



Chelmondiston CofE Primary School Newsletter

21.03.25

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 Etchingam 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

Dagny	Cygnets	For showing kindness to others, especially at playtimes
Heath	Melissa	For helping other children during a computing lesson
Scarlett W	Edith May	For being supportive of her peers
Ava	Thistle	For being courageous in her learning by attempting challenging problems
Jude	Edme	For being a supportive, caring and kind learning partner

Well done everyone!

Diary dates from Monday 24th March to Friday 4th April

- Tue. 25th Music concert - 2.30-3.10pm
- Thu. 27th Melissa swimming session -9-10am
- Fri. 28th PTA civvies day - pay £1 to wear your civvies
- Learning logs sharing session with parents - 2.45-3.10pm
- PTA Discos - KS1 - 5-6pm
- KS2 - 6.15-7.45pm

Mon. 31st Online parent consultations - 3.45-6.30pm

Wed. 2nd Apr. Cross Country (those involved will have received a letter)

 Face to face parent consultations - 4-6.30pm

Thu. 3rd NO Melissa swimming

Fri. 4th Last day of spring term

 Easter church service - 10.30-11.30am - please join us

Mon 7th - Mon. 21st - Easter holiday

Tue. 22nd Children return to school

Fri 25th Gardening Working Party 1:30 - 3pm - please join us!

Dinner Money

If you have an outstanding dinner money balance, please ensure that this is cleared and please note that dinner money must be paid in advance. Thank you.

Nut Free

Please remember that we are a NUT FREE school. This includes any item of food that has nuts within its ingredients, so please check labels too. Thank you

Bag2School

Thank you to those who filled a 'Bag2School'. They collected 125kg from us!

Performing Arts Club on Friday mornings at 7:45am run by Ellie from Premier Education

Everyone is welcome to our Performing Arts Club, no matter your ability level or experience! At our club, you will learn lots of skills including movement to music, drama, singing, different dance skills and styles - the opportunities for fun are endless! These sessions are fully inclusive and all children are guaranteed to have fun, gain confidence and make new friends!

Please see the link below to find out more and book

<https://schools.premier-education.com/extra-curricular>

Dear parents and carers,

As always, we have had a fun and productive fortnight. An absolute highlight has been the arrival of our eggs, which are finally hatching! We are looking forward to being able to look after the chicks and hold them next week. For updates, please look at our newsfeed on the bottom of the homepage: <https://www.chelmondiston.suffolk.sch.uk/>



This fortnight has seen further development in our EYFS garden and we will be having a **working party on Friday 25th April (1:30-3pm)** and we welcome all parents and grandparents to join us to help plant our raised beds, paint new chalkboard creatures and other practical tasks. These are fun and friendly afternoons and make a real difference to help us promote outdoor learning with our children.

Well done to Y5 for completing the 2 day Bikeability courses. Children were told how to check their bikes, how to signal, where to place themselves on the road when cycling and to be aware of other road users at all times. The instructors were impressed by the behaviour and positive attitude of our pupils.

In assembly this week, Mrs Grist launched our Easter Holiday Art competition - Tree of Dreams. Please see the attachment for more details.

Thank you to all those who donated cakes and came to our coffee morning on Tuesday and contributed to our collection for FIND. We raised a fantastic £201.30! Year 6 served refreshments brilliantly and we all enjoyed the wonderful singing of the Young Voices choir and the two hymns sung by the whole school.



Thank you also to parents and grandparents who joined us for Edith May's sharing assembly and PSHE workshop - the class should be proud of their learning and progress they are making!

I have been really impressed by how active our PTA has been to help raise important funds for our children. Plans are already underway for our summer fair as well as other activities which all help - including: clothing collections, a civvies day next Friday, our wonderful discos and clothing labels. Please look at the PTA notice board outside the KS2 door if you would like to find out how to get involved.

Our Scholastic book fair got off to a fantastic start on Wednesday after school - the last opportunity to purchase books is on Tuesday after school in the hall or on line. Payments are made by phone and we benefit from commission from the sales. We are already starting to choose the books we will be able to buy for our library! Here is the link if you would like to start browsing or buy books online:

<https://bookfairs.scholastic.co.uk/pay>

Next week we look forward to our music concert on Tuesday afternoon (2:30pm) where pupils who have instrument lessons with Burgess Music will be performing to the school and parents/carers and grandparents. Also, please note that you are welcome to come and look at your child's books on Friday at 2:45pm ahead of the parent consultations the following week. We expect to see all families so please make sure you have booked your appointment. Finally, you are welcome to join us for our Easter Service at 10:30am on the last day of term (4th April).

Thank you for your continued support.

Lesley Etchingham, Headteacher

Wish List - if you have any of these items at home that your children no longer use and would like to donate them to us we would be extremely grateful. Please contact the office - thank you!

Table tennis bats and balls, any sized floor rugs and picnic rugs, watering cans, a wheel barrow (children's and/or adult sized), seeds and plants, compost, bird boxes, mud kitchen utensils, buckets and spades, dressing up clothes, a marble run, a table football set, tree trunks, plastic funnels and jugs, skittles, dolls (and also a high chair, cot and buggy) and fabric and/or sails that we can drape across our new EYFS 'wood henge' to create dens and shade from the sun. Lego and other construction toys. Ropes and tarpaulins are useful for den building too.

Here are our amazing learning highlights from the last fortnight:

Cygnets

The children have been fascinated whilst watching the developments in the early years garden! Cygnet class has been lucky enough to have some new additions to our outside classroom. These include raised beds for planting, a new water butt to collect rainwater, a large bug hotel (named Buggingham Palace), new tables, some wooden creatures (to become chalkboards) and even our very own wood henge. There are so many great opportunities for learning in all the areas and the children have been keen to get outside and explore.





The children in Cygnets have amazed everyone with the effort and focus this fortnight as they have taken on the challenge to write their own version of Little Red Riding Hood. The fantastic writing skills and imagination of the children have been shown through their story planning, developing ideas and remembering all the important elements with 'every time we write'. The children know how to use their phonics skills, to remember tricky words, to use capital letters and full stops and very importantly to remember finger spaces between words. In year 1 the children are even challenged to re-read their writing and to 'up level' or make corrections when they spot them. In reception the children have made fantastic story maps and created actions to help them retell the story. As part of their lessons this week the children have all taken turns to retell the story to the class, practising their storytellers voice.



As mathematicians, Reception and Year 1 have been learning about height and length. In an exciting lesson the children gathered items from our forest school area to measure. The challenge was to find something taller, shorter and try to find 2 things that were the same height or length. The children were even able to order themselves from longest to shortest

after choosing their own sticks. Year 1 has been further challenged to accurately measure and will begin to use objects and then centimeters to take measurements.



Whilst working in R.E the children took up a challenge set for them from Tom and Tessa. The sock puppets came out to help the children create some sentences using some special words. In talk partners all the children took it in turns to use the sock puppets to say a sentence. Some overheard sock sentences included ... 'We pray before lunch time.' 'I am sorry if I have ever hurt you.' 'Can you help me with my work.' 'People can praise with songs and dances.'

sorry	thank you	help	please	amen	prayer
praise	well done	ask	pray	God	grace



In PSHE and DT this fortnight the children have worked together and communicated well with each other with lots of joint projects and partner working. In PSHE the children

created songs and posters together to discuss and remember all the different things we can do to keep ourselves healthy. As engineers and designers in DT the children tested stability and strength when testing different paper structures. They even measured how stable a shape could be using playdough and a ramp. A lot of fun was had during these experiments and the children were able to put their hypothesis to the test. Sometimes providing a very different outcome than expected, especially when discovering how strong a paper cylinder could be!



Melissa

Last week, our future designers and engineers tested out how stable a sphere, cube and pyramid were by conducting a measured rolling test. This week they have been learning about the strongest shape to hold weight as they tested out a cuboid, triangular prism and a cylinder (all made from paper). To the surprise of most of the class, the cylinder was proven to be the strongest and this then led to an investigation into how much weight a collection of paper cylinders could *actually* take before collapsing. As teams, the children were excitedly mass producing cylinders which were then taped together. No less than 70 books and magazines were held up by their cylinders before the eventual collapse. Very impressive! The children will now apply this learning to their design of a chair for baby bear.



The highlight of the week is undoubtedly the arrival of the hatching chicks and Melissa class were lucky enough to see the eggs on day 1. We have been inspired to keep a diary to make a note of this special experience and of the progress of our chicks.

In PSHE, the children have been learning about the importance of relaxation and that the opposite of feeling relaxed is to experience stress. They were shown photographs of relaxing and stressful scenarios and were tasked with putting them in order from 0-10 (10 being the most stressful). This activity generated lots of valuable discussion. Some of the comments made are below:

"The man in that picture is probably enjoying his drive because there are no children in the car. My Dad doesn't like it if we're in the car because we are so noisy."

"I think that family are relaxed, I can tell because they are laughing and they have a film and popcorn."

"I think that lady should not be on the phone and cooking dinner and holding a baby at the same time. It looks very stressful and she might spill the dinner on the baby."

In Geography, the class has been following the story of Baroness Floella Benjamin who came from Trinidad to the UK in 1960.



Following her story has introduced the children to the comparison between the UK and a Caribbean island. It has also initiated conversations on diversity and acceptance. Floella was not welcomed when she first arrived in the UK as a 10 year old, yet through hard work and resilience, she has made a significant contribution to improving the lives of others and educating us on the richness of diversity.



In Maths, the children have continued with their money topic and are also learning about length and measurement. One challenge this week was to find out how many ways there are to make £1...without using £1. Any opportunities to count change at home, or better still at the shops, would really help to consolidate this learning.



In English, alongside our Read Write Inc programme, during Early Morning Work, the children have been separating verbs into past and present tenses, enabling them to have a

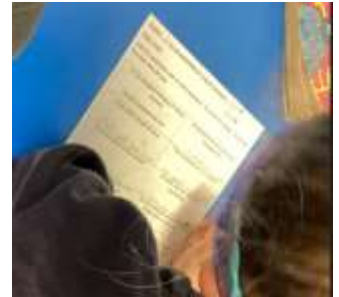
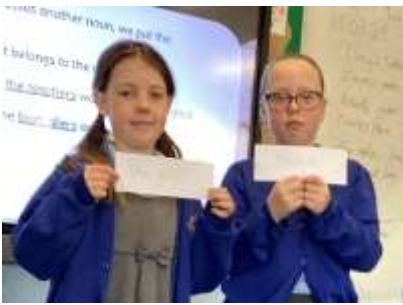
greater awareness of how to use them correctly in their own writing. They might enjoy pointing out the past verbs to you during their reading this week.

Edith-May

In English, Edith May has been revising their punctuation learning of singular apostrophes for possession and apostrophes for contraction. The class supported one another by using our Rally Coach technique to answer questions. After this, the class used their learning and applied it to plural possessive apostrophes. Edith May learned the difference between singular and plural possession and how the placement of the apostrophe differs between the two. However, the class also discovered that if the noun is already plural and does not include an 's', then they must include the

apostrophe and the 's' - children's toys.

To consolidate this knowledge, the class read an extract about ancient Greece and identified the plural possessive apostrophes. Furthermore, Edith May has been writing persuasive letters to Keir Starmer and are eager to receive their reply from him. Stay tuned!



As mathematicians, Edith May has been diving deeper into their multiplication and division learning. They began by reasoning multiplication and comparing calculations using the mathematical symbols of less than, greater than and equal to. Next, the class explored multiplying three numbers together which sparked an interesting discussion about which factors to multiply first and which to leave at the end. This showcased the level of deep understanding the children have of the relationship between the numbers they were multiplying.

"I am going to multiply by 2 last as that means I just double my product" - Joshua

"I multiplied 5 by 2 because that gave me a product of 10 and then I just multiply 10 by 9" - Thea



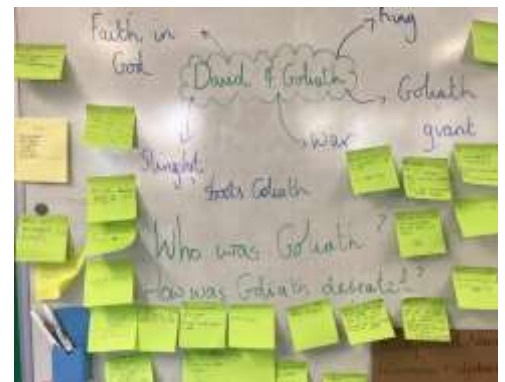
As scientists, the class has been exploring their new unit, Forces and Magnets. Their learning began by exploring two contact forces, push and pull. The class explored this by observing

the effects of applying these forces onto playdough. Edith May also explored friction and how this is used in everyday life. The class then investigated how different surfaces affect the distance vehicles travel. They noticed that rougher surfaces have higher friction and therefore the car travels a shorter distance, whereas the smoother surfaces have less friction and the car travels a greater distance.



As historians, Edith May has started their new topic - Ancient Greece. The class developed their skills of chronology by placing some significant events onto a timeline, before comparing the events that occurred in Ancient Greece with the events in Britain and made some interesting connections. The class noticed that the Iron Age ended in Ancient Greece the same time it began in Britain.

In R.E., the class has been exploring the religion Christianity and the term 'faith'. Edith May have been discussing what 'faith' means and how this links to religion and some of the unanswerable questions: 'How do we know this is real?'. Moreover, Edith May continued to explore this by studying the story of Blondin, and the Bible story, David and Goliath. Both stories depict 'faith' as being bigger than oneself and can cause great things to happen. The class were inspired by the stories and discussed some of the ways that they have faith in their life.



Thank you to all who attended Edith May's parent workshop today which centred around PSHE and healthy friendships. There was some wonderful discussion surrounding qualities a friend could have and the significance of them, as well as participating in some mindfulness activities and strategies that are used in class.

Thistle

Beneath a jagged wall of glittering frost, something stirred — ancient, powerful and forgotten. Alix's breath caught in her throat as she brushed away the snow and saw it: a curved tusk gleaming like polished stone. It was still alive. This was the twist that Thistle class encountered during English as they were tasked with continuing this narrative. Using vivid descriptions to set the scene, crafting brave characters who faced challenges and

exploring exciting plot twists as the rescue mission unfolded, the class let their imaginations run wild. Each pupil created a unique and thrilling tale, showcasing their ability to use powerful language and structure their writing into clear paragraphs.

Science lessons have been full of hands-on experiments as the class investigated reversible and irreversible changes. They conducted an investigation where seawater was heated to observe evaporation, leaving behind salt crystals. They also used the process of filtration to separate sand from water. These practical activities helped them understand which changes can be undone (reversible changes) and which cannot (irreversible changes).



As mathematicians, they have been working on converting between fractions, decimals and percentages. Using real-world examples, they have practised changing numbers from one form to another and understanding how each relates to the whole. As a Maths challenge, the class were introduced to Fermi problems. They were asked the question, How many times can you repeat the alphabet in 24 hours?

Named after the physicist Enrico Fermi, these problems encourage students to estimate and reason, rather than simply calculate. Instead of giving exact numbers, the class had to break down the complex question and make smart estimates to arrive at reasonable answers.

One of the term's highlights has been the class' participation in the Bikeability road safety course. They have learned essential skills such as checking their bikes for safety, signalling clearly and understanding road signs and rules. Under the careful guidance of trained instructors (who commented on how the class sensibly and confidently approached this training) the children practised riding on quiet roads and learned how to stay safe while cycling





In DT, Thistle class has been learning all about food and cooking. The children had great fun identifying the ingredients in a classic spaghetti bolognese and discussing where those ingredients come from. They explored how a recipe can be adapted to suit different tastes and dietary needs - from using vegetarian mince to swapping pasta for gluten-free alternatives or adding extra vegetables. The children designed their own recipe adaptations and talked about how making small changes can make a dish suitable for everyone. This learning also helped reinforce healthy eating messages and the importance of understanding what goes into our food.

Edme

This fortnight, along with the other children across the school, Edme class have put their imaginations to excellent use as they wrote a narrative piece in response to the image below. Each and every piece was completely unique and the children impressed us as they showed off their growing repertoire of creative writing skills.



Below is a small sample of the fantastic writing the children have done.

'Ah ha! Found it!' whispered 15-year-old Alix. 'Wait. What's this?' There she was, young Alix, sitting in her worn, shabby loft, holding her dad's old diary (from when he was a Scientist). The book was very well aged as it was covered in a thick layer of dust and full of inky, ripped pages. For a while, she sat there, reading the pages with tears dripping down her face. Autumn D

Suddenly, he fell down the icy hole and down into the frozen void. He was out cold, quite literally, having flashbacks from the time when he was travelling to Antarctica. A few minutes later, he woke up, still dazed from the fall, but besides that, no other injuries. As he went to pick up his hat, he realised that there was something frozen in the ice. It took a minute, but he could make out the shape of a woolly mammoth. He was ecstatic. He would be able to take samples to his dad to take back to the lab. This would surely earn him a fortune, so he didn't get thrown around the world, like a dog playing catch for his dad's work. It meant that he could be a normal 11-year-old boy again. Jack N

Alex's face turned pale, his stomach rumbling as drool came running from his mouth. Suddenly, my fears came back to me, the flashbacks. He had a sharp stick with a stone on top, so sharp it could slice through a coconut with no halts! I was hunting there, but now the tables had turned. I was being hunted. Gingy just in front of me (by that I mean way ahead of me) sprinting away. Just then, I saw Gingy fall over something in the distance, something like a metal machine. Jude L

As Mathematicians, Edme class have sunk their teeth into the tricky business of Algebra. Building on prior learnings about one and two-step function machines, the children have learned how to form expressions using letters to represent unknown values, they have substituted these letters for values to reach an answer. They have also learned how to form and solve equations. Their next challenge is to apply all of these skills to tackling some SATs style problems, as they hunker down to prepare for their end of primary school assessments in May. The children have worked incredibly hard on this over the last two weeks. They should be very proud of the progress they are making.



As the children continue their learning about light and shadows, they have completed the first step of their end of unit showcase, which will be a shadow puppet show based on a traditional tale of their choice. Through this process, the children will continue to explore shadows and how to move the light source to achieve a particular effect during their shadow puppet performance. They have already been hard at

work, adding their own twist to their chosen tale and making detailed puppets for their final showcase. If their efforts this week are anything to go by, the end results will be spectacular. Watch this space!

Finally, Edme class wowed us once again with their hospitality and professionalism this week as they welcomed more than 40 guests to this term's fundraising coffee morning. Raising over £200 for our local charity, FIND (Families in Need - Ipswich), the children served a selection of homemade sweet and savoury treats. Our guests reported that they were made to feel very welcome and that they received service with a smile. Well done, Edme Class. You are a credit to yourselves and your families. Thank you to all of those of you who were able to join us for this enjoyable event. Huge thanks also for the wonderful donations of cakes. Delicious!