



# Chelmondiston CofE Primary School Newsletter

17.01.25

### Parents in need of advice or support?

Text a school nurse using CHATHEALTH: 07507 333356

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

Joycie	Cygnets	For being kind and helping others
Ben	Melissa	For being honest and reflective
Finley	Edith May	For being a caring member of the class
Sophia	Thistle	For being a respectful and supportive learning partner
Isaac P	Edme	For being caring and sensitive to others

Well done everyone!

### Diary dates from Monday 20th to Friday 31st January 2025

Monday 20th - O2 Young Voices Concert trip Y4, 5 & 6

Thursday 23rd - Edme swimming session - 9-10am

Cygnets Forest School session - 1-3pm

Thursday 30th - Edme swimming session - 9-10am

Cygnets Forest School session - 1-3pm

## Future dates for your Diary up to the end of the Spring Term 2025

- Monday 3rd February - Children's Mental Health week
- Tuesday 4th - Yr6 photography day
- Thursday 6th - Edme swimming session - 9-10am  
Cygnets Forest School session - 1-3pm
- Monday 10th - Maths workshop for Yr1/2 (**revised date**) - 2.25-3.10pm
- Tuesday 11th - Safer Internet Day workshop for Yr5 and Yr6 parents and children
- Thursday 13th - Edme swimming session - 9-10am  
Cygnets Forest School session - 1-3pm

### **Monday 17th - Friday 21st February - HALF TERM**

- Tuesday 25th - Edme sharing assembly - 2.40-3.10pm
- Wednesday 26th - Melissa sharing assembly - 2.40-3.10pm
- Thursday 27th - Last Edme swimming session - 9-10am  
Last Cygnets Forest School session - 1-3pm
- Monday 3rd March - Melissa Forest School to start this week - day TBC
- Wednesday 5th - Thistle sharing assembly - 2.40-3.10pm
- Thursday 6th - First Melissa swimming session - 9-10am  
Cygnets sharing assembly - 2.40-3.10pm
- Friday 7th - World Book Day - details to follow  
Read with your child session - 2.45-3.10pm
- Monday 10th - YR5/6 Bikeability - details to follow
- Tuesday 11th - YR5/6 Bikeability
- Wednesday 12th - YR5 Bikeability  
Edith-May sharing assembly - 2.40-3.10pm
- Thursday 13th - YR5 Bikeability

	Melissa swimming - 9-10am
Monday 17th -	YR5 Bikeability
Tuesday 18th -	YR5 Bikeability
	Coffee Morning (run by Y6) 10:30-11:30am
Thursday 20th -	Melissa swimming session - 9-10am
Friday 21st -	PSHE parent/child workshop for Edith-May parents - 2.20-3.10pm
Thursday 27th -	Melissa swimming session - 9-10am
Friday 28th -	Learning Books sharing session with parents - 2.45-3.10pm
Monday 31st -	Parent consultations - details to follow
Wednesday 2nd April -	Parent consultations - details to follow
Thursday 3rd -	NO Melissa swimming
Friday 4th -	Last day of spring term

Please note that these dates are all on our website calendar too.

### **Premier Education Performing Arts Club**

Please note, as per an email sent earlier in the week, Premier Education are running a Performing Arts club in school and not a Dance Club as advertised. The KS1 Performing Arts club will be held on a Monday morning from 7.45-8.45 and KS2 will be at the same time on a Friday morning. Please see the link below to book:

#### **[Chelmondiston CofE VC Primary School – Premier Education](#)**

Premier Education had an overwhelmingly positive response from our parents at the end of last term when they asked if families would be interested in more provision for Performing Arts clubs at school. We hope that this exciting opportunity will be a popular one.

### **Message from the PTA**

We have recently signed up to Stikins, a clothing labelling company. Stikins are an online facility where multipurpose school name labels can be purchased which are extremely sticky and durable so they can be used for all school items. They stay on through washing and drying, and the print doesn't fade - no more ironing!

Please visit their website for further information, and **for each purchase made the PTA will earn funds for the school** - you just need to enter the fundraising code of **4132**.

<https://www.stikins.co.uk/>

*What a wonderful way to make sure your child's uniform doesn't get mixed up or lost **and** raise money for the school PTA at the same time!*

Dear parents and carers,

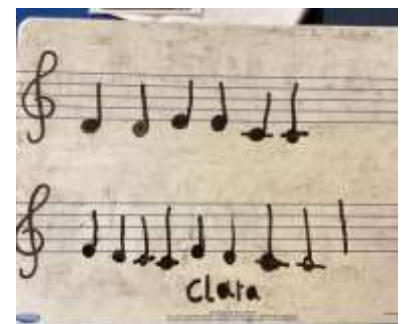
We've had a great start back and we've been impressed by our pupils' positive attitude to learning and a general team spirit. Spring House enjoyed bringing in their teddies on Friday to celebrate being House winners last term.



Classes have begun our new PSHE unit - Dreams and Goals. I have heard talk of New Year's resolutions and aspirations for the future when I visit classes. Cygnets thoroughly enjoyed their first Forest School session this week and Edme class began their swimming lessons.



We were impressed with the tune (see picture) written by two of our Y1 pupils who are having music lessons with Burgess Music and we look forward to their concert later in the term. Watch this space!



Well done to our School Council, who led our assembly today, explaining different ways that we can look after our school and be respectful to each other. They also made important information posters for the school.



This week, teachers have met with me to share and discuss the progress of all pupils in the school (Pupil Progress Meetings) and I am pleased to report that these all went well. Our Trust CEO, Tracey Caffull, visited us on Wednesday afternoon and praised pupils for the positive learning attitudes and behaviour that she saw in each class.

For information about what each class is learning this term, please see our class Topic Overviews on our website. <https://www.chelmondiston.suffolk.sch.uk/topic-overviews/> We hope that you are able to join us for our parent child workshops this term - please see the dates and times above.

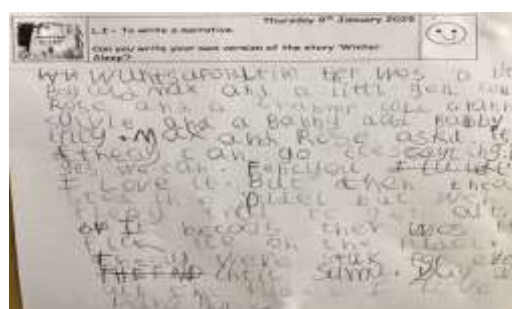
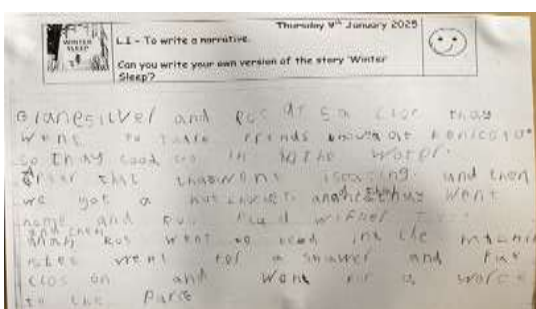
As always, thank you for your continued support.

Lesley Etchingam, Headteacher

**Here are our amazing learning highlights from the last fortnight:**

### Cygnets

Cygnet class have started the year with a fantastic attitude towards their learning and have had a fun and productive first two weeks of 2025! In class we have started a new story called 'Winter Sleep' and have already been learning about the seasons and hibernation. The children have enjoyed hearing how Granny Sylvie's garden changes and comparing the landscape from the summer to the winter. To begin this unit of work year 1 children had a go at writing their own story called winter sleep.



Our story has led to lots of interesting discussions about what it

is like in woodlands at different times of the year, where animals live and why they hibernate.

The children took their curiosity and sense of adventure to forest school this week. Everyone was excited for it to be our turn, and the children enjoyed the opportunities to explore, play games, create their own log slice name necklaces, build dens and even climb trees. There was a challenge to create art with what can be found on the forest floor. All the adults were very impressed with how sensible and engaged the children were for the afternoon and are very much looking forward to the next session.



As mathematicians the children in Reception have been learning more about numbers 5 to 10. This week the children were challenged to match pictorial representations with number cards. There have also been challenges to make numbers with numicon and cubes, and finding different ways to make a number. We have used the sentence stems '6 is made of \_ and \_ . \_ and \_ makes 6.' In Year 1 the children have deepened their understanding of numbers to 20. Using tens frames, rekenreks, number cards and bead strings the children have made numbers and then split them into tens and ones.



In Reception, junk modelling has been very popular! Using their imagination to create something and skills of combining materials the children came up with boats, castles, trains and treasure chests. It has been great to see the children's engagement and pride in their creations, especially hearing on Tapestry that projects started at school have been continued at home.



As avid technicians, in computing year 1 have been working on their typing skills. To begin, the children studied the keyboard. Realising that all the letters appear in CAPITALS! The children then learnt about when to position hands and what fingers should type each key. Playing a typing game to practice and get quicker with these skills. The whole class are eager to continue to improve and are keen to type more.



## Melissa

Melissa class has made a great start to the new year and have come back refreshed and eager to learn! In Maths, pupils have been subtracting two digit numbers across 10, such as  $85 - 69 = 16$ , where you cannot do 5 minus 9, so you have to "exchange" a 10 for ten ones. Using practical resources really helps to embed the conceptual understanding of this vital aspect of Maths learning.



Next week the class starts multiplication and today Melissa were reintroduced to Numbots and TT Rockstars. These engaging games are fantastic for learning times tables and division facts in a really fun way. Please encourage your child to get involved and join those that are already making great use of this opportunity.

### **Melissa class give TTRockstars and Numbots the thumbs up!**

In English, the children have been writing about a winter scene. Here is an example by one of our writers, Ben:

*"One magical morning I went for a snowy wilderness run. I heard a mysterious noise. I got closer and closer until....there was a fluffy dog and we had a big snowball fight together. We played for a very long time and ate every sweet. They were delightful. I asked him if he wanted to be my dog and he said yes. We went home and we drank tasty hot chocolate"*



In Art, the children have been exploring the different ways that they can mark make, inspired by words or music. Can you tell which words inspired which marks?

In Music, the current topic investigates emulating animal sounds with our voices and with instruments. The children have used percussion instruments to recreate e.g. the sound of an elephant trumpeting or a herd of zebras running. They have thought about how they can change the dynamics, pitch and tempo to great effect.



In History, the class has just started their learning about a significant individual: Mary Anning. Her discoveries completely changed and challenged views on how old our planet actually is. You might enjoy spending some time researching her with your child.

## Edith-May

In English, Edith May have begun the year by writing a narrative. The class watched an animated video of a man attempting to create a robot - without success. As there is no speech in the video, the class considered the possible thoughts and feelings of the characters involved and how these could be portrayed in a narrative. Edith May have identified the different sections to the video (opening, build-up, problem and resolution) and planned these, incorporating adventurous vocabulary, fronted adverbials and a range of sentence structures. Through lots of collaboration and partner talk, the class then drafted their narrative, focusing on the skill 'showing and not telling'. Edith May will edit their story next week before publishing the final version.

As Mathematicians, Edith May finished their addition and subtraction unit and began their multiplication and division learning. This week, the class used concrete resources to support their understanding of arrays and sharing and grouping before moving on to the pictorial element of the learning. Finally, Edith May applied their knowledge through abstract representations and created their own word problems. Their times table and division knowledge has hugely enhanced and influenced their learning of this unit and will continue to do so throughout. Not only are the class exploring their fluency skills, but Edith May are also linking their learning and using the inverse to solve calculations.



As Scientists, Edith May class has continued their exploration of rocks through a series of final experiments. Over the unit, the class has investigated different rock types and identified the igneous, sedimentary and metamorphic rocks, as well as grouping them based on their appearance. Recently, Edith May worked cooperatively to investigate and observe the properties of different rocks by testing how hard the rock is, if it floats and if it reacts to acid. The class discussed how to keep the test controlled and fair and decided on how the equipment would be used. In groups, Edith May used their observational and recording skills to discover the result before summarising in a conclusion.



In R.E., Edith May have been exploring the religion Islam and the Prophet Muhammad. This began by discussing the terms responsibility and messenger and whether there are occasions one is given responsibility without being asked. The class linked this with the Royal Family and how the King has taken on the responsibility of being our monarch. After, Edith May identified the characteristics one should have to be a suitable messenger and then analysed Muhammad's by exploring texts he features in. Edith May found that Muhammad was a kind, caring and fair person who cared for people and animals and remained fair whilst making decisions.

Lastly, Edith May put their imagination and skills to the test by creating their own castles. After exploring castle features and drawing up their own plans, the class applied their mathematical skills to create nets and shapes to use to ensure their castle is structurally sound. Finally, Edith May used their artistic skills to decorate their castle.

## Thistle

Have you ever dreamed of soaring through space, embarking on an interstellar adventure? This is the opportunity that Liam has been waiting for all his life. Unfortunately, the secret mission to the outer edge of the solar system has gone wrong. Alongside four other children, Liam is lost in the depths of space. This situation is one that has immersed Thistle class in their new topic book Cosmic by Frank Cottrell-Boyce. A focus on coordinating conjunctions has been made to create compound sentences.



This has enhanced the class' writing by allowing their thoughts to be written clearly. A further focus has been around identifying and using the past, present and future tenses. Through their writing, the class distinguished between what has happened, what is happening and what will happen.

In Maths, Thistle class has been confidently tackling long multiplication problems. Using multiplication tables knowledge, they explored the steps required to solve increasingly challenging problems. They are also identifying the commutative property of multiplication, discovering that the order in which





As Mathematicians, the children have sunk their teeth into some of the trickier parts of Year 6 fractions learning. They have learned how to order and compare fractions by converting to find a common denominator and a common numerator - a skill which they have now applied to adding and subtracting fractions. They have learned how to be methodical in finding the lowest common multiple and how to use this to find the lowest common denominator. Armed with this skill, they have been able to add and subtract a range of fractions, including mixed numbers.

Edme Class began the year with a review of the basic sentence structures used when writing in English. They have learned how to identify the subject, verb and object in a simple sentence and reviewed the difference between coordinating and subordinating conjunctions to better understand how they are used to join clauses in compound and complex sentences. As writers, Edme Class will now put this knowledge to good use as they prepare to write a letter to advise Jemmy Button, who has been invited to leave his island to travel to England. The children have worked collaboratively to come up with reasons for and against leaving his family to start a new life.

As Scientists, the children took part in 'The Battle of the Beaks' as they worked scientifically to find out which beak type would be best suited to feed on a range of different 'food stuffs'. They collected data, which they will now analyse in order to draw out and write a conclusion. The children will now go on to see how variation in species (as seen with the beaks in this week's investigation) can give rise to evolution through natural selection.



As Musicians, the children have put their ukuleles to good use this week too as they practised playing the chords of C, F and Dm while performing 'Hot Cross Buns', 'The Drunken Sailor' and 'A Sailor Went to Sea'. It is a real pleasure to see the sense of achievement in the children as they become more accomplished musicians.

