



Chelmondiston CofE Primary School Newsletter 12.09.25



Parents in need of advice or support?

[School Nursing Service - Suffolk County Council](#)

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

Isla	Cygnets	For modelling how to respect school resources and help out in the class
Henry	Melissa	For being thoughtful and keen to help in the classroom
Matilda	Edith May	For being caring and supportive to other members of the class
Finley	Thistle	For being a responsible member of Thistle class
Lucy	Edme	For being caring towards a classmate in need

Well done everyone!

Diary dates from 15th - 26th September

Thu. 18th September -

Yr3/4 swimming

No Late Bird due to staff training

Fri. 19th September -

MacMillan Coffee Morning - 10.30-11.30am

Yr5 Forest Schools

Hilltop parent info session - 3.20pm

Thu. 25th September -

Yr3/4 swimming

Fri. 26th September -

Harvest Festival with Rev Liesbeth

Future dates for your diary

Wed. 1st - Fri. 3rd October -	Hilltop residential trip (Y5/6)
Thu. 2nd October -	Yr3/4 swimming
Thu. 9th October -	Yr3/4 swimming
Thu. 16th October -	Yr3/4 swimming
Fri. 17th October -	Edith-May sharing assembly 2.40-3.10pm
Tue. 21st October -	Thistle sharing assembly - 2.40-3.10pm
Thu. 23rd October -	BRIGHT Day - Be bright - be seen! NO Yr3/4 swimming
Fri. 24th October -	PD day (staff training - non pupil day)
Mon. 27th - Fri. 31st October -	Half term
Mon. 3rd November -	Return to school
Thu. 6th November -	Last Yr3/4 swimming Melissa sharing assembly - 2.40-3.10pm
Fri. 7th November -	Edme sharing assembly - 2.40-3.10pm
Wed. 12th November -	Cygnets sharing assembly - 2.40-3.10pm
Thu. 13th November -	Yr5 swimming
Mon. 17th November -	Open morning for prospective new children in Sept. 26
Tue. 18th November -	Flu vaccinations
Thu. 20th November -	Yr5 swimming
Mon. 24th November -	Open morning for prospective new children in Sept. 26
Thu. 27th November -	Yr5 swimming
Tue. 2nd December -	Parents consultations - details and times TBC
Thu. 4th December -	Yr5 swimming Parents consultations - details and times TBC

Thu. 11th December - Yr5 swimming
Fri 12th December - PTA discos
Tue. 16th December - Evening Christmas performances - details and times TBC
Wed. 17th December - Afternoon Christmas performances - details and times TBC
Thu. 18th December - NO Yr5 swimming
Fri. 19th December - Last day of Autumn term
Christmas Church service 2pm - all welcome

Dear parents and carers,

It has been a great first fortnight, full of learning and fun across the curriculum for all. I have been really impressed with how quickly our new Reception children have settled in and made new friends. The older children were delighted that their new, younger friends joined them on the field for playtime for the first time. Here are some playtime pictures from this week.



We love to make the most of the sunshine, and please note that we play outside in all weathers so a coat and a change of shoes (wellies) for the field are essential. Please make sure all items are named. If you use the company 'Stikins' then it helps our PTA to raise important funds for the school.

<https://www.stikins.co.uk/> - fundraising number 4132.

Each term class teachers provide a summary of what your child(ren) will be learning and guidance on how you can support at home. Please follow this link to find the Autumn Topic Overview for your child's class:

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

Please see the link below to find useful information for further Maths information each year group:

[Mathematics | Chelmondiston Church of England Primary School](#)

At Chelmo we teach children how to be safe on-line through PSHE and Computing lessons and we are keen to work with families and to share useful information to ensure our children are safe on-line. Please follow this link to our website for two new useful 'cheat sheets' for parents to be up to date on how to guide your children using the internet with regard to **AI** and **group chats**.

<https://chelmondiston-church-of-england.secure-primariesite.net/online-safety/>

Please can we ask a favour? We have a wish list of items that your child(ren) may no longer need at home, that are in good condition and that you would be happy to donate to the school:

Dressing up clothes

Toy trucks and cars (for outdoor play)

Rugs and picnic blankets

Popular children's books that are in good condition (we do a lot of reading at Chelmo!)

Doll and dolls clothes

Construction Toys

Table tennis equipment

Girls' underwear (KS1)

We are looking forward to seeing anyone who can join us for our MacMillan Coffee morning next Friday - you will be served refreshments by our Year 6 pupils and entertained with a couple of seasonal songs from the whole school.

As always, thank you for your support and please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher (via Dojo or Tapestry) or catch me on the playground before or after school.

Best wishes,

Lesley Etchingham, Headteacher



Edme Class are very much looking forward to hosting you at our MacMillan coffee morning on Friday 19th September. We would be delighted if you could join us between 10.30 a.m. and 11.30 a.m. for coffee, cake and a heart-warming burst of singing. Please complete the Google form on the original Invitation sent via email on 5th September.



All donations of sweet and savoury treats gratefully received. See you there!

Message from our PTA

Welcome back families and friends! We hope you had a wonderful summer break. The PTA has already met and we're excited for the year ahead, building on last year's fantastic fundraising success. This year we'll continue to enrich the children's school experience and start using funds for special experience days.

A warm welcome to all new families who have joined the school community. Our AGM will be held on Monday 4th November – more details to follow.

Events to look forward to include more school discos, the return of the ever-popular Adult Quiz Night, the Parents' Lottery, and (dare we say it) Christmas Cards.

We'd love more parents to join our passionate team – especially from Year 4, so every year group is represented. If you're interested, please email chelmopta@gmail.com, speak to me (Jen Woodhatch, mum of a Year 2 student), or any PTA member.

Keep an eye on our Facebook page for updates. Here's to another fantastic year of fundraising and memory-making for our children!

Jen Woodhatch, Chair of PTA (Year 2 Parent)

Kind regards

Chelmondiston PTA



Did you know that our classes are named after river barges?

Cygnets, Melissa, Edith-May, Thistle and Edme London Barges were used to carry cargo up and down the river and Pin Mill served as a busy repair and cargo hub for them.

Here are our amazing learning highlights from the last fortnight:

Cygnets

The children in Cygnet class have had a wonderful start to the term! Our new reception children have settled in well and have listened carefully to lots of stories, played kindly and made friends, found out about each other in circle times, sung lots of songs, practised counting and lots more. In Phonics, they have been learning how to read and write the first sounds.

Inspired by 'The Colour Monster' and 'Ruby's Worry', the children have been exploring their feelings. They have collaged colourful rainbows, painted feelings faces, acted out a range of emotions and have all thought about and shared what makes them happy.



The Year 1 children have been fantastic role models, modelling how to be kind and respect each other and the classroom and resources. Each child has had the opportunity to buddy up with a different reception friend and show them all the different areas of the classroom and outside area. The Year 1s have been extremely busy revising their phonics sounds, reading, developing their handwriting skills, counting, exploring seasons, dip dyeing and sharpening their ball skills in PE.

Melissa

Melissa class has had a great start to term. In History, our current topic is 'Homes from the Past' and the children have started this topic by learning about all the different types of homes that people live in, from houseboats to high-rise flats. They have become acquainted with vocabulary such as 'semi-detached', 'pre-fabricated' and 'terraced.'

In Maths, our mathematicians have been partitioning numbers to 100, noticing the tens and ones in 2 digit numbers and understanding why 38 is a different number to 83 etc.

Science was outdoors this week as children classified 'Alive', 'Dead' and 'Never alive'. They discussed items such as pine cones, feathers, trees and even our PE coach, Mr Dale!

As artists, Melissa has started their textile unit by dip-dyeing fabric (please note that extreme care was taken to ensure that no new school uniforms turned pink in this process!)

Melissa class has a class mascot: Coco the dog! Next Sunday, Coco will be running in the Ipswich Half Marathon as Mrs Grist's running partner, raising funds for Suffolk Mind (Suffolk's mental health charity). Suffolk Mind visited our school last year and delivered some fantastic workshops for the children. Please give Coco a cheer if you watch the race!!



Edith May

Edith May class have made a fantastic start to the year, settling into their new routines with great enthusiasm. During Maths, pupils have been working with place value counters to deepen their understanding of numbers up to 10,000.



In DT, the class explored mechanisms using pneumatics. They discovered how air can be used to create movement and power simple machines.



As scientists, they accurately measured temperatures using a thermometer and discussed why it is important to take careful readings in science experiments.



Thistle

Thistle class has had a wonderful start to the year and have settled into Year 5 extremely well.

The children began the year writing a setting description, focusing on key learning from year 4 whilst introducing new vocabulary. This week, the class started their new class text, *The London Eye Mystery* which seems to be a class favourite so far.

Thistle is developing their understanding of place value and identifying numbers to 1,000,000.

Science has focused on Forces, specifically gravity and how the invisible force pulls objects to the centre of the Earth. The class measured the object's weight and mass and compared the data.



As artists, the class experimented with construction and destruction of fabric. The children used a variety of techniques to create different end-products.

Finally, Thistle are enjoying their RE topic focusing on Gospel and using the Bible to find information.



Edme

What a fantastic first fortnight! Edme Class has returned to school ready and raring to go. As readers and writers they have become acquainted with the main characters of our class book, *Skellig*, by David Almond and have already written in role as Michael, describing his curious discovery of a pale and fragile creature hidden in the depths of the garage. The children have redrafted these pieces to improve descriptive word choices and sentence structure.

As scientists, Edme Class have begun to learn about the main parts of the human circulatory system. Using scientific language, they have described the role of the heart and the main blood vessels and they are beginning to think about the important job that blood does in delivering oxygen to the cells in the body.

Finally, as artists, Edme Class has explored the mindful method of zentangle patterns. The children have used this technique to create a self-portrait. These are currently a work in progress, but I am sure you will agree that their work so far is extremely eye-catching.



Zentangle Portraits

