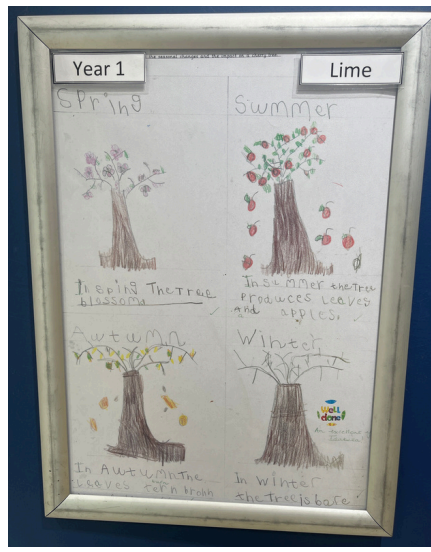
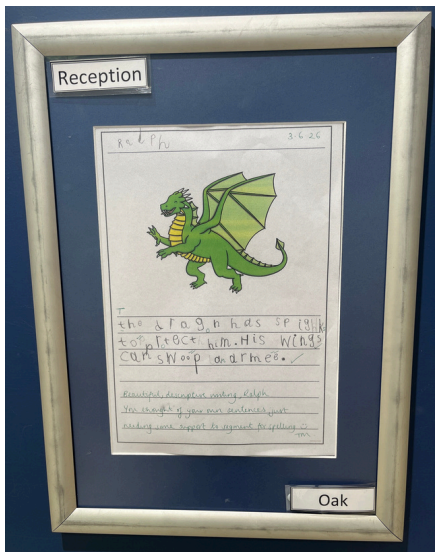
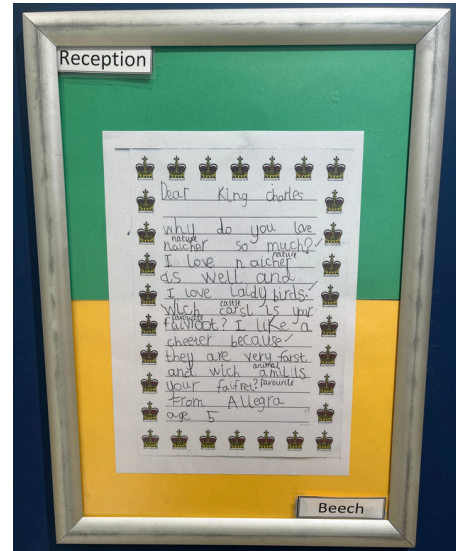
Read Hall - 6pm

Thursday 18th and Friday 19th June



Book now via the Parent Portal

PRE PREP WONDERWALL



- Little Acorns, Benjamin, Castle Collage
- Little Acorns, Magnus, Painting of Mummy
- Beech, Allegra, Letter to King Charles
- Oak, Ralph, Independent Dragon Writing
- Lime, Isabella, Seasonal Tree Drawings
- Maple, Felix, Recount of the story of Rapunzel
- Willow, Rafe & Penelope, Maths teamwork
- Cherry, Keira, Halving numbers
- Holly, Herbert, Independent Castle Description
- Silver Birch, Izzy, Amelia Earhart Show & Tell