



Chelmondiston CofE Primary School Newsletter

07.03.25

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

Matilda	Cygnets	For supporting others and offering to help when she can see someone needs it
Hali	Melissa	For showing courage in our shared assembly
Grace	Edith May	For encouraging others in and outside of the class
Pippa	Thistle	For always having a caring and supportive attitude towards her friends
Ffion	Edme	For bringing sunshine and lifting spirits

Well done everyone!

Diary dates from Monday 10th March to Friday 21st March 2025

- Mon. 10th Bikeability - Group 1
- Tue. 11th Bikeability - Group 1
- Wed. 12th Bikeability - Group 2
- Edith-May sharing assembly - 2.40-3.10pm
- Thu. 13th Bikeability - Group 2
- Melissa Swimming session - 9-10am

Tue. 18th Coffee morning - 10.30-11.30am
Thu. 20th Melissa swimming session - 9-10am
Fri. 21st PSHE workshop for Yr3/4 parents - 2.20-3.10pm

Dear parents and carers,

Not only has the sun shone brightly for us all - raising our spirits, our pupils have also radiated positivity in so many ways that I would love to share and celebrate with you in our newsletter.



Thank you to parents who joined us last Monday for our Reception Maths workshop, and our Edme and Melissa sharing assemblies - all of which were well-supported and fantastic! KS1 enjoyed an amazing trip to Foxburrow Farm on Tuesday - all of the children made the most of the exciting experience and came back full of enthusiasm and keen to tell me all about the day.

We were delighted to welcome so many families to our Twilight Tales last night. Well done to the Year 6 Book Nook Monitors for entertaining both children and parents/grandparents with their tales and for all the staff who helped out reading and serving hot chocolate and biscuits. We have received several messages of gratitude from families who enjoyed the evening - thank you!

Today everyone has enjoyed being in character costume as we celebrated the magic of story-telling for our own World Book Day. Embracing our theme of villains and heroes, children paraded their

costumes, read to each other and enjoyed welcoming parents, carers and grandparents to share a story at the end of the day.



Watch out for our Scholastic book fair which will be arriving later in the term and offers a great opportunity for the school to raise funds to expand our library as well as for children to spend their pocket money on new reading material. Details to follow shortly.

Looking ahead to the next fortnight, we have Edith May's sharing assembly on Wednesday and the following Tuesday we are holding one of our popular coffee mornings. This is where we will be asking for donations of cakes which our Y6 pupils will be serving, along with teas and coffees, to raise money for charity and it is also an opportunity for families to chat and enjoy a mini-performance of songs sung by the whole school. This is on Tuesday 18th March, 10:30 - 11:30am.

If you have any questions about our school, please do not hesitate to contact your child's class teacher or catch me on the playground before or after school.

Thank you for your continued support. Kind regards,

Lesley Etchingam, Headteacher

Here are our amazing learning highlights from the last fortnight:

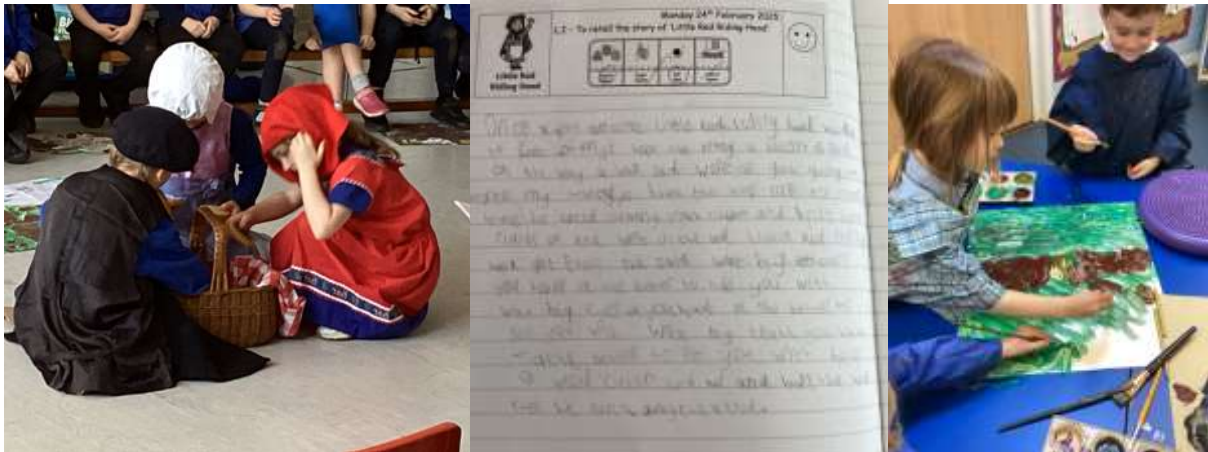
Cygnets

This has been an amazing week for Cygnet class! Not only have they bravely and sensibly taken on their class assembly but they have also shown how responsible and well-behaved they can be on our school trip to Foxburrow. The children were praised by the session leaders and other grown ups for how well they listened, participated and what great questions they asked during the trip.

The highlights from the day included exploring leaves and trees in the wonderful woodland, learning about seeds and plants, pollination and invertebrates. One of the children's favourite new words they learnt is 'exoskeleton'. The children enjoyed the chance to identify flowers in the garden and leaves and trees in the forest area. The games and interactive learning experiences really made the day special.



In the class assembly, all the children had a chance to shine - everyone joined in to showcase their learning. As Cygnet's class story has been 'Little Red Riding Hood' the children acted out the story for our audience, showed the amazing artwork they have created and impressed with their writing of the story. The children were also keen to share their DT work, music and learning from PSHE. The children performed with confidence and pride.



As mathematicians the children in Year 1 have been counting in 10's. The children showed off this skill in their class assembly and have enjoyed learning about number patterns. To start this learning Miss Brown 'accidentally' dropped the whole tub of counters onto the carpet. The children's job was to count and return the counters. As this was such a big job the children were asked to put the counters into groups of 10, to replicate a tens frame. This made it a lot easier to count them all up! Before the children set about counting they were asked to estimate the number of counters there might be. Guesses ranged from 100, 500 to more than a thousand and one child estimating one million counters! Once the children had organised in 10s and reported how many they had collected, Miss Brown added the total and revealed that we actually had 660 counters in our jar.



Melissa

What wonderful spring weather we have had this week, and perfectly timed for our trip to Foxburrow Nature Reserve where the children were able to work scientifically; identifying species of trees, classifying invertebrates and learning about pollination. Melissa class enjoyed a really full day of outdoor learning and it was wonderful to hear them apply their classroom-based learning on habitats, food chains and animal groups to the ecologically rich environment of Foxburrow. To add to the excitement further, a large frog was found in a log pile and provided us with an impromptu (and rather lively) lesson on amphibians.

Foxburrow Farm is a nature reserve on the outskirts of Woodbridge and is open to the public. The children had so much fun searching for minibeasts, you might like to revisit later in the year to see even more wildlife out and about, as the weather gets warmer still.

The children were complimented on their behaviour and politeness by our hosts at Suffolk Wildlife Trust and we would also like to thank the parents and friends of the school who accompanied us on the day and made this enriched learning experience possible.





At school, the children excitedly delivered their Sharing Assembly and it was very noticeable how much they have all grown in confidence in speaking aloud and presenting. They can be very proud of themselves.

In Maths, the children have now started their topic on money. With our increasing move to a cashless society, children (and adults) do not tend to handle coins as much as they might have done in the past or have the opportunity to work out change etc. We would like to thank those parents who, following our maths workshop, have given their child some pre-practice with money - it really has made a difference and your children have told us about how much they have enjoyed learning about coins.

The long anticipated swimming lessons started this week, the children have been telling Mrs Grist how many sleeps there were before swimming! Miss Mills reported that the children all did very well and were even speedy at getting changed afterwards. Perhaps we will have more able swimmers in time for the summer holidays.

A recent inspection of our flower beds showed that the autumn bulbs that KS1 planted will soon be flowering. We already have a few daffodils out, but look out for tulips too in the coming weeks.



Fabulous costumes for a fabulous class. Happy World Book Day everyone!

Edith-May

In English, there has been a huge buzz as the class are thoroughly enjoying our new unit and text, 'The Boy At The Back Of The Class'. Edith May began their learning by exploring the front cover and blurb, making predictions and inferences about the plot and characters. As the class read more of the book, the children began to ask a variety of questions, such as:

- What is a refugee?*
- Who is Ahmet?*
- Where is he from?*



Because the children wanted to educate themselves on the global topic of refugees, they conducted some research and note-taking. Using this new-found knowledge, the class wrote non-chronological reports which were then shared with Edme Class. During the process of writing their notes into a report, the class had to ensure that they used formal language, had a variety of facts, compound and complex sentences as well as technical vocabulary.

Moreover, as the class learned more about refugees and some of the challenges they may face, they decided to take some action by writing a letter to the Prime Minister. Edith May have explored persuasive writing techniques, such as exaggeration, emotive language,

rhetorical questions and repetition. Firstly, the class discussed what conditions they would like the Prime Minister to change and improve and then spoke about suggestions to put forward. The class then worked with learning partners to plan and write their letter. We look forward to the Prime Minister's reply.



"I am writing to you to urge you to help refugees!" - Theo and Emil

"I am writing to you to urge you to consider providing a better life for suffering refugees!" - Charlotte and Ezra

"As they are forced to evacuate their country and leave their loving pets, they are faced with petrifying challenges" - Finley and Matilda

As mathematicians, the class has concluded their area unit which focused on using multiplication to solve the area of a shape. Following on from this, Edith May returned to their multiplication and division learning by exploring factors of various numbers. They began by looking at factor bugs to support their understanding. The class discussed how to calculate the number of factors and to be careful not to count the same number twice. Building on this, the class explored multiplying by 10 and 100 which is a vital skill to master as this will support them in a multitude of calculations. Finally, Edith May is continuing to improve their times tables recall in preparation for the Year 4 MTC in the summer term and for future mathematical concepts, such as fractions, which they will explore in the coming weeks.

As Scientists, Edith May continued learning about animals and humans and the similarities and differences between them. This involved comparing human and animal skeletons, human diets as well as animal diets. Edith May explored what a healthy, balanced diet contains, where humans obtain their nutrition, and the benefits and functions of each food group. The class then discussed if this is the same for animals and they revisited some terminology

learnt in Year 2: herbivore, omnivore and carnivore. Edith May has started their new science unit, Forces and Magnets. Last lesson focused on the push and pull forces and the children investigated this using their stationery. They observed and recorded what happened when the object moved across the table and decided if it was a push or pull force. To explore this concept further, Edith May used a playdough and noticed how the playdough moved when a push or pull force was applied.



In PSHE, Edith May started the term with their new unit, Healthy Me. This focuses on the importance of a healthy body and mind and explores how one can achieve this. The class began by completing exercise games which supported the class to observe the effects on our heart and body. Afterwards, the class (myself included), created a fitness challenge that they need to practise. They chose something they can do already but want to improve in and then set themselves a goal. I look forward to hearing how their challenges are going.

To conclude, it was delightful to see the children celebrating World Book Day and hearing about their heroes and villains. The buzz and excitement from the class when they are discussing their favourite books and characters is incredible. Thank you to those who came to our 'Read With Your Child', and to those who joined our Twilight Tales.

Thistle



After an incredibly successful sharing assembly, there are still many learning highlights that remain unshared. As writers, the class has been designing and creating their own informative leaflets for an imaginary theme park - Infinity Park - based on our class novel *Cosmic*. Using their creativity and persuasive language skills, they described thrilling rides, exciting attractions and delicious food options to entice visitors. Additionally, they considered the layout and design of their leaflets, ensuring they were eye-catching and exciting to read.

In Maths, pupils have been working on converting fractions into decimals and ordering them correctly. They demonstrated fantastic number skills and logical thinking as they practised comparing and sequencing decimals. The song they shared during the assembly has helped them identify that the decimal point separates the whole number from the fraction. To build on their learning, the class engaged in fun problem-solving activities where they applied their knowledge in real-world contexts, such as working out prices and measurements in everyday scenarios.



As part of our History and Art lessons, the class created their own clay models of the famous Benin Bronzes. After carefully shaping their designs, they painted them to reflect the beautiful artwork of the Benin Kingdom. It was a fantastic hands-on way to learn about this rich historical heritage! Students also explored the cultural significance of the Benin Bronzes, discussing how they represent the artistry and traditions of the Benin people. They reflected on their original decisions on whether the British Museum should keep or repatriate the Bronzes with many members of the class changing their original decision.



In RE, the class has been answering the question: What is important to the Sikh religion? Students learned about the key beliefs, traditions and values of Sikhism, such as equality, community service and the importance of the *Guru Granth Sahib*. Their thoughtful discussions showed great respect and understanding of different cultures and faiths. To deepen their learning, students explored the role of the *Gurdwara* in Sikh communities and discussed the meaning behind the Five Ks.

As scientists, the class investigated the properties of materials and how solids, liquids and gases react. They conducted an experiment to find out if raisins would float in water and lemonade! They made predictions before carefully observing what happened when the raisins were placed in the liquids. This exciting investigation helped them understand buoyancy and the effect of carbon dioxide bubbles on objects in a liquid. Students recorded their observations, discussed their findings in groups and reflected on the science behind the experiment. They considered how gases interact with liquids and how different substances can change the behaviour of objects in a solution.



Edme

If you were lucky enough to join us for the Edme Class Sharing Assembly, I am sure you will agree that it is one of the highlights of this fortnight's learning. The children presented their work with pride and with confidence, showing professionalism throughout. They thoroughly enjoyed the experience and we hope that you did too.

As Scientists, the children have begun a new unit of learning about light. They have explored the properties of a range of materials, noting that opaque objects prevent light from passing through them and therefore cast a clear, dark shadow. While translucent and transparent objects have weaker shadows, if they cast a shadow at all. Using makeshift 'dark rooms' the children used torches to investigate the relationship between the properties of a material and the shadows it casts. They also explored moving the position of the light source to see what impact it would have on the size, shape and quality of the shadow.



As Geographers, the children have revisited prior knowledge about river processes, before being introduced to their new unit on coastal erosion. The children have looked at a number of photographs of the Suffolk coastline and learned the geographical terms used to describe the physical features commonly found there. They have also used atlases to explore maps of the UK and learned that our coastline measures more than 7700 miles.

Meanwhile, in Mathematics lessons, the children have moved on to learning about place value in decimal numbers. They have also learned how to calculate with decimals by paying particular attention to aligning the digits in the correct column. Their next step will be to multiply and divide by decimal numbers and apply these skills to problem solving in real contexts.

Finally, as readers, the children have celebrated their love of books and characters through our World Book Day celebrations. Last night, at our annual Twilight Tales event, six of our Book Nook Monitors came to school, donning PJs and carrying teddies, to share some well-loved picture books to the children of KS1. These confident Year 6 readers, kept their audience rapt as they read aloud from their chosen books. The children of KS1 (and their parents) thoroughly enjoyed this experience and were delighted to have the chance to celebrate reading in this way.



Today, the children have wowed us all with their World Book Day costumes. What a creative bunch of children we have in Edme Class!



