



Chelmondiston CofE Primary School Newsletter

09.10.26



Parents in need of advice or support?

School Nursing Service

<https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/children-families-and-learning/childrens-health/school-nursing-service>

0345 607 8866

Help and/or advice with parenting issues:

Freephone Parents Advice

Centre helpline on 08088 010722

<https://www.parenting.org/>

If you have a **safeguarding** concern please talk to a member of our DSL team:

Kerry Palmer-Long, Lesley Etchingham or Tracy Whayman

For general information about our **Early Help Offer** and other **general information about safeguarding**, both in school and beyond, please follow the link to the safeguarding section of our school website.

<https://www.chelmondiston.suffolk.sch.uk/safeguarding/>

The Good Samaritans

Leo	Cygnets	For helping others make Lego models
Lucy	Melissa	For always thinking of others and also making people smile with homemade cards
Matilda	Edith May	For being quick to help others by offering a spare coat when a friend had forgotten one
Heath	Thistle	For supporting a friend when they were upset
Isobel T	Edme	For being caring and sensitive to others

Well done everyone!

Diary dates Monday 12th to Friday 23rd October 2026

Tuesday 13th - Harvest Festival at St. Andrew's Church - 10.45am

Wednesday 14th - Flu vaccinations (whole school)

Edith-May sharing assembly - 2.40-3.10pm

Thursday 15th - Yr4 swimming

Friday 16th - Thistle sharing assembly - 2.40-3.10pm

Monday 19th -	Yr5/6 beach clean
Tuesday 20th -	Cygnets sharing assembly - 2.40-3.10pm
Thursday 22nd -	Yr4 swimming
Friday 23rd -	Bright day - children wear their brightest clothes and learn about the importance of being seen when it is dark

Allergy Awareness

We are an allergy aware school. Please ensure that **NO** food containing nuts is brought into school - this includes snacks and packed lunches. Please check the list of ingredients on packaging as it isn't always obvious that a food contains nuts.

Payments to School

Please note that we can't accept cash payments. All payments must be made on our online site MCAS. If you have paid for a trip or swimming online, there is no need to return a permission slip, as payment also acts as your permission. Thank you.

News from St. Andrew's Church



St Andrew's Church is hosting a 'Star Festival' on Saturday December 19th from 10-4 pm and we would love our school community to be involved. If any families would like to make and display a star/stars in any form please speak to Miss Harvey **THE MORE STARS THE BETTER!**

They are also hosting a lunchtime recital and coffee morning. See both posters above with details.



Our PTA are continuing to collect Christmas jumpers – the donation box is outside reception.



Dear parents and carers,

As the sun has continued to shine, we have been making the most of the outdoors at Chelmo. Highlights this fortnight include a wonderful nature walk to the river and a trip to Woodbridge to learn about the Saxon longboat. As is usually the case, children were praised for being well-behaved and respectful as well as being enthusiastic and curious about their learning!

As you will be aware, we are an 'allergy aware' school. To comply with Benedict's Law, all staff have undergone special allergy training and we have signed up with Kitt Medical, a company who was on Dragon's Den, so now we have an easy to grab adrenalin kit in case of an emergency. Please see the message above regarding



foods that can't be brought to school.



Well done to all the children who were awarded a certificate in assembly by Mr Dale on Thursday. Children were chosen for showing hard work, improvement and our school values in his PE lessons this half term.

Our cycle of sharing assemblies begins next week. These start at 2:40pm and you are welcome to join us to find out about what your child has been learning in school.

In the last fortnight we have had a review by our Trust which involved lesson observations, book looks, staff and pupil voice interviews to monitor our progress with our school development target to continue to improve writing in all year groups. We were praised for having a strong and consistent

approach to teaching writing, specific teaching of vocabulary, excellent phonics teaching and for identifying and closing gaps in learning. A development point for us is to increase the numbers of pupils who attain 'Greater Depth' writing. We have also been visited by a Diocese adviser, Rachel Cutts, to guide us with our work on developing our spirituality. To us, this means ensuring children have a strong sense of:

SELF = who they are, their own identity, their self-awareness and resilience, having quiet reflection

OTHERS = their kindness, respect, empathy and sense of belonging and relationships with others

BEAUTY = their engagement with the natural world through science and creation

BEYOND = their ability to ask deep questions, explore what is the divine, their sense of connection to what is beyond ie things outside the material world

We have also had an Inclusion audit, led by the Trust Inclusion Lead, Claire Bourne. Again, we have much to celebrate - this is because we get to know our children well and make reasonable adjustments where needed, to ensure that children can thrive and be the best that they can be.

On Tuesday we have our Harvest Festival at St Andrew's Church, 10:45am - you are welcome to join us. We will be taking donations to support FIND - Families in Need in Ipswich. Please help us by sending your donations to school with your child on Monday or Tuesday.

FIND are keen to receive any of these items:

- Long grain rice
- Long-life whole milk
- Tinned vegetables, meat, fruit/desserts
- Coffee, Sugar
- Jam
- Soup
- Pet food (dog, cat, fish, rabbit/guinea pig)
- Fresh food (fruit, vegetables)

As always, thank you for your continued support. If you have any questions about our school, please contact your child's teacher via Tapestry or Dojo or email the school office. You can also catch me on the playground before or after school.

Kind regards,

Lesley Etchingham, Headteacher

Here are our amazing learning highlights from the last fortnight:

Cygnets

Cygnets class started the fortnight with a local walk to Pin Mill. On the way, they looked out for signs of autumn and collected special natural 'treasures' which they have been investigating back in the classroom. The children were excited to explore our local environment, using their senses as they walked. Feeling the crisp air, hearing the leaves crunch underfoot, picking up shiny conkers and spikey conker shells and even smelling the pigs in the fields even before they could see them!



The children continue to learn new sounds in phonics and have made a fantastic start to blending and segmenting, where they have been listening to the sounds in words such as 'mat' and 'sad' and using magnetic tiles to make the words.

During our circle time for PSHE the children have become experts in rainbow breathing and taking time to listen carefully to the Jigsaw chime. To start each session the children have time to relax, gather their thoughts and be mindful in 'calm me'. When asked how they feel after 'calm me' time, the children describe feeling happy, peaceful, relaxed and focused. This week's session then focused on kind and gentle hands.

In Music, Cygnets are exploring sound. They have been using fast, slow, loud and soft voices. They have made their own instruments and played to nursery rhymes, as well as playing percussion



instruments quickly and slowly to different songs.

Melissa -

Melissa class has had a busy fortnight, including a wonderful autumn walk to the river. The children have enjoyed becoming story writers and retelling the story of Beegu. The children completed a story map and acted out the story before writing their own version. They described feelings using character descriptions. In Maths, the children have embarked on adding numbers together. The children have explored number bonds to 10 and 20 and remembering that number bonds to 20 is adding the extra 10. In Geography, the children are exploring human and physical features and are able to identify on a map which features are human made by humans and which are physically made. In Art, the children went and collected special nature treasures and used their drawing techniques to replicate the item, looking at texture and detail. The children became a team in PSHE singing our T-together song, showing kindness, respect and inclusion. The children showed further teamwork in PE, working together and giving each other encouragement.



Edith-May

Edith-May has had a great week of outdoor learning opportunities including; exploring shadows in Science - noticing how they changed shape and direction as the sun moved throughout the day, and of course a wonderful History trip to see the replica Sutton Hoo ship at the Longshed in Woodbridge.



At the Longshed in Woodbridge, the children had the opportunity to experience history coming to life as they tried various activities that would have been involved in creating the original ship. Using replica saxon tools, they drilled, split wood and joined rivets, all under careful supervision!

Alongside the riverside walk, the children explored features of river and quay-side life such as houseboats, mud-flats and the wealth of nature to marvel at. The class were delighted to spot redshanks and egrets. On our return from the riverside walk, the children were shown a modern rowing boat and were able to compare the features of it with the Sutton Hoo ship, noting the streamlined shape and different types of materials.



Thistle

Wow! What a busy fortnight. The children have not stopped sharing their memories from their class trip on Tuesday.

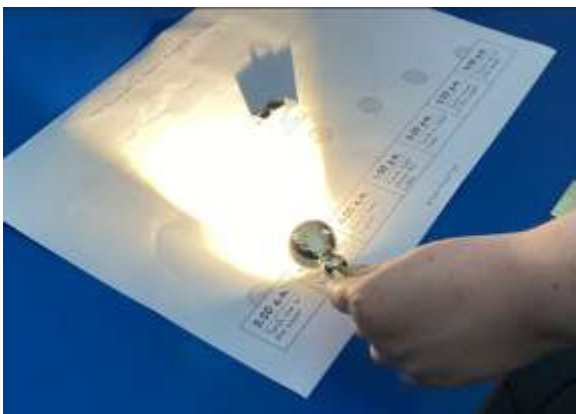


Thistle class visited the Longshed in Woodbridge and saw the phenomenal reconstruction of an Anglo-Saxon ship. The class practised rowing, chopped wood, drilled holes and made their own rivets. What a fantastic hands-on experience it was!



As writers, the children wrote a diary entry as Wilbur, based on our class text, *Charlotte's Web*. The class focused on including expanded noun phrases and pronouns. This week, the class wrote a recount of their school trip, using adverbials of time.

As mathematicians, the children have nearly completed their addition and subtraction unit. This involved adding and subtracting with and without exchanging and finding efficient strategies.



As scientists, the children investigated the size of shadows over the course of the day and illustrated their observations.



Edme

The children of Edme Class have had a very productive two weeks of learning. As writers they have written a balanced argument to explore whether or not Jim Jarvis (the lead protagonist in our class book, *Street Child* by Berlie Doherty) should try to escape from the workhouse. The children have included compelling reasons for both courses of action and used emotive language well to make these points.

As scientists the children have investigated the impact of exercise on heart rate. Doing exercises such as burpees, star jumps, lunges and the plank, the children explored how their heart rate changed after 1 minute of each exercise and noted other observable changes to their bodies that resulted from this exertion.



As artists the children have enjoyed looking closely at the work of Friedrich Hundertwasser, noticing and attempting to emulate his unique drawing style. Having made thumbnail sketches of sections of his work, the children have now developed and enlarged these images using oil pastels. I am sure you will agree that their final pieces are very striking indeed. Next week the children will add a further layer to their designs by drawing with acrylic pens onto acetate.

