



Chelmondiston CofE Primary School Newsletter

23.10.25



Parents in need of advice or support?

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

0345 607 8866

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

Elsie	Cygnets	For being a helpful learning partner
Ezra C	Melissa	For always being polite and respectful
Tilly	Edith May	For having a caring attitude to others
Ollie	Thistle	For always remaining fair when making decisions
Katie	Edme	For looking out for and speaking up for others

Well done everyone!

Diary dates Friday 24th October - Friday 14th November

Friday 24th October - PD (staff training) Day (non-pupil day)

Monday 27th - Friday 31st October - Half Term

Tuesday 4th November - PTA Circus Skills Day

Thursday 6th November -	Last 3/4 swimming session Melissa sharing assembly - 2.40-3.10pm
Friday 7th November -	Edme sharing assembly - 2.40-3.10pm
Monday 10th November -	Anti-bullying week Odd socks day - to celebrate that we are all different Opening morning for prospective new parents
Tuesday 11th November -	Remembrance Day Church Service - 10.45am
Wednesday 12th November -	Cygnets sharing assembly - 2.40-3.10pm
Thursday 13th November -	First Yr5 swimming session
Friday 14th November -	Children in Need - led by the School Council (more details to follow)

Phonics Session

On Tuesday 18th November from 2.10-3.10pm, Miss Brown will be holding a phonics session. This is primarily for Reception parents but any KS1 parents who may have missed previous sessions are welcome to attend.

Absence from School

Please ensure you email or leave a telephone message by 9.15am if your child is too ill to attend school. Please give the specific reason for the absence as this is needed for the register and we need to be aware of any patterns of illness.

Dear parents and carers,

As I reflect on this half term, there is much for us to celebrate. The children are to be commended for their respectful behaviour and caring nature towards each other. As I monitor behaviour across the school, I am pleased to report that standards are generally very high. We all know that children sometimes make mistakes and that school is a good place

to learn about consequences and how to understand each other so that children can be the best versions of themselves.

Well done to Edith May and Thistle classes for presenting their sharing assemblies so well. We look forward to Melissa's, Edme's and Cygnets' sharing assemblies after half term. Also well done to our new Year 5 Buddies, who have each written a letter to their Reception buddy and spent some time learning more about them and playing together.

Edme and Thistle (Y6 and Y5), as 'custodians of the wider world' had an extremely interesting and productive morning last week, taking part in a beach clean at Pin Mill. We were grateful for the help and expert advice from Mr Stanley and it was good to know that we are having a real impact over time as each year there is less rubbish to remove from the beach. We even made the EADT!



Cygnets and Melissa enjoyed a wonderful woodland walk, spotting seasonal changes as we went. Thank you to all the volunteers who joined us and also a big thank you to Pin Mill Sailing Club and Mrs Hopkinson who welcomed us in to enjoy a drink and a snack.



Well done to our Junior Road Safety Officers who led an assembly this week and organised our Bright Day. In Collective Worship we sang 'This little light of mine' as we thought about the idea that we have a spark of light that shines within us and that we can choose to share it with others and look for it in others too. The JRSOs awarded certificates to winners for shining brightly and admired the creativity of the occasion!



I'd like to remind you that the final date for high school, Year 7, applications is 31st October and that after half term we are welcoming anyone who is looking for a place for their child in Reception for September 2026 to book an appointment to visit our school.

Now that autumn has arrived we will carry on using our field for as long and as much as possible for playtime and lunch times. Each child needs to have named spare footwear in school every day as this will keep our school clean. Wellies are ideal and essential for younger pupils. Older children (e.g. who like to play football) may prefer to bring in an old pair of trainers.

I wish you a happy half term and look forward to seeing children back in school on Monday 3rd November 2025.

Thank you for your continued support.

Lesley Etchingham, Headteacher

◻ Circus Skills Day & PTA News ◻

We are very excited for our Circus Skills Day on Tuesday 4th November!

This special event has been organised and funded by our wonderful PTA, and we know it's going to be a fun, active, and memorable day for all our children.

Our PTA is a friendly, enthusiastic team of mums and dads who work together to raise funds and support special experiences like this one. We're always looking for new members to join the team, no huge time commitment required, just a willingness to get involved, share ideas, and lend a hand when you can.

Our PTA AGM will be held on Tuesday 4th November via Zoom, and we'd love to see some new faces join us!

If you'd like to find out more or get involved, please contact Jen at chelmopta@gmail.com.

All parents and caregivers are warmly welcome! ◻

Here are our amazing learning highlights from the last fortnight:

Cygnets

Cygnets children have done so well in what has been the Reception children's first half term of school. They have made kind and caring friendships, shown lots of creativity and imagination, been resilient developing their reading and writing skills and developed fantastic speaking and listening skills in our carpet sessions.

The children had a wonderful time on their autumn walk, exploring the local area, thinking about the signs of autumn and safely and sensibly walking to the sailing club. The children enjoyed the views and found lots of wonder in nature on the way.

Cygnets have enjoyed lots of time exploring autumn back in school as well, threading leaves onto pipe cleaners to make leaf wreaths, printing natural items with paint and into playdough,



using pipes and tubes to make 'conker runs' and lots more. We were amazed by how closely they observed the leaves they found and showed this in fantastically detailed observational drawings. Year 1 also went on to use water colours to paint and create the beautiful patterns they had seen on the leaves we had collected.

As writers, Year 1 children have mapped out and written the story of Ruby's worry and then planned and developed their own story about what to do when you discover a worry.

Reception children have worked hard in their phonics, continuing to read and write Set 1 sounds and blend sounds to read words. Please come to our Reception parent information session about how we teach phonics and how you can help at home on November 18th.

Our 'Focus child' sessions continue to be a highlight of the week and the Reception children take pride in sharing their photos and asking each other some brilliant questions. Based on the children's interests, we have been busy creating princess mirrors, designing glittery dresses and playing ice cream shops!



Melissa

What a fantastic conclusion to the end of our first half term. Not only did Melissa class enjoy a beautiful, sensory, autumn walk, spotting the seasonal changes and wildlife on our doorstep; but they also 'stepped back in time' with a special visitor, Barry (Miss Brown's father).

Barry was born in the late 1940's and the children had prepared many questions to ask him about his childhood and his childhood home. They were fascinated to hear about him walking a mile to school (aged 5) and how children could play in the streets as there were fewer cars in the 1950's. The class was surprised to hear that a bath was a weekly occurrence with water having to be heated up (i.e. not from a tap) and that it was common for the toilet to be

outside! With the example of a black and white TV with only one channel (and no catch-up!)- the children could begin to put into context how much technology and times have changed. Experiences like these really enrich the learning in school and we are grateful for visits like Barry's.



In computing, the children have been improving their typing skills and considering how we use the technology around us. The children have been introduced to the Maths games on 'Numbots' and many are continuing to improve their quick recall of number facts at home too.

Our Textiles Art project this term, concluded in the class printing their own fabric with their individually made block prints-and stunning it was too.

In PSHE, the class has been introduced to 'assumption' and 'stereotype' as we have discussed how it is healthy for us to all have similarities and differences. With admirable maturity, children spoke openly about how they felt it was fine for boys and girls to like the same sports, hairstyles, colours, interests and patterns, and that the only thing that truly mattered was "to be kind to each other".





Edith-May

In Maths, Edith May has been mastering column subtraction by learning how to exchange and line up the numbers carefully to make accurate calculations. They have been applying these skills to real-life word problems, helping them to see how subtraction is used in everyday situations.



As historians, the class continued their study of the Vikings, looking closely at how history is sometimes shaped by stereotypes. They discussed the popular image of Vikings as fierce, horned-helmet warriors and compared this to historical evidence showing they were also skilled farmers, traders, and explorers.

In Science, children carried out an experiment to observe the effect of temperature on the rate of evaporation. They made careful predictions, measured accurately and recorded their results with precision. They identified that liquids evaporated faster when placed in warmer conditions.



Edith May performed their sharing assembly fantastically, speaking confidently in front of the whole school and parents and carers. They shared what they have been learning with enthusiasm and teamwork – a wonderful celebration of their achievements this half term.



Thistle

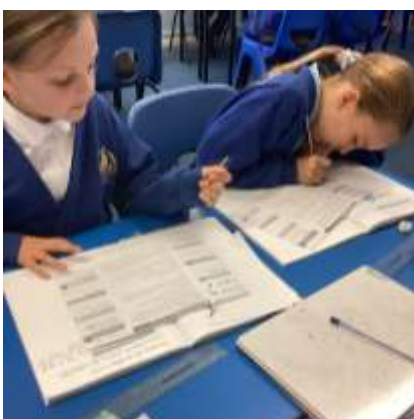
This week's newsletter has a twist...**Thistle class has taken over and written this themselves!**

Thistle class wrote a letter to their Reception buddy and hand-delivered these at the beginning of the week. The children enjoyed getting to know their buddies and learning more about them.

As writers, we have been developing our writing skills in English. Firstly, we wrote a police report about a missing person called Salim (from our class novel). After that, we wrote a character list describing characters for a play script. Finally,



we wrote a play script based on Salim going missing. - *Ella and Taiya*



In maths, we have focused on comparing numbers, such as 67 and 76. This would be shown as $67 < 76$. We also looked at column addition and subtractions, such as $9,850 + 7,654 = 17,504$ and $1,982 - 18566 = 126$. We were also rounding 10's, 1000's and 10,000's. Such as 58 rounded to the nearest 10 is

60. 60 rounded to the nearest 1,000 is 0. - *Isabel and Scarlett W*

As scientists, we learnt that a gear can change the force or speed of an object. A lever helps you to move/lift a large load. An example of a pulley is a blind where you pull the chain to lift the blind up. - *Thea and Esme*

In R.E., we have been learning about the four Gospel-writers: Luke, John, Matthew and Mark. Then we went to the Church to learn about pulpits and lecterns with Reverend Liesbeth. A Bible is read from a lectern and will always include a Gospel whereas a pulpit is a raised structure where a service will occur. Sometimes a lectern will have an eagle carved on it because the eagle can fly the furthest to share God's words of peace and love. - *Megan and Scarlett G*



In French, we've been learning how to listen and understand activities. Here are some examples:

Tu aimes la bibliothèque? J'adore la bibliothèque.

Tu aimes le parc d'attractions? J'adore le parc d'attractions. - Charlotte and Lily

In P.E., we have been learning to shoot, pass and dribble with precision and accuracy. We also have been learning how to pass and catch with efficiency. We scored some brilliant goals in football, like a top corner penalty. - *Ollie and Spencer*

On a lovely Monday morning, Thistle and Edme went on a walk to Pin Mill shoreline. We were devastated to see the amount of rubbish left, such as a very long plant holder tangled in weeds, and a huge assortment of glass. - *Theo and Frieda*

Thistle class has performed their sharing assembly to the school and to the parents. The children have learnt the script off by heart and did very well. They have learnt to confidently speak loudly and clearly and be exactly on time. - *Finley*

In forest school, we have been making mud dollops for throwing at targets. Everybody played tug of war and Summer House won. Although, in 'capture the flag', Winter was the winner.

Everybody played hide and seek. The first time we went to the woods, we found a huge hole, whittled sticks, made swings and dens and even a hotel. - *Olivia and Isobel*



Edme

As this half-term draws to a close, Year 6 should be incredibly proud of their achievements thus far. As leaders and role models, many of the children have had an opportunity to lead the school in an assembly (School Councillors, JRSOs), serve the community (as hosts at our Coffee Morning and while cleaning the beach at Pin Mill) and to lead initiatives in school (Eco Monitors). The children of Edme have had an excellent start to the term and already impressed us with their maturity in class and around school.

In the classroom, as readers and writers, Edme class has been honing their narrative writing skills. The children have explored the way that writers carefully balance action with description and dialogue to hold the reader's interest and to maintain pace in story writing. While rewriting Chapter 22 of our class book, *Skellig* by David Almond, the children have explored drafting and redrafting their compositions in response to peer feedback to produce some very pleasing narrative pieces.

Here are some excerpts of the children's writing.

Chapter 22

I woke to the hooting of an owl. As I got out of bed, I peered out of my window and gazed at the sky. A pale, purple air made me squint my eyes. Steadily, I crept down the stairs, making sure I didn't create any noise. I noticed Mina leaning against the garage wall when I looked out of the window. The sun was rising. On the horizon I witnessed a vibrant orange

glare. I opened the door slowly. Never in my life had I exited the house this early, but today I had to. Oscar M

Cautiously, we found our way to the creature. It was still slumped against the wardrobe. It was munching on a spider.

"You again," it squeaked in its usual croaky voice, using all of its power to look up at us.

"We're here to take you to a safer place," I replied. I looked at the creature's cracked and crazed skin. I beamed a smile. Erin M

Dust fell in the dim moonlight and we carefully navigated the clusters of rusty nails and bags of concrete. Finally, we reached the tea chests and saw the unhealthily-thin creatures.

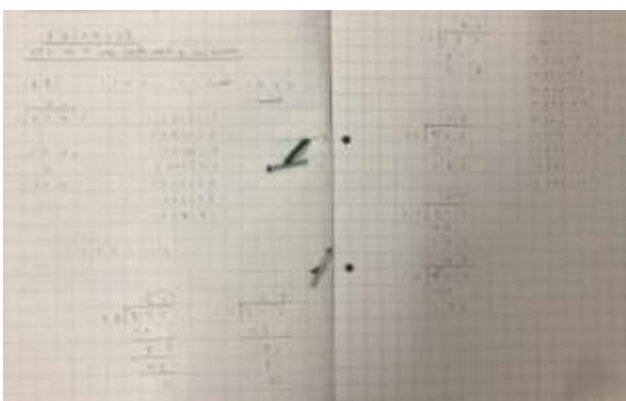
"You again," the creature moaned in an even more cracked tone.

"We're here to bring you to safety," said Mina, reassuringly.

"I'm afraid," coughed the creature.

"Please - don't be. It's going to be OK," whispered Mina. We put our hands round his back and explored the growths upon it, not daring to tell what we thought they were. James E

As Mathematicians, the children have had fun this week, learning how to use the written method of long division. This complex, multi-stepped method is not for the faint hearted, yet Year 6 has totally taken it in their stride. They have worked methodically and supported one another to increase their confidence with this tricky process.



Ava H

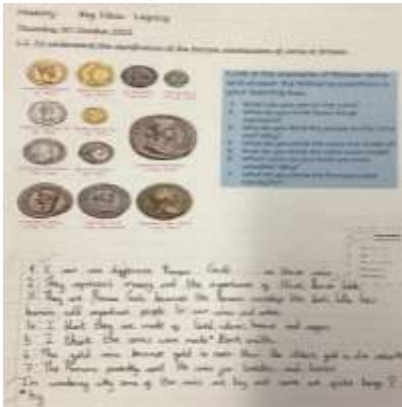


Kyrylo S

As Historians, the children have learned about the significance of the Roman monetary system. They have examined a number of Roman coins and observed that the images appearing on them were important for different reasons. In some cases, the coins showed the citizens of the Roman Empire what their leaders looked like. In other cases, the coins

announced important events of battle victories. The children have learned that Roman coins were made of different metals (gold, silver and brass) and in different sizes according to their worth. The children were fascinated to observe the images and letters pressed into the coins, as they attempted to deduce information about these interesting pieces of historical evidence.

Pippa



Isabella



Sophia

