



Chelmondiston CofE Primary School Newsletter

02.05.25

Parents in need of advice or support?

Text a school nurse using **CHATHEALTH**: chathealth@nhs.uk

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

George M	Cygnets	For kindness and sharing in class and at play time
Aurora	Melissa	For showing dedication and determination with homework
Florence	Edith May	For being supportive of others' celebrations
Thomas	Thistle	For being resilient in Maths and supporting others
Oliver	Edme	For being a caring and considerate member of Edme

Well done everyone!

Diary dates from Monday 5th to Friday 16th May

- Mon. 5th May Day Bank Holiday (school closed)
- Wed. 7th Yr1 Swimming (please note the change of day for this week)
- Thu. 8th Melissa (Yr2) Forest School - 1-3pm
- Mon. 12th - Thu. 15th Yr6 SATs week
- Wed. 14th Guitar lessons - 12-3pm
- Thu. 15th Yr1 Swimming - 9-10am

Melissa Forest School - 1-3pm

Fri. 16th Piano & violin lessons

Future Dates for your Diary

Tue. 20th May Thistle & Edme Geography field trip to Felixstowe

Thu. 22nd Yr1 Swimming -9-10am

Last Melissa Forest School

Monday 26th - Friday 30th May - half term

Mon. 2nd June Children return to school

Thu. 5th Last Yr1 Swimming - 9-10am

Fri. 6th Edme Forest School starts - 1-3.15pm

Wed. 11th Sports afternoon - details to follow

Thurs. 12th MC Grammar visit to school

Fri. 13th Edme Forest School - 1-3.15pm

Sat. 14th PTA Summer Fete - details to follow

Mon. 16th New Reception parents Information session - 5-6pm

Tue. 17th New Reception intake stay and play sessions -

1.20pm-2.00pm - Group A

2.10-2.50pm - Group B

Fri. 20th Edme Forest School - 1-3.15pm

Edith-May sharing assembly - 2.40-3.10pm

Mon. 23rd Edme trip to Crucial Crew - details to follow

Wed. 25th Thistle sharing assembly - 2.40-3.10pm

Thu. 26th New Reception intake induction sessions -

9.00-10.00am - Group B

10.15-11.00am - Group A

Fri. 27th	Van Cols group class photographs - 9am
	Edme Forest School - 1-3.15pm
Tue. 1st July	Edme class transition day at Holbrook Academy
	New Reception children induction session - 10am-12 noon
Tue. 1st July	New Reception children and parents stay to lunch - 12-12.30pm
Wed. 2nd	Melissa sharing assembly - 2.40-3.10pm
Thu.3rd	Transition evening for Edme parents at Holbrook Academy - 6pm
Fri. 4th	Coffee morning - 10.30-11.30am
	Edme Forest School - 1-3.15pm
Tue. 8th	Edme sailing at Neptune Marina - 1-4pm -
Thu. 10th	Edme camp night followed by Y6 outdoor learning day
Fri. 11th	PTA civvies day
	Parent learning logs sharing session - 2.45-3.10pm
	PTA school discos
Tues. 15th	Y6 Leavers' service and assembly
Fri. 18th	Last day of the academic year

Dear Chelmondiston parents and carers,

We have got off to a flying start this term, with children returning after the Easter break with a positive attitude and eagerness to learn. Please follow this link to our website to see your child's topic overview for this term to find out about what they will be learning about and how you can support your child at home.

<https://chelmondiston-church-of-england.secure-primariesite.net/topic-overviews-summer-2025/>

You will notice that we have two important PSHE topics this term - Relationships and then after half term, Changing Me. Last year I met with parents and governors to discuss the content of our Changing Me unit (RSHE Relationships, Sex and Health Education) and it was decided collectively that the contents of the scheme we use, Jigsaw, were not always age-appropriate for our children. Many parents also said that they would like to have more detailed information about what their children would be learning about in lessons in advance so that they are prepared for questions that may arise and/or so that they can talk about this beforehand with their children. For more information about the content for each unit, please follow the following link to our website:

<https://chelmondiston-church-of-england.secure-primariesite.net/pshe-1/>

Thank you to all parents who replied to our survey about screen use - sharing any concerns you may have and how you think it impacts children's lives and how you manage this. Once I have collated this information, I will share this with you and then plan how we can proceed. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you wish to discuss this matter or have further information to share - this can be done by email to the office or by catching me before or after school on the playground .

Thank you to all parents who came to our working party on Friday afternoon - we were able to get the new raised beds in the Early Years Garden planted (and a bean wigwam) and all of the class raised beds. Thank you to Mr Turner (Carter's dad) for repairing our dilapidated stage area, which now boasts a brand new waterproof canopy! Our Y6 Eco monitors were brilliant - helping younger pupils and generally getting stuck in! We were also delighted to welcome members of Chelmondiston Horticultural Society - Sheila, Simon and Michelle - whose help with digging and planting was invaluable. Thanks to all the digging, we were able to prepare a long bed by the side of the playground/sports court and label up a growing patch for each child in the school. We have been set a challenge by the society for each child to plant a sunflower seed and see whose flower is the tallest! Thank you also for donations of seeds and plants, and for monetary ones, that enabled us to buy compost and plants too.



This week we held a 'Mini London Marathon School Event'. The whole school has participated in this event which was organised by our fabulous School Council. This involved completing 2 miles of running, walking or skipping over the course of the week. Each child has completed 3 laps of the playground or field every day which was diligently recorded by the School Council representatives and they were pleased to confirm that children reached their target distance of 2 miles!



We were delighted with all the pieces of DT and art work that were entered into our Easter Tree of Dreams competition - it was very difficult to judge the winners! Luckily, our Chair of Governors, Mrs Deacon, stepped in to help Art Subject Lead, Mrs Grist, decide. Well done to the winners and to everyone who entered!



The summer term brings many exciting learning opportunities - many of which are outside. We are particularly looking forward to our summer fair, sports afternoon, working with MC Grammar, outside classroom day, trips to the river and swimming for Year 1!

Thank you for your continued support.

Lesley Etchingam, Headteacher

Here are our amazing learning highlights from the last fortnight:

Cygnets

Cygnets class have begun their new class story 'The Pet Potato' and have met the main character Albert. Albert wants a pet and unfortunately he is told no. The children have described Albert and were challenged to use 'and' and 'because' in their sentences.

'Albert is sad because he really wants a pet.' 'Albert has red glasses and curly hair.' 'I think Albert really wants a pet because he is lonely and he would like to look after it.'

This term we will be thinking about plants in science and working on planting, looking after and growing things in our Cygnets class garden. A working party of parents came in to help us to plant in our new raised beds. The children in Reception helped to plant many things including potatoes, courgettes, marigolds, lavender and runner beans. The addition of the new water butt is an exciting way for the children to fill their watering cans and water the new additions. The children have diligently remembered to water their plants daily and have been excited to see the developments.



As scientists, the year 1 children learnt the differences between wild and garden plants. Then went out to the school field to find and identify wild plants, using their senses to explore them. Their learning continued to group different garden and wild plants from pictures. The children are looking forward to learning more about trees in the next week.



In Maths the children in Year 1 have been counting in 2's, 5's and 10's and are now working on using arrays to show multiplications. Other skills the children have had to use this week include doubling and halving numbers and grouping using counters.

Reception class have worked on number bonds to 10 this week. Showing off their skills by making a number bond sandwich. Using different ingredients that add up to 10. The children have also revisited 2d shape, naming shapes and also making repeating shape patterns.



As programmers in computing, the children learnt about the different commands on a Beebot. They then got to try programming the Beebot themselves. In a circle they had to say who they wanted the Beebot to go to and then using the buttons, programming the directions to get it to them! With a lot of trial and error, the children gained confidence and accuracy.



Lastly and maybe saving the best till last! In Reception the children have opened a new take away. The children have been busy making and selling pizzas, chips and slushies - and business is booming! Not only the children, but some members of staff have become regular customers. The children's role play area has been the most visited provision area in the class. The children have used so many skills, including rolling the dough, writing menus and orders, sharing, creating ingredients and using money in the till. This is all following the children's interests and we all look forward to seeing what the children create in it next.



Melissa

Melissa's classroom was a blaze of colour yesterday afternoon as the children busily put together their Henri Matisse inspired snail collages using tearing and cutting techniques. Matisse was an artist who turned to collage, when illness made him unable to paint pictures. His collages are now considered to be amongst his most important works of art. The original snail collage is actually 2m 87cm x 286 cm and the class enjoyed measuring this on the playground in chalk.



The class was delighted to start their Forest School sessions and got 'stuck in' straight away with den building, hammock building, hand drilling and the delights of the mud kitchen! All the children were excellent at following the Forest School rules responsibly and so we hope to have a camp-fire too!



With such lovely weather (and grounds) to enjoy, Melissa's Science learning has included planting sunflowers, wild flowers and broad beans. We will be measuring our new plants and observing what effect light and water has on their growth by also growing some plants in dark and dry conditions.



We have been extremely proud of our school councillors this week. As part of the school council, they helped to organise and run the 'Mini London Marathon' event. This involved children running 3 laps of the playground each day. Our councillors were excellent at lining up the class, encouraging runners and making sure that they had remembered water bottles. Well done to our athletes

too!

In History, the class has been pioneering scientist, Galileo, who was born in 1564. Through his telescope, he made many discoveries that we now take for granted. These discoveries included that the Moon has a rough, not a smooth surface, that Jupiter has moons and, perhaps most importantly of all, that the Earth orbits the sun, and not the other way around.



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Despite being a Christian himself, Galileo's belief in the last theory brought him into conflict with the church at that time. He was placed under house arrest for the rest of his life and only pardoned by the Pope an astonishing 359 years later! As a class, we discussed how scientists now, and in the past, often have to show great resilience and stand up for their theories and beliefs.

Edith-May

In English, Edith May class has been developing their inferential skills by analysing an image, asking questions and generating inferences. From this, the class then applied their creativity to write a short background story about the image. After this, Edith May has begun their new unit of writing a balanced argument about a particular topic and using facts and evidence to support their ideas.

As mathematicians, Edith May has completed their measurement unit of calculating the perimeter of rectilinear shapes and polygons and finding the missing length. The class are now developing their fraction skills and have learnt about wholes, parts, denominators and numerators and compared unit fractions.

As scientists, Edith May has been exploring their new unit about plants. They began their learning by examining a flower and identifying the different parts, noticing colour, shape and smell. Through research, the children learned the names of the parts and their functions which they then displayed through a labelled diagram.

As historians, Edith May have studied a range of *Ancient Greek* myths which they then retold and performed to the class in groups. After this, the class examined a selection of historical sources about *Alexander the Great*, discussed what can be learnt about him from the information and completed a fact sheet using the inferences from the text.



In P.E., Edith May have begun developing their tennis and athletic skills. In tennis, the class has been practising returning and receiving of the ball with both their forehand and backhand. In athletics, the children have been developing a range of skills, such as jumping, sprinting and relay.

In P.S.H.E, the class has been discussing the meaning of gender stereotypes and how these can sometimes apply to job roles. This sparked some interesting discussion surrounding colours and potential stereotypes with those.

As artists, Edith May has been developing their skills in drawing by studying Vincent Van Gogh's linework and mark-making which they then replicated in their sketchbooks. Edith May created different marks, strokes and patterns ready for next week's learning.



Thistle

This week, Thistle class has been mastering the skill of measuring and drawing angles using protractors. They have learned how to identify different types of angles—acute, right, obtuse, and reflex—and are now confidently using protractors to measure and draw them with precision. They were also tasked with measuring a range of angles on objects within the classroom.





The class began our new class text *Twitch* by M.G. Leonard; they are already hooked by the mystery and excitement of it. To enrich their descriptive writing, the class identified and then used fronted adverbials to add detail and interest.

In music, the children have been working in groups to compose their own body percussion pieces. Using claps, stamps, clicks and slaps, they explored rhythm, pattern and teamwork to create unique performances. As part of our biodiversity project within the school grounds, the class programmed MicroBits to record data on the amount of life that they found in different habitats. They will record this data over time to identify how effective the planting has been.



As scientists, comparisons between the life cycles of different animal classes, including mammals, amphibians, insects and birds have been made. The class has enjoyed investigating how each group grows and changes in unique ways. They were particularly fascinated by the metamorphosis of frogs and butterflies and how the young look very different to the adult.

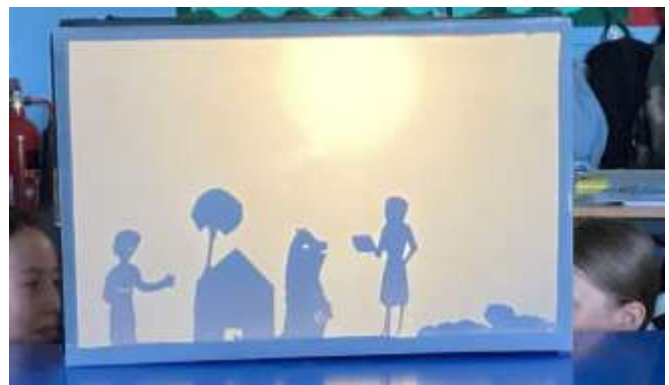
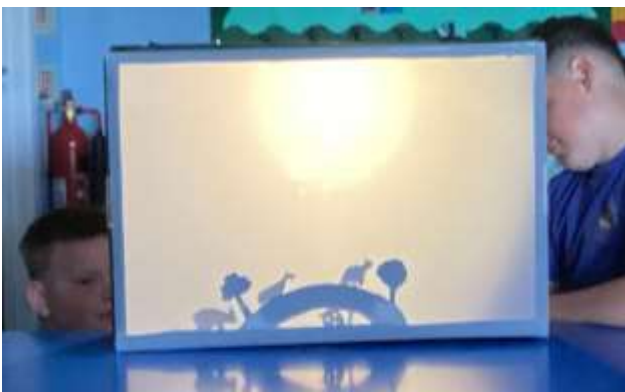
Edme

Separated from her mother at the age of 1, 10-year old Sophie Maxim has always wondered what it would be like to meet her long-lost, birth mother. Despite the fact that she was last sighted, playing the cello on a sinking ship, Sophie is certain that her mother is out there somewhere, waiting to be discovered. An address, in France, found hidden within the cello case, could be the missing puzzle piece that Sophie is looking for. Should she (and her guardian, Charles) leave England in search of her mother? Or should she face her fate at the orphanage? This is the dilemma that Edme class have been grappling with this week, as they write a balanced argument to explore the reasons for and against this course of action.

As Mathematicians, Edme class have been working on calculating area, perimeter and volume. They have learned the formulas for calculating the area of rectangles, triangles and parallelograms and applied this to problem-solving when some of the measurements are missing. They have also worked with more complex problems involving compound shapes. This week, the focus has shifted to plotting coordinates, which the children can now do in all four

quadrants. They have used this skill to tackle some tricky reasoning problems, combining coordinates with their knowledge of 2D shapes.

As Scientists, the children have had enormous fun, creating a shadow puppet performance for their peers. Having just three minutes of 'air time', the children have expertly retold their choice of traditional tale, with a selection of handmade puppets and a huge measure of imagination. The children gave two performances. Each performance was filmed, so the children could evaluate the quality of their performance and improve it accordingly. The groups enjoyed experimenting with changing the position of the puppet in relation to the light source to make them larger or smaller, as a part of the storytelling process. Their final pieces were extremely entertaining.



PE sessions this week have taken the children outside in the sunshine, where they have thoroughly enjoyed practising their tennis skills. The children have been perfecting forehand and backhand, while receiving and returning the ball to a partner. In athletics, the children have focused on relay racing, learning about the correct starting position and how to pass the baton so the team can race as quickly as possible.



Finally, the Year 6 Eco Monitors got stuck into some gardening last week as they helped to carry out some much-needed weeding and planting in the school grounds. Supported by our knowledgeable volunteers, the children planted vegetables in the raised beds and prepared the ground so that every child in the school could plant a sunflower seed as part of a

competition run by the Chelmondiston and District Horticultural Society. The tallest sunflower will be displayed as part of the annual show. We have everything crossed in the hope that the winning plant will be one from Edme Class!

