



# Chelmondiston CofE Primary School Newsletter

04.04.25

### 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

Chloe	Cygnets	For always thinking of others
Teddy C	Melissa	For being a valued member of our class. We will miss you!
Emil	Edith May	For celebrating others' achievements inside the classroom
Mollie	Thistle	For showing a caring attitude when others are upset
Hunter	Edme	For always encouraging others inside and outside of the classroom

Well done everyone!

### Diary dates from Monday 21st April to Friday 2nd May 2025

Easter Holiday - Monday 7th April - Monday 21st April inclusive

Tue. 22nd Children return to school

Thu. 24th Last Yr2 swimming session - 9-10am

First forest school - Melissa class

Fri. 25th 'The Tree of Dreams' art competition deadline

Parent working party - planting and painting - 1.30-3pm

Thu. 1st May

First Yr1 swimming session - 9-10am

Dear parents and carers,

This has certainly been another fortnight jam-packed with learning and fun! As I am sure you heard, we all thoroughly enjoyed waiting for our eggs to hatch and then experience the joy of holding and caring for the chicks. Children (and staff) asked many questions and we all learnt a lot in the process.



Thank you to our amazing PTA for providing extremely well organised KS1 and KS2 discos last Friday - it was wonderful to see all the children having such fun together!

Please note that we will be having a working party on Friday 25th April, 1:30 - 3pm, and we welcome parents, governors and grandparents to help us plant our raised beds and help in the Early Years Garden. Please contact the school office if you can join us - no experience or expertise is required. If you have any seeds, compost or plants to donate, we would be most grateful.

Well done to our Cross Country Teams from year 4, 5 and 6 - all of whom completed the course, demonstrated team spirit and showed determination as they raced against competitors from many schools in the Westbourne area of Ipswich.



Look out for our painted Easter Egg as part of a trail competition at Alton Water from 12th to 21st April which all classes helped design.

You will have all received a letter from me, and an on-line survey, as I am seeking your views and any concerns you may have regarding the impact of 'screen use' on our children. The aim is to consider how we can work together to become better informed and equipped to best help children navigate the on-line world.

Children are invited to enter our Easter Art Competition - Tree of Dreams (details were in our last newsletter) with all entries due in on Friday 25th April.

This morning we had our Easter service at St Andrew's Church, led by Rev. Liesbeth . As is our tradition, the older pupils escorted our younger pupils to and from church, where Year 6 presented a tableaux of the 12 Stations of the Cross. We also saw the special window display created by our afterschool club, Late Birds. This afternoon, we enjoyed another one of our traditions - an Easter Egg Hunt in the school grounds.



On behalf of all the staff, we wish you a restful and happy Easter break and look forward to seeing children back and ready for more exciting learning on Tuesday 22nd April.

Thank you for your continued support.

Lesley Etchingham, Headteacher

### **Message from Chelmondiston PTA**

This month has been a fantastic fundraising success for the PTA, and it's all thanks to your incredible support! Together, we've raised a brilliant £411.98 from our recent Civvies Day and Disco. We hope the children had an absolute blast, rocking their favourite outfits and dancing the night away at the disco!

But that's just the beginning! We've got a whole bunch of exciting events lined up in the coming months. Look out for tea towels featuring the kids' amazing self-portraits, refreshing Ice Lolly sales, the much-anticipated Summer Fete, and a dazzling Fashion Show. Stay in the loop with all our upcoming events and fundraising activities by visiting our Facebook page and website at

[www.facebook.com/groups/ChelmondistonPTA](http://www.facebook.com/groups/ChelmondistonPTA)

[sites.google.com/view/chelmopta/home](https://sites.google.com/view/chelmopta/home)

Wishing you all a fun-filled and (hopefully) restful Easter holiday!

Ria

Chelmondiston PTA

### **Premier Education**

Please see the details below of the after school clubs that Premier Education are offering in the summer term -

## **CLUB DETAILS**

**Details: After school football club**

**When: Wednesdays, 3.15-4.15**

**Years: R-6      Cost: £4.50 per session**

**Booking link: <https://family.premier-education.com/add-course/906026>**

**Club Details: After school gymnastics club**

**When: Thursdays, 3.15-4.15**

**Years: R-6      Cost: £4.50 per session**

**Booking link: <https://family.premier-education.com/add-course/906031>**

**Club Details: Before school performing arts club**

**When: Fridays, 7.45-8.45      Years: R-6**

**Cost: £5.50 per session**

**Booking link: <https://family.premier-education.com/add-course/925579>**

## **St. Andrew's Chelmondiston Hot Cross Bun Service**

Everyone is welcome to attend this on Good Friday (18th April) at 10.30am. Weather permitting, we will decorate the paths with chunk chinks and hot cross buns and refreshments will be served after the service.

### **Think Pharmacy First**

With absence and attendance being a high priority for schools, Suffolk and North East Essex Integrated Care Board has provided information to schools (which can be accessed via the link below) about the NHS Pharmacy First service which most pharmacies across England are offering.

[View full details](#)

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

### **Cygnets**

And just like that, another term has ended! Cygnet class has been so busy and engaged with their learning that time has flown whilst they have been having lots of fun! We loved having the Living Eggs Programme - the children (and the teachers) have been captivated and amazed with every step of hatching. From checking in on the eggs and learning all about incubation, to watching the eggs 'pipping' and seeing the tiny chick emerging from their shells and transforming right before our eyes into small fluffy chicks. The children have been keeping a check on the life cycle of the chicken and Year 1 children have written a hatching diary to keep a memory of such a special event.



As writers, the children have completed writing their own versions of Red Riding Hood and this week moved onto another adaptation of a classic. 'We're going on an Egg hunt.' The children in Year 1 could recall reading the original *We're Going on a Bear Hunt* story in Reception and could still remember the words and actions. In this new Easter version, the children in both years have been challenged to make their own zig zag book version.

As mathematicians the work has been very practical in Reception and Year 1. Using measures such as time, length and capacity, the children have had a lot of hands-on experiences in their learning. Some favourite activities have been 'what can you do in a minute?' eg. How many times can you write your name? How many star jumps can you do? Also, measuring different sized containers to figure out what has the biggest capacity. This task sometimes giving a surprising outcome that no one predicted. The children in Reception have also used their creative skills to make their very own counting wands! These are helping the children to count out loud beyond 10. The children have eagerly counted chairs, snacks, bikes, toy cars and lots of other things in our classroom and outside area. Look out for the wands coming home with the children for some counting fun over the Easter break!



To end our work as designers and builders, Baby Bear's chair has been completed! You will be pleased to know that a combination of junk modelling, making paper cylinders, team work, planning and masking tape produced some fantastic examples. A winning shape that features heavily was the cylinder, as from prior learning the children had discovered this was actually the most stable shape for this type of design. The children were very proud of their achievements and each group got to showcase their makes, explaining to the class the design choices they made and why. The children were also challenged to think of how they could improve and what changes they might make, were they to do it again.



## Melissa

Melissa class has enjoyed lots of practical maths whilst exploring the subject of money. We have had 'mini-shops' with lots of appealing items to buy, and children have been able to work out the change from £1 when buying one or more items. They have been able to choose the correct coins too. We hope that over the Easter holidays, children may enjoy the opportunity to put theory into practice and challenge themselves to work out the change- it's a great excuse to buy an ice-cream!



In English, the children have been working on their editing skills and correcting pieces of writing focusing on punctuation. By looking carefully, they have been able to identify where a sentence needs a full stop, capital letter or even inverted commas. The class has also been keeping a diary about the progress of the chicks, recording their changes in behaviour and appearance.



Thanks to the designers, this teddy will certainly enjoy a relaxing Easter! Melissa class has been looking at structures and investigating which shapes make a structure more stable. Having decided that cylinders can take a greater mass than cubes or pyramids, they then worked in groups to build a chair for Baby bear using just paper and masking tape for their structures. There were many challenges to overcome, and the teamwork and perseverance demonstrated were admirable. Whilst only a few chairs actually passed the test of a teddy sitting on them, the evaluations the children wrote illustrated how much they had learnt from the challenge. As Ben wrote,

"We worked hard as a team and made good friends along the way".

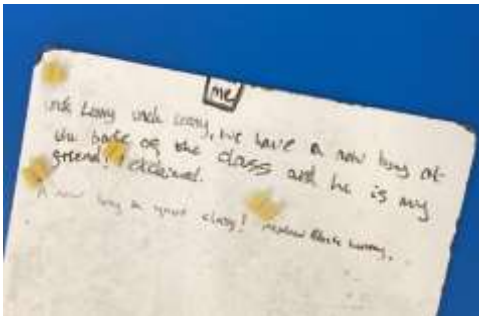
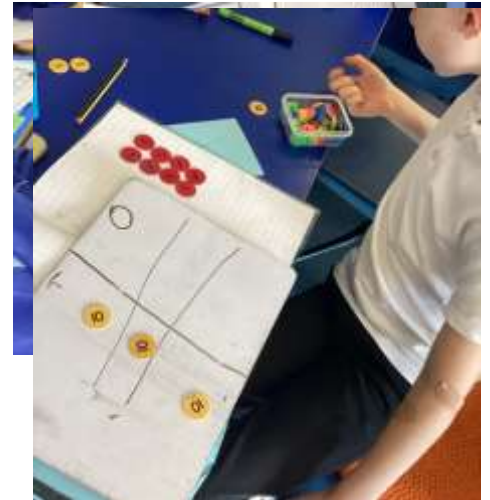
As scientists, Melissa class has been taking a look at parts of plants and finding out what the scientific definition is of a fruit, vegetable and a herb. They have enjoyed finding a variety of plants in our outside areas, including the bulbs that we planted in the autumn.

And so, another full term comes to an end. If you are feeling up for an Easter challenge though.. don't forget the 'Tree of Dreams' competition that we sent details out about in the last newsletter.

## Edith-May

In English, the class has been revisiting vital grammar and punctuation skills to ensure their writing is technically accurate. This has included the use of inverted commas. The

class practised using inverted commas by imagining a conversation between the narrator of our book and their Uncle Lenny and then recorded this down with the correct punctuation.



As mathematicians, Edith May has been multiplying 3-digit numbers by 1-digit numbers using the formal method of short multiplication. This included exchanging numbers. After this, Edith May has begun to divide 3-digit numbers by 1-digit numbers with and without exchanging. As always, the class has been consistently practising their times tables as this has been a vital skill in the current unit.



As scientists, Edith May investigated magnets by first learning what a non-contact force is and then thinking about how magnets are used in everyday life. By exploring a range of materials with magnets, the class concluded that non-metal materials are not magnetic. This was recorded in the form of a venn diagram as the children noticed that some objects are both magnetic and non-magnetic.

As historians, the class have continued with their Ancient Greek learning and discovered that the Ancient Greeks believed in many gods and goddesses and built temples to show their respect, as well as depicting life-events and stories onto pottery made of clay. In their P.E. lessons with Mr Dale, Edith May has been developing their hockey skills by practising their passing, dribbling and controlling the ball.



In P.S.H.E., the class discussed food and how some foods are healthier than others, but also noticed that it depends on the amount consumed. The children shared their understanding of the traffic light system to support them with this. Furthermore, the class participated in predicting the amount of sugar in certain foods and drinks. Some were surprised to learn of the results.

In R.E., Edith May investigated how Christians view the Heroes of Faith in Bible narratives. The class read a range of stories from the Bible and discussed how faith was portrayed in them.

And finally, the children thoroughly enjoyed our feathery visitors whilst they were at school. From observing the eggs, to holding the chickens, it was a delight having the chicks with us and hearing their chirps in the background.



## Thistle

*Should children be allowed to travel to space?* This has been the lively debate that has hooked Thistle class this week. Through discussion writing in the form of a balanced argument, they explored the question by researching both sides of the argument, considering the risks and rewards. Some members of the class were excited by the idea of young astronauts paving the way for future generations, while others highlighted the dangers and physical challenges of space travel. This exercise helped them develop critical thinking and persuasive writing skills.



As mathematicians, Thistle class has been exploring the concept of volume by working with 3D shapes. They estimated and calculated the volume of cubes, cuboids and cylinders; before moving onto more complex shapes such as cones and hexagonal prisms. A link was made to real-world measurement as they were challenged to estimate the volume of items around the classroom and even the classroom itself!



As scientists, the class investigated how different materials behave under various conditions. They considered which materials are best for insulation, strength and flexibility. By identifying the properties of materials, they were able to identify the importance of choosing the right materials for different purposes. Our scientists had a fantastic time building and launching their own 'rockets' to demonstrate how solids, liquids and gases interact. They observed how a chemical reaction creates gas, which builds up pressure and propels their rocket into the air.



To complete the DT topic for this term, pupils took on a delicious challenge—cooking spaghetti Bolognese! As part of their learning, they explored the science behind cooking, observing how



ingredients change state when heated and combined. They also developed important life skills such as following instructions, measuring ingredients accurately and working as a team. Pupils discussed the nutritional value of different ingredients, learning how to create a balanced meal. They also explored how different herbs and spices enhance the flavour of food.



## Edme

Edme Class have spent the final two weeks of the spring term beavering away to prepare for the end of KS2 SATs assessments in May. They have wowed us with their mastery of manipulating fractions, decimals and percentages - finding equivalences, converting between them, comparing and ordering them, and deftly working on reasoning and problem-solving challenges linked to these skills. They have also been working hard to increase speed and accuracy when tackling arithmetic questions in their weekly arithmetic tests. We are delighted with their progress and their approach to this process of preparation.

In English lessons the children have put their imaginations and creativity to good use while writing a formal letter to raise concerns about the questionable parenting style of Mr Charles Maxim and the unruly behaviour of his 'ward', young Sophie (the lead protagonists in our class book, *The Rooftoppers* by Katherine Rundell). The children have experimented with formal language and sentence structure to present their concerns to the authorities. The results have been very impressive indeed. To further develop these formal writing skills, as geographers, the children have explained the merits of different types of coastal defences while imagining that they are the owners of a house facing collapse and dereliction, as a result of coastal erosion. Here are some of the results.

Imagine you lived in the house at the top of the cliff. Discuss the coastal defences that could be used to protect your home. Explain your reasoning.

Now choose two coastal defences. Write a paragraph to explain which two defences you would choose and why.

sea wall, rock armour, beach nourishment, groynes, sand dunes, dune management

If I were in this situation and living in that house now, I would be convinced to place a sea wall at the bottom of the cliff. I believe this would be a amazing solution for the coastal erosion. It would slow down the damage of the waves. Plus they can come in with or rock depends if the wave is strong enough to destroy or not come. AS wall is cheaper than the sea wall. The rock armour could be annoying as well but the waves could easily go over the rock armour and over time make the cliff bleed in with all the small stones on the beach they both have up and down but which is better to you?

Constance S

Imagine you lived in the house at the top of the cliff. Discuss the coastal defences that could be used to protect your home. Explain your reasoning.

Now choose two coastal defences. Write a paragraph to explain which two defences you would choose and why.

sea wall, rock armour, beach nourishment, groynes, sand dunes, dune management

I think the rock armour would be best because it's very attractive and will not destroy animals habitat. Plus it would actually provide a habitat. Also, the rock armour is durable and get rid of you to pay on it like like clothing. The rock armour is very attractive. I think a lot of people would come and visit like tourists who might pay for it.

Jude L

Imagine you lived in the house at the top of the cliff. Discuss the coastal defences that could be used to protect your home. Explain your reasoning.

Now choose two coastal defences. Write a paragraph to explain which two defences you would choose and why.

Sea wall, Groynes, Beach nourishment, Rip-rap, Sea walls, Beach nourishment

If I were the owner of this property and responsible for this coast line, I would choose the sea armour. I have a number of reasons for my decision. To start off, sea armour would provide natural beauty close to the coast - unlike the sea wall! Furthermore, the sea is very durable and has a lasting protection of 30 to 40 years. In addition to that, this would be aesthetically pleasing to tourism. What would you do if you had to make this decision?

Oliver W

Imagine you lived in the house at the top of the cliff. Discuss the coastal defences that could be used to protect your home. Explain your reasoning.

Now choose two coastal defences. Write a paragraph to explain which two defences you would choose and why.

Sea wall, Groynes, Beach nourishment, Rip-rap, Sea walls, Beach nourishment

If I were the owner of this cliff property, I would personally install sea walls. I think they have long lasting protection and would break waves. The cost of sea walls are they are unattractive, they will help. On the other hand, rock armour also because it is natural and aesthetically pleasing. Yes it is not as durable as sea walls, but it is better. Plus it would not leave any marks. What would you do if the decision was yours?

Ruby T

Finally, as part of their learning about the Christian celebration of Easter, the children have put together a series of tableaux to represent the twelve stations of the cross. Under the careful guidance of Rev. Liesbeth, they have spent time at St Andrews church rehearsing these formations, in readiness for tomorrow's Easter service.

