



Chelmondiston CofE Primary School Newsletter

04.07.25



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

Robyn	Cygnets	For being kind and caring to others
Austin	Melissa	For fantastic effort and attitude to learning
Ollie	Edith May	For being a positive and encouraging member of the class
Erin	Thistle	For being a caring member of the class and always wanting to cheer others up.
Bronte	Edme	For being caring and sensitive to others' needs

Well done everyone!

Diary dates from Monday 7th - Friday 18th July 2025

- Monday 7th PTA Civvies day for Yr6 only
- Tuesday 8th - Yr6 Picnic and Neptune Sailing
- Cygnets sharing assembly - 2.40-3.10pm
- Thursday 10th - Yr6 BBQ and camp night
- Friday 11th - PTA civvies day (except for Y6 who are doing Forest School)

PTA end of term discos - 5-8pm

Monday 14th -

'Move up' Monday

Yr2 Parents' Session 'New to KS2' - 2.45-3.05pm

Parents' opportunity to meet class teachers for September- 3.20-3.35pm

Tuesday 15th -

Y6 Leavers' Service in Church - YR6 and parents - 1.15-1.50pm

Y6 Leavers' assembly in school - 2.15-3pm

Wednesday 16th -

Last Edme Forest School session

Friday 18th -

Last day of the academic year

Outstanding Balances

There are still several outstanding balances owed to school. Can you please check your MCAS account and, if you have any outstanding balances, ensure these are paid by the end of term. Thank you.

From the headteacher:

Dear parents and carers,

We had a wonderful coffee morning this morning - Y6s, well-trained by now, served refreshments and sold hand made cards and we all enjoyed the singing and rapping from the whole school musical interlude. Thank you for all the donations of cakes, including a very tasty carrot cake donated by Pin Mill Sailing Club. We are delighted to announce that we raised £170 for the Children's Hospice (EACH). Thank you also for all the parents and grandparents who joined us for our book share to admire all the work and the progress made in children's books.



As always, this fortnight has been jam-packed with a broad range of learning activities. Y6 enjoyed an informative and interesting Crucial Crew trip to The Mix, in Stowmarket. Here they participated in 7 interactive sessions teaching key personal safety messages. We have also enjoyed sharing

assemblies with Melissa and Thistle and we look forward to Cygnet's on Tuesday. An archaeologist visited Thistle and Edme which you will be able to read more about in the class sections below.

Year 6s have also had the opportunity to spend time in their new high schools as part of their transition programmes. We also welcomed Holbrook Academy Deputy Headteacher, Mr Anstee Parry, to come and talk to Edme class. As Year 6s prepare for their next step in their educational career, we have enjoyed sessions where our new Reception pupils joined us to play as part of their transition to our 'big' school. We were delighted that so many new families joined us to stay for a tasty lunch too!

As we begin our countdown to the end of the academic year and plan ahead for September, I am aware that this is a busy time of year at home as well as at school. Once they are ready, we will be sending your child's annual report home next week. These will include the statutory results for Year 6 SATs, the Year 4 Multiplication Tables Check, Year 1 Phonics Screening results and the Early Years Foundation Stage Learning Goals results.

On the last Monday of term, 14th July, we will have our 'Move up Monday' where children are told about their class teacher for September and they spend time together and find out about what their next year will be like. During the morning, I will send an email to parents informing you of this too. At the end of the day, at 3:20pm, parents are invited to come into your child(ren)'s classroom and meet the teacher.

Please note that on 14th July, our current Year 6s will have a sporting enrichment morning, learning how to fence with Mr Dale, who, among his many talents, is a qualified fencing instructor. On the same day, parents of current Year 2 pupils are invited to a special 'New to Keystage 2' information session at 2:45pm to find out more about the changes from being in KS1 to KS2.

Along with this newsletter, you will be sent an important governor update from our Chair of Governors, Chris Deacon.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher, the office or catch me on the playground before or after school 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

As poets, Cygnet class have been inspired to write by the journey Anna Hibiscus took in our class story. To begin the task the children listened to sound clips of a busy city, like the one described in the book. Then in contrast children listened to the sounds of the rainforest that Anna travels through, on a canoe, to get to her beach holiday. In talk partners, the children discussed how the sounds made them feel and as a class we collated ideas. From this the children wrote their own poems.

L.I - To write a shared poem

The whole family waved them off.

Busy and bustling
Cars beeping their horns
Buildings up to the sky
Shouts and market stalls

Then it was gone.

Trees crowding out the light
Trees up to the sky
Sky hidden by leaves
Deeper into the forest

Slowly-slowly.



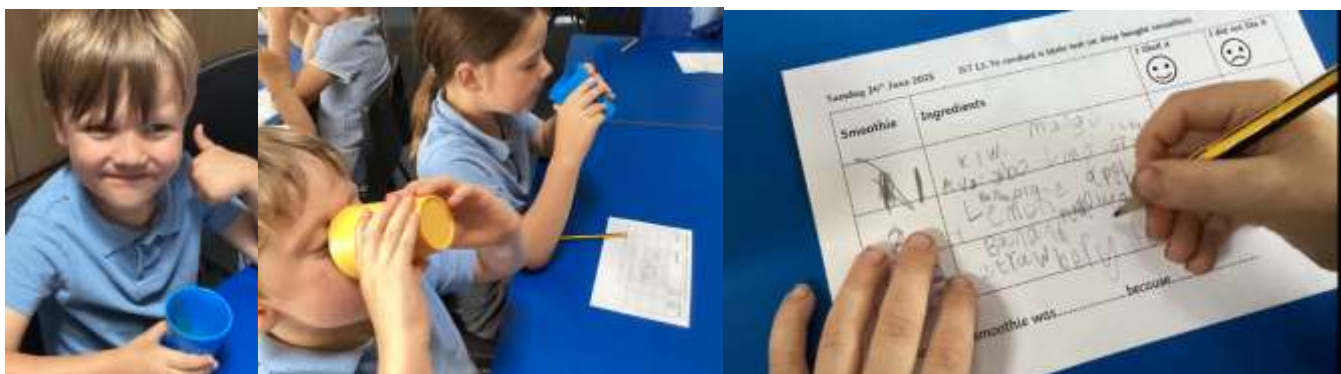
Traffic jam
Beep beep
Cars
Horns
Screach
Beeping
Honk honk
Crashing
Busy
Noisy

Rustling
Tweeting
Ribbet
Wind
Shhhhhh
Woodpeckers
Trees
Leaves
Splash
Crickets
Trees
Water
Stream

As mathematicians, Reception and Year 1 have taken their maths outside! The children in Reception have been predicting and testing their hypothesis about sinking and floating. Having to guess how many marbles would sink their chosen 'boat'. There were a lot of different ideas and amazement about what actually happened. Some children's boats needed more than 40 marbles to eventually sink! In Year 1 the children are working on numbers to 100. Deepening their number knowledge and understanding the children created their own number lines to help them solve addition and subtraction questions practically.



As super smoothie testers, the children in Cygnet's have trialled different shop bought drinks. During this work in DT the children had the opportunity to juice and cut different fruits, try ingredients and with this taste test, guess and evaluate the ingredients and taste of the different flavours. This all in the lead up to the children writing their own recipe and set of instructions for a smoothie they would like to make. All the children have enjoyed learning about different fruits and making choices based on their preferences. They are extremely excited to be making their own smoothies before the end of term.



As artists, the children in Reception were challenged to paint with natural items. In an effort to create and paint with nature outside, the children got creative in the school's woodland area. Many paintbrushes were formed with twigs and leaves and other items found on the forest floor. And for the paint... the most popular choice was mud! The children worked thoughtfully and collaboratively in this lesson whilst having a lot of fun in the shade.



Melissa

Melissa class has had a busy time preparing their sharing assembly which they presented on Wednesday afternoon. As we reflect on the individual personalities that started in September, it is clear to see how much their confidence has grown over the year. Every child had the aplomb to stand up and speak clearly in front of an audience - a fantastic achievement for children so young and we were certainly very proud of them all. If you were able to attend the assembly, you will have seen that the legacy of Mc Grammar continues. We certainly have some cool rappers in Melissa!

The children have enjoyed our class book: 'James and the Giant Peach' and the scorching weather has led us to swap a few 'daily mile' sessions to daily reading sessions in the shade of our beautiful woods.

Whilst our learning was shared in Wednesday's assembly, we thought you might like an opportunity to see some of the pictures of our highlights again:



The children really enjoyed using their computing skills to consolidate and tailor individual targets in the learning of 'Time' in Maths. They are becoming really confident telling the time to five minute intervals.



Our exciting DT project of creating our own smoothies has involved taste testing different fruit and thinking about the flavours and textures. The children also tasted different shop-bought smoothies to see if they could identify the ingredients. We have been impressed by the children's skills when chopping and preparing the fruit. It is a really key skill to be able to use a knife carefully and safely.



In Art lessons, the children have created incredible still life drawings. They looked carefully at the details and patterns on natural objects including shells, plants, flowers and skulls.

The children also carried out a fantastic Science experiment last week, mixing baking powder with vinegar in a bottle. They were all fascinated to see the chemical reaction taking place and filling up a balloon with carbon dioxide!

Edith-May

Edith May class has engaged in a range of wonderful activities and learning despite the heat this last week.

Continuing with our book, *Edward Tulane*, the class wrote their own sense poem based on a chapter. The children used the five senses to describe Edward being dumped into landfill and turned this into a poem. As always, I was impressed by their imaginative and descriptive ideas and the figurative language generated. Towards the end of their week, the class has been planning their final whole school independent writing project of describing a setting. I look forward to reading their final pieces.

'Flies dashed around like powerful lightning striking on a pitch-black sky' Scarlett G



As mathematicians, the class have investigated their new topic, money. Using coins and notes, the class wrote money as a decimal, adding and subtracting and problem solving too.

In History and Geography, Edith May created their own settlement using four figure grid references, a key and analysing evidence to make interpretations of the Anglo-Saxons.

In PSHE, Year 3 developed their understanding of what they can do as they become older and Year 4 discussed how their body will change.

In R.E, Edith May studied how Christians

reconcile with one another and with God through repentance and confessions. The class also studied real-life peacemakers, such as Desmond Tutu.

Finally, the class practised their sewing skills by using a range of stitches, such as running stitch, cross-stitch and applique. They are working towards their final product - a pillow for their favourite toy, inspired by our book, Edward Tulane.



Thistle

Thistle class were thrilled to welcome a real archaeologist into our classroom! The children became explorers of the past as they took part in a hands-on workshop to uncover hidden artefacts. One of the most exciting finds was a Roman roof tile - complete with a real dog's paw print! The class had the chance to handle genuine artefacts, learning how archaeologists piece together the past from small clues. They also had the opportunity to sieve soil to search for tiny fragments, just like professionals do in the field.





As scientists they have been investigating the growing problem of microplastics in our oceans. Through a series of investigations, the class explored how micro plastics spread in water and the impact they can have on marine life. Thoughtful questions about how we can all reduce plastic pollution were considered as they become custodians of the wider world - one of our key school aims.



In English, the class travelled to the far corners of the world. The children have been writing setting descriptions of a desert island, using their senses and powerful vocabulary to paint vivid pictures for their readers. From silent palm trees standing like soldiers (Kyrylo) to vibrant birds bellowing above (Emilee), their writing has transported them. Will they be able to ever get off the island? A huge congratulations to the whole class for their fantastic sharing assembly! It was such a pleasure to see every child participate with confidence and pride.

A STEM challenge was set this week, which led to teamwork and problem solving. With only 15 pieces of spaghetti and 60 cm of tape, pupils were challenged to build the tallest tower. Through this, they investigated which shapes - triangles, squares or circles - made the strongest foundations. It was a brilliant mix of fun, creativity and critical thinking. Alongside this task, they also completed their bridges by using glue guns (with careful adult supervision) to piece their previously cut materials together.



Edme

This fortnight, Year 6 have engaged with a real life archaeologist, who has ignited their interest in the fascinating history of our local area. Handling shards of pottery, flint axe heads and ancient quern stones, the children learned how archeologists are like detectives, piecing together evidence from the artefacts found to learn more about our ancestors.



As artists, the children have used their nature-inspired press print blocks to create two-tone reduction prints. I am sure you will agree that the finished results are extremely effective.



Forest Schools

As gymnastics, Michelin Star Chefs, bushcraft experts and more, the children ventured into the 'wilds' of our school field to be at one with nature. They played all afternoon, in the mud kitchen the 3D Maze, learning whittling and building dens. It was so lovely to see them play imaginatively in this way.

