



# Chelmondiston CofE Primary School Newsletter

06.06.25



Parents in need of advice or support?

<https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/children-families-and-learning/childrens-health/school-nursing-service>

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

Jasper	Cygnets	For helping others with his focus child activities
Austin	Melissa	For demonstrating perseverance
Megan	Edith May	For offering support to her learning partner
Connie	Thistle	For showing kindness to others when they were upset
Naomi	Edme	For being sensitive and supportive to others

Well done everyone!

### Diary dates from Monday 9th - Friday 20th June

Tuesday 10th                      Extra PE lesson for KS2 today

Wednesday 11th                      Bring a picnic to eat on the field (or grab and go lunch) followed by  
Sports afternoon (please see the letter sent via email for details)

Thursday 12th	Last Yr1 swimming session MC Grammar visit to Chelmo!
Saturday 14th	PTA Summer Fete 12 - 3pm
Monday 16th	New Reception parent information session - 5-6pm
Tuesday 17th	New Reception children stay and play session - Group A - 1.20-2pm Group B - 2.10-2.50pm
Thursday 19th	First Edme Forest School - 1-3pm
Friday 20th	Edith-May sharing assembly - 2.40-3.10pm

### **Future Dairy Dates**

Monday 23rd	Edme trip to Crucial Crew in Stowmarket
Wednesday 25th	Thistle sharing assembly - 2.40-3.10pm
Thursday 26th	New Reception children induction session - Group B - 9.15-10am Group A - 10.15-11.15am Edme Forest School - 1-3:15pm
Friday 27th	Group photographs
Tuesday 1st July	Yr6 transition day at Holbrook Academy New Reception children induction session and lunch - 10am-12.30pm
Wednesday 2nd	Melissa sharing assembly - 2.40-3.10pm
Thursday 3rd	Edme Forest School - 1-3pm Transition evening for Yr6 parents at Holbrook Academy
Friday 4th	Coffee morning - 10.30-11.30am Learning Log sharing session with parents - 2.45-3.10pm

Tuesday 8th	Edme sailing at Neptune Marina (details to follow) Cygnet sharing assembly - 2.40-3.10pm
Thursday 10th	Edme Forest School - 1-3:15pm
Friday 11th	Civvies Day (donation to PTA) PTA school discos
Tuesday 15th	Y6 Leavers' service in church - 1:15 - 1:50pm Leavers' assembly in school - 2:15pm
Wednesday 16th	Last Edme Forest School -1-3:10pm
Friday 18th	Last day of the academic year

**Please check all the diary dates as some have had to be changed. These are also on the website calendar, link below -**

<https://chelmondiston-church-of-england.secure-primarysite.net/diary/grid/2025/6/>

Dear parents and carers,

Our children have continued to demonstrate our school values and make the most of the learning opportunities they have in school. A highlight was the Y5 and Y6 Geography field trip to Felixstowe by public transport - bus and train to learn about sea defences and coastal erosion. Once again, the behaviour and respect shown by our pupils was commented upon, which all contributed to a highly enjoyable and interesting learning experience for all.

It is always a delight to show visitors around our school and see the learning that's happening in each class. This week, Therasa and Abbie, from Kidszone visited us and recognised many faces who enjoyed their nursery provision at Kidzone Shotley. We found children monitoring biodiversity in our grounds with microbits, another class was having a PE lesson, in KS2 children were enjoying a rock and roll music lesson and in KS1 we found Reception enjoying continuous provision in our fantastic EYFS garden, while Y1 were learning PSHE. It is wonderful that the empty site next to the school will be restored and Kidzone will be



expanding to run nursery provision in both Shotley and Chelmondiston. We can see many opportunities for us to work together and we can't wait!

This part of the year is always a busy one - we look forward to our Sports Day on Wednesday afternoon and we have been busy learning raps ahead of MCGrammar's visit to work with us on Thursday. Children are invited to bring sunglasses and caps if they want to feel the part. Please note that PE lessons will still go ahead so PE kit will need to be worn.



Sunflower update: rising to the challenge set by us by Chelmondiston Horticulture Society, our sunflowers are starting to grow and are being closely monitored by the pupils.



We are also looking forward to our PTA summer fete next Saturday. The team have been busy behind the scenes to ensure that the fundraising event will be fun-filled and bring an extra financial boost for our school. Children are welcome to bring loose change to add to the tube labelled 'Mr McGinn' in preparation for the traditional Gunge Gallows which will mark the end of the event!

We are lucky to have such an amazing PTA, the new Year 6 leavers' hoodies look fabulous and the tea towels have been very popular!



As always, please don't hesitate to contact your child's teacher, the school office or me if you have any questions about our school. Thank you for your continued support.

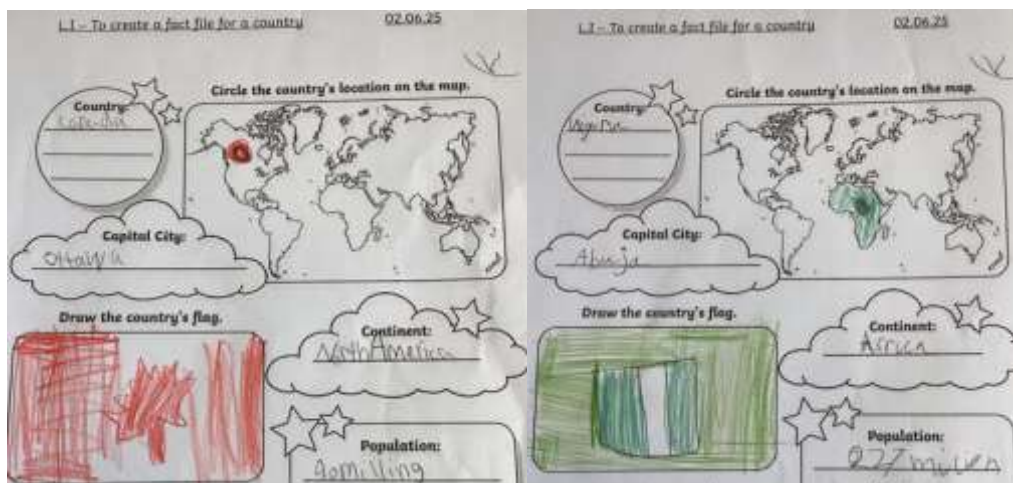
Lesley Etchingam, Headteacher

Here are our amazing learning highlights from the last fortnight:

## Cygnets

The children in Cygnet class have proved how responsible and sensible they are whilst looking after their very own pet potatoes. It was amazing to see so many children nurturing and tending to their pets whilst also making special resources for them, including rooms, school bags, different outfits for different occasions and generally being responsible for them day to day. It was a real surprise to see so many had made it through half term and all the adventures of the week! But like the story, there is always a time to say goodbye. In the book Albert buried his potato not knowing what might happen next. As scientists, we now know what could happen when a potato that has gone to seed has been planted. Some children have already planted theirs and are keen to document the growth.

Parents will be pleased to know that our new class story is not potato themed! We have begun reading 'Anna Hibiscus' and learning about Anna's life in Africa with her large family. The children have already begun comparing Nigeria (where Anna lives) and Canada (where Anna's mum is from). Learning about the flags, population, currency and languages spoken in the different countries. Finding out facts like, over 500 languages are spoken in Nigeria.



As mathematicians, Year 1 has been focused on position and direction. Using skills they have already refined during computing lessons, like thinking about quarter, half, three quarter and whole turns and using left and right to give a direction. The children have used many practical skills to fathom this and the prior learning whilst using the Beebots has built upon the confidence and accuracy the children can now show in this work. In Reception, the focus had been on adding and subtracting; children have been finding how many more, adding to an amount and using the very important skills of subitising to speedily work out the answers.



In DT Cygnet class began a new unit of work, with the rather exciting name: 'smoothies'. The children shared their knowledge and the learning began by identifying what a fruit is. In a game of 'think pair share' around the classroom, the children had to pair up, name a fruit, high five and then move on. In doing this collaboration, the class were able to then compile a list of 28 fruits they already knew! The children carefully observed food items to determine if they were a fruit or not. Knowing that a fruit is an edible part of a plant and that a fruit also contains seeds. After this investigation there were even more ideas to add to the list. The next step in our learning is about where fruits and vegetables grow. Luckily enough, Cygnet class already has some experience in this field! Look below for the first and most perfect strawberry that has been grown in the EYFS garden. The children have been wonderful gardeners looking after these plants, the bean plants and their sunflowers for the competition.



## Melissa

Melissa class has settled back nicely into classroom routines after the half term break. Children completed their History topic by doing a chronological timeline of the key events of the Space Race, starting when Yuri Gagarin did the first space flight in 1961, and continuing up to the present day with the exciting news that Rosemary Coogan has just been selected as the third British astronaut. Thanks to the resourcefulness of Miss Harvey's mother, the children were actually able to carefully handle and read original newspapers marking the lunar landings on 16th July 1969.



In Maths, Melissa class has been working really hard to build on their understanding of telling the time. Recent research has shown that it is easier for children to learn time if they focus only the minutes past the hour to begin with, so 5:45 rather than 'quarter to 6'. Once they have understood how to read the minutes past, identifying that this can also be called 'quarter past' or 'quarter to' comes later. We are really proud of how hard they are working on this topic which can appear quite confusing at first.

What is this time?



Our Art unit was completed with fabulous work based on the pop artist, Bridget Riley. The children were very inspired by her paintings which, although 2D, often present an optical illusion.

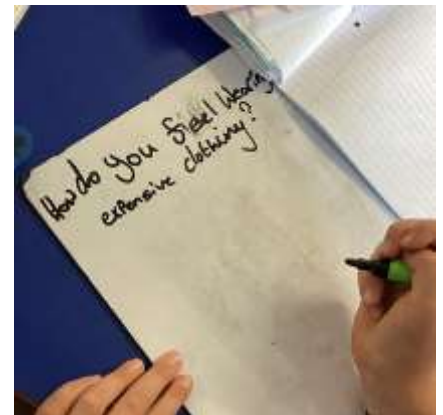


In RE, children have been learning about the Jewish festival of Sukkot. Sukkot is a seven-day Jewish harvest festival that also commemorates the forty years the Israelites spent in the desert after leaving slavery in Egypt. It is one of the three major pilgrimage festivals and is observed by building a temporary hut called a sukkah and spending time in it. Working in groups with Year 1, the children built their own sukkots from bricks and branches. A sukkot has to have 3 sides and a roof with gaps in, so that the stars are still visible through the roof at night.



## Edith-May

In English, Edith May is enjoying listening to and reading their new book, *The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane* which follows the adventures of a china rabbit and his family, 'The Tulane's'. Over the recent English sessions, children have immersed themselves in the world of Edward by completing a role on the wall, asking him questions through hot-seating, and writing a diary entry detailing one of his many life 'dramas'. As well as this, the children have been practising their grammar songs in preparation for the exciting MC Grammar visit on Thursday.



As mathematicians, Edith May class has built on their prior knowledge of fractions and applied it to a range of contexts. Year 3 children have been adding and subtracting fractions within a whole, whereas Year 4's have been adding and subtracting from a whole and from mixed numbers. Throughout their learning, the class has been developing their problem solving skills by answering a range of word problems. Furthermore, well done to the Year 4's so far that have completed their multiplication check this week -and good luck to the children completing it next week.

As scientists, the class has been continuing with their in depth learning of plants. Before half-term, Edith May investigated the requirements plants need to grow by removing one of the conditions (water, warmth, air, light, soil), and comparing them with a controlled plant. Moreover, the class is carrying out another experiment to investigate water transportation in plants. The class has placed celery stems in coloured water and will observe the changes to the plant over a period of time. Some have predicted that the plant will die as there is no soil, whereas others predict that the stem will turn red due to the food colouring being transported through the capillaries.



In their History and Geography learning, the class investigated the names of places and their meanings. Through a game of 'give one, get one', the children identified the definition of Anglo-Saxon suffixes and applied this to the names of our local area. Edith May was surprised to learn that some of the local names have Anglo-Saxon origins, such as Ipswich meaning farm/dwelling. Using the definitions, the class studied a map of East Anglia and found a range of places that have Anglo-Saxon suffixes in.



As musicians, the children are becoming rockstars! Their new unit, Rock 'n' Roll, focuses on learning about the origins of Rock 'n' Roll music. In the first session the children learnt the moves to the 'Hand Jive'. It was incredible to see how quickly some of them picked this up and then were able to teach the rest. It made for a very lively and joyous hour, celebrating the music of Buddy Holly and Bill Haley & The Comets.

As artists, the class developed their observational drawing skills by studying patterns found in nature and animals. Edith May replicated a close-up image of the pattern by using line-work and shading.



## Thistle

In English, the children have been writing letters of advice. They took the opportunity to act in roles as the characters in our class book *Wangari Maathi and the Trees of Kenya*. Using these freeze-frames, they offered guidance to characters in need. Within the writing, there was a focus on using modal verbs such as *should*, *might*, *must* and *could* to suggest possibilities and offer suggestions. They also used imperative verbs to make their advice clear and direct.



One of the highlights was our school trip to Felixstowe. After an exciting train journey, the children had the opportunity to explore the coast and observe coastal defences first-hand. They investigated how the town is working to prevent coastal erosion using a combination of groynes, rock armour and a sea wall. The children were amazed to see the size and power of these structures and asked thoughtful questions about how they work and why they are important. Armed with clipboards and curiosity, they recorded their observations and reflected on how human intervention can protect both the environment and local communities.

As mathematicians, children have strengthened their understanding of decimal numbers, especially when multiplying and dividing by 10, 100, and 1000. This has helped them build confidence in place value and deepen their number sense. They applied these skills to real-life contexts, such as converting metres into kilometres and vice versa.

In Music, the classroom was converted into a music studio with the class remixing and creating digital music. Using music software, they explored how to create loops, layer sounds and experiment with rhythm and tempo. Technology has also been used within Science as the class continue their biodiversity project. Using Micro bits to record the data, the class identified the number of living things in different habitats within the school grounds. This legacy project will be used in upcoming

years to track how the additional planting within the school is enhancing the wildlife that is living here.



## Edme

Edme class has been beavering away this fortnight. Before half-term, they ventured to Felixstowe on a Geography field trip to investigate how part of our local coastline is being defended against erosion. They started their adventure by taking the local bus to Ipswich, where they then took the train to the centre of Felixstowe. The children observed a range of sea defences in situ and considered the advantages of each method. Once the serious business of fieldwork was complete, the children enjoyed a scavenger hunt on the beach. Collectively, they uncovered a whole host of seashore treasures. The children thoroughly enjoyed the day and were complemented by the other passengers on the train for their exemplary behaviour and good manners.



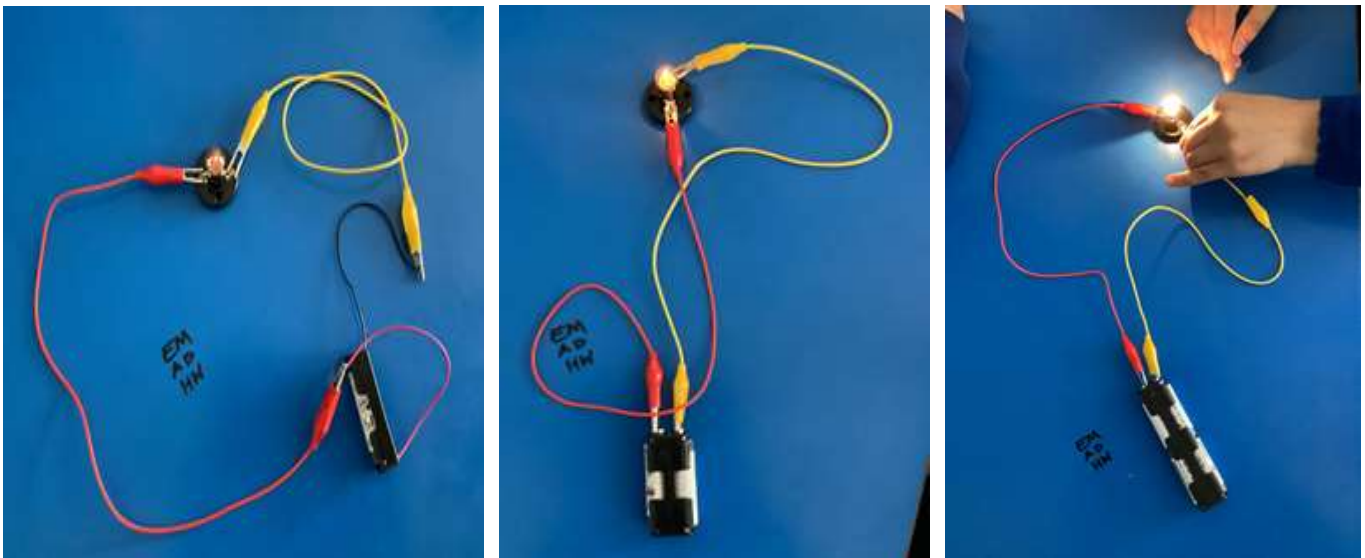
As Scientists, Year 6 have explored and explained the way that different components function within a circuit. They posed one of the following questions:

What will happen to the brightness of a bulb when the number of volts is increased?

How will adding more components to a circuit affect the brightness of the bulb?

How will the brightness of the bulb be affected by the number of cells in a circuit?

The children discovered that as the number of volts in a circuit increases, so too does the brightness of the bulb. They also discovered that adding more components to a circuit causes the bulb to become dimmer.



Aside from this, continuing with work inspired from our novel, *Rooftoppers*, the children have immersed themselves fully in the process of narrative writing. Having joined Sophie on her journey across the rooftops in Paris, while she tried to prove to Matteo that she had the agility and nerve to be up there, the children imagined what would happen next in our story. Some children chose for Sophie to be the heroine, as she rescued Matteo from a near-fatal fall from the roof. While others portray Sophie as the villainess - responsible for pushing Matteo to his doom. Their finished pieces showcase an assured use of the principles of 'show, don't tell' to describe characters and their motives. They also enjoyed using language to conjure an image of Paris by night to transport their reader. It has been an absolute pleasure to see the children experiment with different writing techniques and to engage with their developing writing styles. Well done, Year 6!

Thank you to our fantastic PTA for organising and funding our Leavers' Hoodies. The children have been sporting them with pride all week.

