



Last Melissa Class Forest School session

Monday 23rd - Friday 30th May - Half Term

Monday 2nd June Children return to school

Thursday 5th Yr1 swimming session - 9-10am

Friday 6th First Edme Forest School Session - 1-3pm

### **Other important dates**

Wednesday 11th June Sports afternoon

Thursday 12th June MC Grammar visit to school

Saturday 14th June School Summer Fete - 12-3pm

### **Swimming**

If your child is coming in early for swimming, please bring them to the main door. If you have other children in school they must be taken to their usual point of entrance or they can be booked into Early Bird.

### **Administering Medicine**

Please note that we will only administer antibiotics if they are needed 'four times a day'. Medicine usually has to be taken at regular intervals, therefore, a 'three times a day medicine' can be given at breakfast, after school and evening.

### **Lunch change**

On Wednesday 4th June the cooked meal will be roast chicken.



Would your child be interested in joining some of our extracurricular activities? - from after school football and gymnastics, to breakfast performing arts clubs - click on the link below, select 'book a course', enter our school postcode (IP9 1DT), select our school and follow the instructions...

[www.premier-education.com](http://www.premier-education.com)

Prices shown are termly costs - these are reduced accordingly should your child join part-way through a term. We would love to have more children at our Friday morning Performing Arts Club. Let us know if your child would like to try a taster session.

## **Parking**

Please park safely and considerately during drop-off in the morning and pick-up in the afternoon. We have seen an increase in parking on junctions and grass verges, as well as 'pit-stop' dropping off on the yellow lines directly outside of the school. For the safety of our children, and to ensure a smooth flow of traffic, please be mindful to avoid parking close to junctions, on yellow lines and over driveways. We encourage families to lift share to help reduce road traffic, pollution and fuel costs. We appreciate your cooperation as this helps keep everyone safe.

Dear parents and carers,

As always, we have been busy at school and we have been enjoying the sunshine. Today in Collective Worship, we reflected on our school motto "What we nourish today, will flourish tomorrow" as well as our school values - to be caring, resilient, respectful, equal and courageous. We thought about this in the context of our school rules and how we treat each other at break and lunch time, in particular. Children were shown new playtime toys and new football goals. On Wednesday, a keen group of helpers showed true team spirit and construction and problem solving skills, by setting up the new equipment.



This week has also been SATS week for Year 6, who all did their very best and should be proud of how hard they have all worked. Other statutory assessments for the school this term will be the Year 4 Multiplication Tables Check, Phonics Screening for Year 1 and Early Learning assessments for our Reception class. At Chelmondiston, our focus for assessment is always to identify any gaps or areas to further strengthen as well as, of course, celebrating achievements.

Next week, Mrs McMullan will be visiting Melissa class in preparation for her return after maternity leave. After half term, she will be in school on Wednesday afternoons and all day Thursday and Friday; Mrs Grist will be in school on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

Please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher if you have any questions about our school, or catch me on the playground before or after school. Alternatively, you can email the office on [admin@chelmondiston.suffolk.sch.uk](mailto:admin@chelmondiston.suffolk.sch.uk)

Thank you for your continued support.

Lesley Etchingam, Headteacher

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

### Cygnets

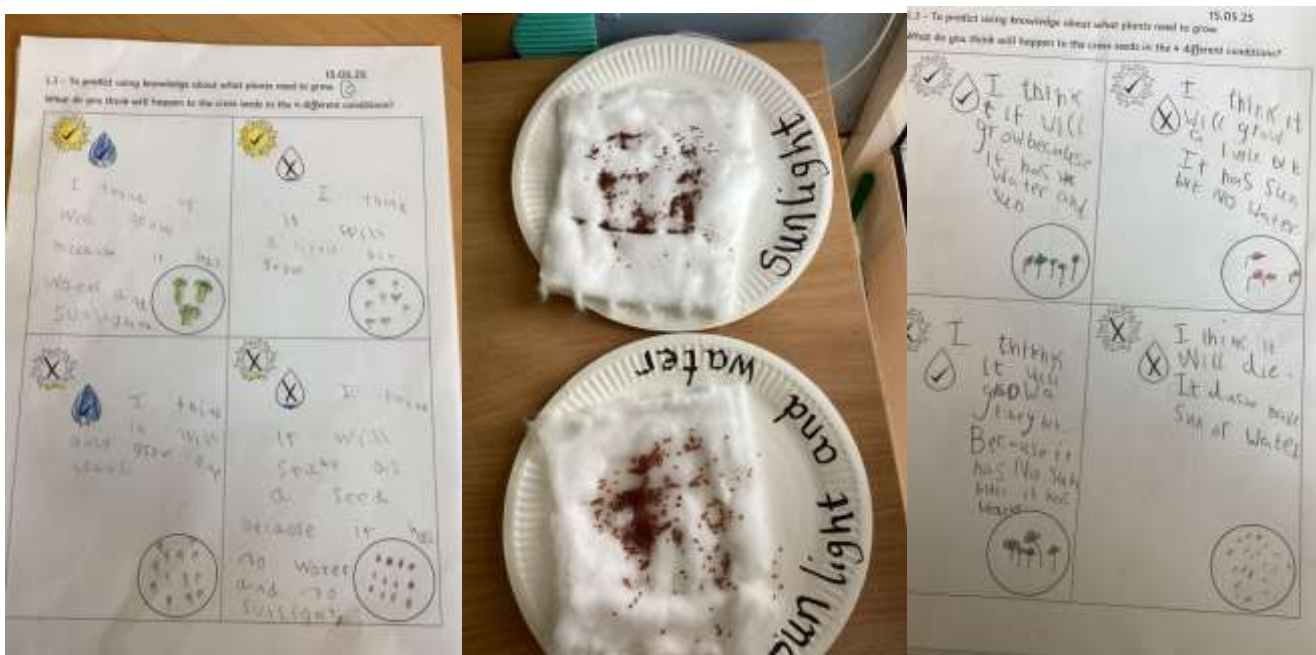
As mathematicians in Reception this week, the children have taken their learning outside! As subitising has been a focus, the children used dice in many ways to play track games like snakes and ladders and even came up with their own games. Using chalk to make their track, the children took it in turns to roll the dice and move along accordingly. A lot of fun was had and valuable practising of instant recognition of numbers, writing numbers and moving forward and backwards on a number line.



Year 1 has also been working hard in Maths, calculating fractions. Their learning has been focused on finding half. Children have been halving shapes and finding half of a quantity and therefore a number. Lots of practical activities have been used to show sharing into halves. The children have remembered our key words for this - half, equal, total and whole and our next step will be to recognise and find a quarter.

Whilst studying our class story 'The Pet Potato,' the children have all had the opportunity to create a pet profile for their very own pet potato - drawing their pet, creating a name and personality. Year 1s have been writing about what their potato enjoys to do and even discussing what the best thing is about having a potato as a pet. The children compared having a pet potato to a regular pet and found some pros and cons to both, deciding potatoes would not last very long, so this might be a negative. Children also realised that potatoes, unlike many other pets, would not need cleaning up after, feeding or taking for a walk. The children are already taking care of our class pet potato and watching eagerly as it begins to chit.

As scientists, Cygnet class has been conducting an experiment and so far have used their skills to predict and set up a fair test. During their learning about plants, the children have worked on their prior knowledge about what plants need and now they are putting their knowledge to the test. The cress test! 4 plates of cress have been given different conditions to see how this will affect their growth. Some children thought without sunlight and water the seeds would not be able to grow. There was a good discussion about what might happen if the seeds have water but no sunlight. The Year 1 children are looking forward to observing and recording the changes we see (or do not see) with our 4 different plates of cress seeds.



In our other areas of learning the children have been so busy and engaged in all the opportunities in the provision and lessons. Including exploring how to rescue animals who have been frozen together, programming Beebots, birdwatching, collaging, discussing people who help us and learning the skills for playing tennis to mention a few!



## Melissa

As mathematicians, Melissa class has continued to find fractions of a number and, conversely, to find the whole. Children that are confident in their 2, 5 and 10 x tables are finding that they can apply this knowledge to find fractions and the whole more quickly - which is great to see.

In English, Melissa class has been exploring how to extend their sentences further with coordinating and subordinating conjunctions. They have also been considering how they can uplevel sentences with their knowledge of adjectives and adverbs. All children have been tested on their KS1 common exception words and many have made great progress which is a testament to the practice they have put into these at home. Well done!

Melissa class has fully immersed themselves in their Forest School sessions this term and last week were given the challenge of taking an egg with them on their adventures! The eggs, one bearing the name (and face!) of each teacher, needed to be placed in a safe nest. In groups, the children discussed strategies. "The nest needs to be high enough so it is safe from predators" Ben. "We need it to be stable and secure" Phoebe. "It must be soft and cosy inside" Tilly. Like a flock of busy blackbirds, they then set about gathering materials and building their nests with every attention to detail. Such was their custodianship, that (incredibly) every single egg returned safely back to school at the end of the session.



Another great 'Forest School hit' has been the ever so competitive 'Longest Stick Line' challenge. In teams of 6, with team strategy talks beforehand, the children raced to reach the cone! Would using the longest sticks be the answer? Would the speediest team be the one that had different roles ie. (layers and gatherers)? Or would the best way be to hide and guard all the best sticks somewhere safe and then do a quick laying dash at the end? It was fantastic to watch the children solve this challenge and witness the leaders, diplomats, inventors and hard grafters of tomorrow.



As artists, Melissa has been discovering the work of Henri Matisse and Bridget Riley. They made colour wheels by carefully selecting pre-painted collage pieces to represent primary and secondary colours. They also experimented with width and position within linear patterns, to create their Bridget Riley pieces.



In History, the class has been learning about the Space Race, but in particular, the lesser known and celebrated 'hero' of the Apollo 11, 12 and 13 missions: Katherine Johnson. You may have come across her story in the (adult) film: 'Hidden Figures', but if not-the children will be delighted to share what they know with you!

### **Edith-May**

In English, Edith May class has been extremely busy. Over the last two weeks, the class analysed the structure of a paragraph and identified the key points: Point, Detail, Explain. They then applied this learning to their own writing in their discussion text: Should Children Wear School Uniform? Moreover, the class had the incredible opportunity of joining forces with Thistle to complete some paired writing. Working together, the children wrote their own adventure story with a mixture of Year 5 and Year 3/4 writing objectives.

As mathematicians, Edith May has been developing their knowledge of unit and non-unit fractions. Their understanding of the denominator and the numerator has supported the class with the introduction of mixed numbers and improper fractions. This week, the children have been practising converting between the two. Whilst with Thistle class, the children have been consolidating their arithmetic and multiplication skills, ready for the MTC.



During their P.E. sessions with Mr Dale, Edith May has been continuing with their tennis and athletic learning. Tennis lessons have been focusing on the skill of backhand and forehand strokes, whereas athletics has focused on relay, throwing and the long jump.

As artists, the class has continued with their drawing unit and used various techniques to create patterns and shades. Using a short story as a stimulus, the children zoomed in on descriptive language to imagine and construct the creature. Afterwards, the drawing was completed using oil pastels to bring their vision to life.

As musicians, the children have been developing their singing skills by keeping to the beat of the song and in time with each other.

As scientists, the class has been studying the conditions plants need to survive. They discussed the requirements and enquired into how this can be investigated. They decided to remove one of the conditions for each plant and observe it over the course of the week. Watch this space for the results!



## Thistle

In English, Thistle class has been using their writing skills to craft non-chronological reports. These informative texts focused on native bird species, encouraging pupils to use fronted adverbials (*Miane - **Surprisingly**, the robin can be found in a wide range of habitats*), subject-specific vocabulary (*habitat, migrate and camouflage*) and relative clauses (*James - The peregrine falcon, **which is famous for its speed**, has a wingspan that can reach over one metre*). They have also been using brackets for parenthesis to add interesting facts, such as: *The house sparrow (one of the UK's most common birds) is known for its surprisingly loud song.*

In Science lessons, children have taken a close look at the life cycle of plants, a fascinating journey from seed to flower. The class explored how plants reproduce, using key terms such as *germination*, *pollination* and *fertilisation* to describe each stage. They had the opportunity to dissect a flowering plant to identify its various parts, including the stamen, anther and ovary enhancing their understanding through practical learning.



In Maths, coordinates have been tackled, using coordinate grids to identify shapes and translate them across the plane. The class plotted points by moving along the x-axis first and then up the y-axis. For instance, to plot the coordinate (3, 5), you must move three units to the right on the x-axis, then five units up along the y-axis. To reinforce their skills, they were tasked with drawing regular polygons using sets of coordinates.

As part of our local area study, Thistle class has been investigating the history of Landguard Fort in Felixstowe. This impressive structure has a rich history, evolving from a vital military stronghold to a fascinating heritage site. Students have been researching how its use has changed over time, linking their learning to both geography and history as they uncover stories of past battles and changing defence strategies. Did you know that the Battle of Landguard Fort in 1667 was the last time a sea invasion of England was attempted.

PSHE sessions have focused on digital wellbeing, encouraging the class to weigh the positive aspects of spending time online (like learning and connecting with friends) against the potential downsides of excessive screen time. Through open discussion, pupils have been developing strategies to manage their screen habits and ensure a healthy balance between digital and offline activities.



## Edme

Year 6 should be congratulated for their efforts this week. Their approach to the SATs assessments has epitomised our school values, giving us pause to reflect on the remarkable effort that each and every child has made. We look forward to sharing with them the proof that endeavour and self-belief pay dividends when we share their results with them in July.

The process of preparation that Year 6 has engaged in over these last weeks and months, has narrowed the curriculum somewhat, so we look forward now to turning our attention to new learning in Science, History, Geography, Music, Art and DT. The children are looking forward to delving into the fascinating history of our local area as they begin this term's History unit next week. This will link closely to learning in Geography and, of course, our field trip to Felixstowe on Tuesday.

The excitement began today as the children immersed themselves in the process of making a steady hand game in DT. Having learned about the phrase 'form follows function', coined by the American skyscraper architect, Louis Henry Sullivan, the children designed the 'course' for their game so that it would be challenging, while at the same time achievable. The eye-catching, themed designs for the casing, added to the overall appeal of their games. The final challenge was to apply their knowledge and understanding of circuits and electrical components to make a functioning circuit that could be encased in a well-made, robust cardboard structure.

We will post photos of our finished steady hand games on our class page on the school website soon - watch this space!