



Chelmondiston CofE Primary School Newsletter

20.06.25



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/>

Our Good Samaritans

Effie	Cygnets	For supporting the new Early Years children at their very first stay and play
Hali	Melissa	For being kind and caring to her peers
Emil	Edith May	For cheering his peers on when faced with a challenge
Lucy	Thistle	For always being caring to others
Olivia	Edme	For being sensitive to others and being kind

Well done everyone!

Diary dates from Monday 23rd June to Friday 4th July

Monday 23rd - Yr6 trip to Crucial Crew, Stowmarket

Wednesday 25th - Thistle sharing assembly - 2.40-3.10pm

Thursday 26th - New Reception Induction Group B - 9.15-10am

Induction Group A - 10.15-11.15am

Edme Forest School - 1-3pm

Friday 27th - Group photographs for end of term

Tuesday 1st July - Yr6 transition day at Holbrook Academy

Induction morning for all new Reception children - 10am-12pm

Induction lunch for new Reception children and parents - 12-12.30pm

Wednesday 2nd - Melissa sharing assembly - 2.40-3.10pm

Thursday 3rd - Edme Forest School - 1-3pm

NO LATE BIRD (due to staff training)

Transition evening at Holbrook Academy for YR6 parents

Friday 4th - Coffee morning - 10.30-11.30am - all welcome

Whole school Log Book sharing session with parents - 2.45-3.10pm

Payments to School

Not only are we approaching the end of the academic year, we are also approaching our financial year end too. Please could I therefore ask that, if you have any outstanding payments on your MCAS account, these are paid by the end of term. Thank you.

Message from the Headteacher:

Dear parents and carers,

What an exciting and productive time we have all been having at school this fortnight - we have so many highlights to share! Y6 pupils excelled in their organisation of Year 3, 4 and 5 pupils for our athletics sports morning. The older pupils were encouraging, positive and fantastic role models - well done! In the afternoon, the sun shone for our family picnics on the field followed by our sports afternoon. We were really well supported with enthusiastic spectators, lining the track and pupils showed us determination, speed, agility and team work. Winter House won and completed the afternoon with a celebratory lap of the track - waving the blue flag high.



Well done to all our winners of our school handwriting competition. As a school, we are always working to improve the quality of our writing - this includes the content, spelling, grammar and vocabulary use. It is important to celebrate the skill of mastering neat and fluent handwriting and I am delighted that the standard of entries was high.

Another major highlight was our fantastic time with MC Grammar! With pupils being divided into four groups, he brought grammar learning to life and it was wonderful to see everyone having such a fun experience - dancing, laughing and rapping; please join us for our coffee morning and our sharing assemblies and we will show you what we learnt! Thank you to Mr Lyrick and the PTA and all the parents who supported this amazing learning experience for us.





The PTA team organised a fantastic summer fete on Saturday which was really well attended by our whole community and full of a wide range of stalls -it was another example of excellent team work and a positive spirit and all to support our children to have a broad range of exciting and enhancing experiences. Well done to all the bakers, whose tasty cakes were sold, thank you for all the raffle donations and the wide range of help on the day. Usually one to be 'glass half full', in the end I had to concede that my gunge glass was full and there weren't many coins in Mr McGinn's glass - so it was to the gunge gallows for me! Next time ...

DT has been a particular focus for some classes recently - with Y1 and 2 learning how to chop and mash fruit, Y5 have been cutting wood with saws and creating carefully measured trusses for a bridge, Reception children have been sewing and Y3 and 4 welcomed Mrs Gladwell, an experienced food tech teacher, to learn how to adapt biscuit recipes to create enhanced flavours.

We were delighted to welcome so many new families of pupils joining us in Reception in September to our parent information session and to our first stay and play this week. What fun we all had in our newly refurbished Early Years' garden, making new friends and exploring the inside and outside areas.

As always, thank you for your continued support.

Lesley Etchingam, Headteacher

Chelmondiston PTA



We were thrilled to welcome McGrammar to the school recently - what an incredible experience for the children! We're so proud to have supported this exciting event and loved seeing the children so engaged and inspired.

A huge thank you to everyone who came along to support the

Summer Fete - it was a fantastic day full of fun and community spirit. We're delighted to share that we raised an amazing £1,260.37, all of which goes straight back into enriching school life.



□ The Ed Sheeran Auction is now LIVE!

<p>ED SHEERAN TICKETS</p> <p>THIS EVENT IS SOLD OUT</p> <p>Saturday 12th July 2025</p> <p>4.30pm - Standing Tickets x2</p> <p>Age restriction: 14+</p> <p>Free Parking near ITFC Stadium</p> <p>Supporting Acts: Busted & Dylan</p> <p>Worth: £190</p> <p>ALL PROFIT WILL GO TO CHELMONDISTON PRIMARY SCHOOL</p>	
<p>Ed Sheeran</p>  <p>FORTMAN ROAD, IPSWICH 11 / 12 / 13 JULY</p>	<p>AUCTION TIME</p> <p>Want to participate? Message Jen on 07716719418</p> <p>You will be added to a whatsapp group where bidding will commence from Monday 16th June, 9am until Saturday 28th June, 8pm.</p> <p>Payment to be made ASAP!</p>

Don't miss your chance to bid on something very special. Join the WhatsApp group to get involved:

□ [Join the Auction Group](#)

Auction closes Saturday 28th at 8pm - happy bidding!

And a final reminder that our last Disco and Civvies day will be on Friday 11th of July.

Stay connected and in the loop via your class WhatsApp groups or follow us on Facebook:

[Chelmondiston Primary School PTA](#)

The PTA team is doing some amazing work behind the scenes, and we're always on the lookout for new members. If you're passionate about making a difference and supporting those 'little extras' that mean so much to our children, we'd love to hear from you!

☐ Contact Jen on 07716 719418

☐ Or email us at chelmopta@gmail.com

Kind regards

Chelmondiston PTA

A plea from Holbrook Scouts

Can you help? 1st Holbrook Scout Group needs a new Cub lead volunteer. Currently, Cubs runs between 6.30pm- 8.00pm on a Wednesday from Freston Village Hall. We are looking for a volunteer to support our amazing group, working with 8-10 year olds. Scouting offers opportunities to young people to develop confidence, friendships, life and leadership skills through activity and adventure



We promote community conscious citizens and inspire our young people to follow The Scout Law:

A Scout is to be trusted.

A Scout is loyal.

A Scout is friendly and considerate.

A Scout belongs to the worldwide family of Scouts.

A Scout has courage in all difficulties.

A Scout makes good use of time and is careful of possessions and property.

A Scout has self-respect and respect for others.

We have a committed group of volunteer leaders, Chair and Treasurer within the executive group and myself as Group Lead Volunteer .

Ideally we would like to find someone enthusiastic about Scouting and fundraising for the local young people, but no previous Scouting knowledge is necessary - just good communication skills, and a passion for having fun, supporting others to develop life skills and engaging in outdoor learning. We have a detailed set of risk assessments and session plans but encourage our volunteers to make it their own.

You will need to have an Enhanced DBS for the role and complete some online training and you would be fully supported in the role by myself and others. If you would like more information please contact me via email. Julia Parish julia.parish@wolveyscouts.org.uk

Here are our amazing learning highlights from the last fortnight:

Cygnets

The children in Cygnets were buzzing with excitement as MC Grammar brought 'The Gruffalo' to life in a whole new way! With the beats dropping and the rhymes flowing, the children got to hear this classic story and others as a lively and unforgettable rap performance. Our little rappers showed off speaking and listening skills, rhyming and confidence as they joined in and took part. One of the highlights (for the children) was the teacher rap battle! The children cheered on Mrs McMullan and Miss Brown as they took the mic. It was an amazing time to enjoy and have fun with reading, poems, songs and to celebrate words.



As mathematicians the Year 1 children have continued their learning about money. Recognising coins and notes, unitising and exchanging. The children have had lots of practical experiences and played games to deepen their understanding. In Reception the children have moved on from doubling numbers to work on pattern making. This week, the children were challenged to make repeating patterns with colour, size and shape. With talk partners the children copied a selection of AB patterns (red, blue, red, blue) and then moved on to discuss and create ABC, ABBA and ABBC. The children amazed us with their logic and understanding.



In PSHE in Year 1, the children have explored life cycles including humans, frogs, butterflies and chickens, recounting the experience we had in school when we incubated and watched chicks hatch from their eggs. From this the children moved on to discuss the changes in themselves from being a baby to toddler to child. It was lovely to hear all the children celebrating the skills and achievements they have made and recognising how quickly they have developed and changed over time.



Sports day was a fantastic show of the children's skills and teamwork. But in the early years garden there has also been some great sportsmanship with the children practising and honing their football skills. Each child has been in goal, shot penalties and worked on accuracy as they dribbled the ball through cones and around the garden.



Working on more physical skills, this time fine motor, in DT the children in Reception have sewn bookmarks. During this work the children began by threading beads and weaving with paper, building up skills to then move on to independently sewing the designs they had created. This took a lot of patience and resilience and as you can see the children are all so proud of what they have created.



Melissa

In Maths, the children have worked hard on the topic of 'Time' and been identifying 'quarter past' and 'quarter to' times. They have also been exploring using tallies and bar charts to represent data. Last week the children were set the challenge of recording data for different equipment in the Early Years garden and turning this into a bar chart, which they did brilliantly!



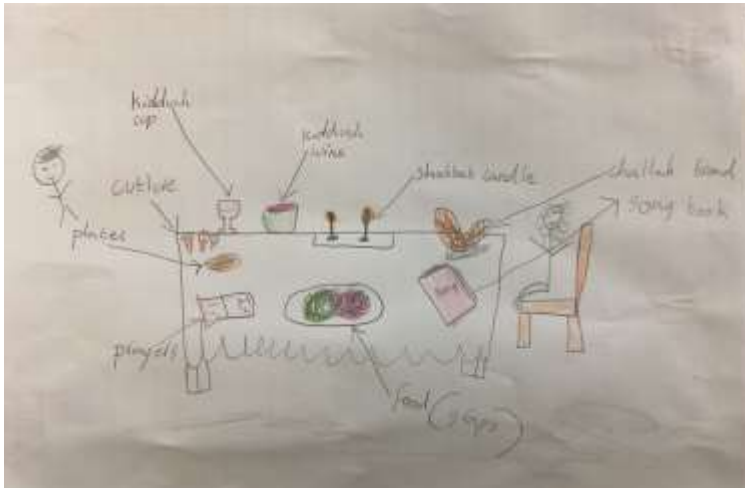
This week though, Melissa has taken a break from 'Time' to revisit Addition and Subtraction, and in particular to revise the strategies that make calculations easier.

In English, Melissa has been looking at suffixes and how the suffix (the ending of a word) can change the meaning, for example, the root word 'care' can become careful or careless- which makes two words with opposite meanings!

You may have seen a selection of wonderful still-life drawings at our fete. This is a photograph of our artists at work! They were carefully drawing 'natural form'; shells, vines, skulls, plants, wood, bark. Still life drawing is so good for observation and focus skills, and high quality, detailed work was produced.



Y1 and 2 have continued their learning on Judaism and have been finding out about the important ritual of celebrating Shabbat (from sunset on a Friday to Saturday at nightfall). Shabbat is about keeping the 7th day of creation, the 'Sabbath', holy, and spending it in prayer or with family celebrating a meal. When practised properly, electronics, anything mechanical or work related should not be used. The children discussed what a 'day of rest' might look like without the T.V, oven, car or console. They then drew their own Shabbat tables with the correct candles, challah bread and kiddush cup & wine.



In DT it was time to enjoy some food ourselves as Y1 and 2 made a delicious fruit salad. The lesson aim was to teach children how to prepare, hold and cut fruit safely. The classes also learnt how delicious fruit salad is with almost all children enjoying a bowlful - a welcome and delicious treat on a hot day!

Edith-May

Wow! Edith May have had a busy fortnight filled with some wonderful experiences, such as a visit from MC Grammar, the school fete, sports day, cooking, and completing our final sharing assembly for the year.

Here are the highlights of the fantastic week the children have had:

In English, the class is continuing with their text, *The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane*. The children have focused on their figurative language skills by including similes and metaphors to describe events from the book:

The ocean ran away - Cece

In Maths, Edith May is learning how to find and use durations, convert to both digital and analogue clocks, as well as converting to the 12 and 24-hour times.

At the beginning of the week, the class had a wonderful D.T. day where they were able to taste biscuits that I had made, evaluate them, and then plan how to improve them. After their planning, the class practised budgeting and calculating the cost of their new biscuits, as well as creating a brand name and designing packaging to go alongside. I was impressed with the dedication and focus from the class whilst designing their products. Once this was completed, Edith May was busy adding their extra ingredients and decorations. I can confirm that they all made a better looking biscuit than myself.



In Science, the class is coming to the end of their last unit, Plants. They have investigated water transportation, the parts of a plant and their functions, seed dispersal (which some children created their own interpretive dance to), and the requirements a plant need. Finally, the class will conclude the unit by learning about the pollination process of a plant.

In P.E, the class prepared themselves for sports day which was a successful event. The resilience, team work and determination that the children displayed was phenomenal. It was a joyous day. On to the next!



Thistle

The future engineers in Thistle class have been putting their precision and teamwork skills to the test by constructing model bridges. They learned how to measure materials accurately, a vital skill in all areas of life. Under careful supervision, they used saws to cut wooden pieces safely and confidently. Now that the components have been prepared, the class used hot glue guns to attach their parts together. The end results were strong, well-constructed bridges

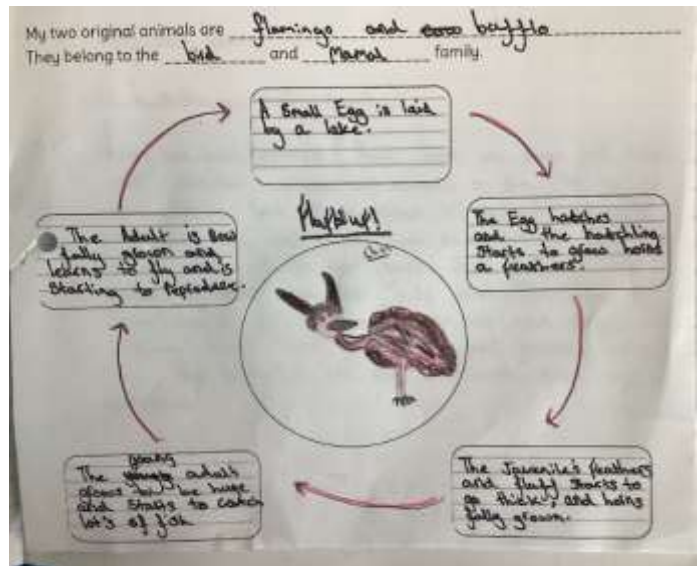
— and
some
very
proud
faces!



In English, pupils have been exploring the power of persuasive language through the theme of environmentalism. Inspired by Greta Thunberg's powerful "How Dare You" speech, they examined how tone, emotion, and facts can work together to create change. Each child then wrote and delivered their own short persuasive speech, calling for action on important environmental issues such as pollution, deforestation and plastic waste.

Meanwhile, in Maths, the focus has been on reading and interpreting data from timetables – a crucial skill as they prepare to move into secondary school. The class practised calculating durations, identifying start and end times and solving real world scenarios using bus and train schedules. We've had some excellent discussions about how these skills will help them become more independent, especially when navigating new routines, school schedules and eventually public transport!

Science has taken an imaginative turn this week as pupils explored the animal kingdom to create their very own hybrid creatures. Combining two different animal families, the class worked scientifically to consider the physical characteristics, habitats and survival needs of their invented species. They then developed a full life cycle for their new creature, thinking carefully about each stage from birth to adulthood. From hummingwhales to kangadiles, the ideas were both inventive and scientifically sound – with lots of great vocabulary and classification work to support their designs.



Edme

With warmer weather upon us, Edme Class has taken learning out of the classroom and into our wonderful grounds. Last week, for instance, in preparation for our Sports Day, Year 6 worked in small House Group teams to put together a carousel of activities for their KS2 peers to enjoy on the morning or our whole-school day of sports. With activities such as *Javelin Throw*, *Hit the Wicket* and the *Obstacle Course*, our Sports Leaders coached, challenged and encouraged the children as they competed to earn house points towards the house cup. The children were impressive in their leadership roles and a wonderful time was had by all.



In a further attempt to make good use of our grounds, the children collected a selection of natural treasures from the field and Martin's Wood. The children then drew these objects from different angles, both close up and from a distance using graded pencils to capture what they observed. These drawings will be the inspiration for press and reduction printing next week.



Yesterday, the children also had their first Forest Schools session, during which they visited the woods at Pin Mill. The children played team games amongst the ferns and pine trees, and made dens using the natural materials on offer there. We even found a family of toads, which really captured the children's interest.



Finally, as Scientists, the children have begun their final unit of learning in Science, through which they will learn about the human circulatory system. They have begun to learn about the important part that the heart and blood vessels play in carrying oxygen and nutrients to the cells and tissues of the body and how, without them, human life cannot be sustained. The children enjoyed playing collaboratively to match the names, pictures and roles of the parts of the circulatory system, before recording in writing what they have understood so far.