



Chelmondiston CofE Primary School Newsletter

14.11.25



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 Etchingam or Tracy Whyman

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

Calliope	Cygnets	For being a kind friend and a helpful class member
Christy	Melissa	For being a caring friend
Aurora	Edith May	For helping others when they are finding Maths difficult
Lily	Thistle	For being a helpful learning partner
Maddie	Edme	For being kind and supportive to others

Well done everyone!

Diary dates from Monday 17th - Friday 28th November 2025

Monday 17th - Open morning - (contact the office to book an appointment)

Individual and family group photographs

Tuesday 18th - Flu vaccinations - please ensure you have opted in or out

Phonics session for parents - 2.30-3.10pm

Thursday 20th - Yr5 swimming
Friday 21st - Parent/grandparent outdoor working party - 1:30-3pm
Monday 24th - Open morning (contact the office to book an appointment)
Wednesday 26th - Parents book share - 2.45-3.10pm - come and see our learning!
Thursday 27th - Yr5 swimming

School Photographs

If you have a younger child (or children), not yet in school and you would like them photographed with your school age child/ren, please come to the main entrance after school drop off on the morning of Monday 17th November and these photographs will be taken first.

Term Dates

The term dates for academic year 2026-2027 have now been confirmed and are on the website and the website calendar. Please see links below -

<https://chelmondistonsuffolk.web11.juniperwebsites.co.uk/term-dates>

<https://chelmondistonsuffolk.web11.juniperwebsites.co.uk/calendar/?calid=1,2,3,4,5,6&pid=112&viewid=1>

Christmas dinner - thank you to those who have already responded regarding ordering your child/ren's Christmas dinner. If you have yet to do so, please ensure you do this by no later than Friday 28th November. Please note that no other meals will be provided on the day.

Dear parents and carers,

It will not surprise you that this has been yet another busy fortnight at school! An absolute highlight was the fantastic circus skills day organised and paid for by the PTA. Tom amazed us with his juggling skills and wit; each class had their own workshop then the day ended with a finale performance.



This week we launched Anti-bullying week with Odd Socks Day on Monday - this is to celebrate that everyone is different. Well done to the Y6 House Captains who led the assembly and introduced this year's anti-bullying theme of 'the power of good.' This week, children have been learning about the importance of kindness and respect for other people's feelings, how to have good friendships and that name calling, hurting others and leaving other children out can be bullying if it happens deliberately and over time. 'The power of good' message includes taking action and sharing any concerns with an adult. Of course, bullying can happen face to face anywhere and also on-line.

Thank you to Reverend Liesbeth for our Remembrance Day service on Tuesday - this is an important day for us to worship together and show respect, kindness and thoughtfulness as we pause to reflect on those who have served to protect others and bring peace to the world.



This fortnight our youngest and our oldest pupils - Edme and Cygnet classes - held their sharing assemblies. Both were a joy to see as pupils recited poetry and shared their reading and writing achievements among many other things! Thank you to all the family members who were able to join us.

Well done to the School Council for leading the very successful fundraising day for Children in Need today - which included a popular bake sale, and raised about £240 and counting.



Please come to our outdoor working party on Friday 21st November, 1:30-3pm. We have a long list of outside jobs and we would greatly appreciate it if parents, carers and grandparents could come and help us and work alongside pupils - no experience of gardening necessary - just a willingness to help out. We would also be extremely grateful for donations to use on the day - eg winter vegetables, bird seed/feeders, spring bulbs, compost. Please see the separate email sent out today for more details.

Also please note that Miss Brown is holding an introduction to phonics information session for parents next week, on Tuesday. This is for Reception parents, and parents of Year 1s are welcome to attend if they would like a refresher or missed the last one.

If you have any questions about our school, please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher, email the office or catch me on the playground, before or after school.

Thank you for your continued support.

Lesley Etchingham, Headteacher

Here are our amazing learning highlights from the last fortnight:

Cygnets

It has been an exciting start of half term for Cygnet class!

All the children thoroughly enjoyed watching and learning circus skills. There were so many opportunities for the children to show their talents and to improve their hand eye co-ordination, fine and gross motor skills and have so much fun while doing so. When recalling their favourite activities, the flower sticks, scarves and diablos were the most popular.



The children were also very busy preparing for their sharing assembly where they were confident speaking to an audience, singing songs, reciting poetry and sharing their incredible learning.

All of the children enjoyed exploring fireworks day, learning about Guy Fawkes and creating fantastic firework art with chalks and metallic pencils on black paper. In the provision, Reception children explored further whilst making fireworks with pipe cleaners in beads, creating patterns with blocks and shapes and mixing sparkly fireworks in the water tray.

In Phonics, Reception children have been gaining confidence blending sounds to make words and listening for the sounds they can hear when starting to spell words. Year 1 children have been securing their sound knowledge and developing their reading skills.

Focus child afternoons continue to be a highlight of the week, and the Reception children have been confident sharing their interests, with their peers always eager to find out more about them by asking fantastic questions. Based on their friends' interests, the children have enjoyed dancing, farm activities and making pizzas.



Melissa

Melissa class was absolutely enthralled by the 'Circus Workshop' and, in addition to the fun and skills gained on the day, the children's experiences have been reflected in their writing too.



'I liked the peacock feather balancing because it was tricky. You needed to look at the top the whole time. If you did not, it would gracefully fall. The crowd was screaming and clapping when Tom, the circus man, did balancing. The shouting went bigger and louder. What was your best part?' Evelyn.

'I enjoyed throwing the clubs. I loved spinning the flower sticks! My favourite thing that Tom did was to juggle the swords.' Dagny

'I had a go at juggling. It was very, very hard to do. Tom showed me how to do it. I loved it a lot, it took practice and practice.' Ezra B



In Maths, the class has been learning how to add and subtract two digit numbers 'across a 10'.

Through modelling with our base 10 resource, they have been learning that there are some additions and subtractions for which they need to exchange 10 ones to a 10 stick or, the opposite- exchange a 10 stick for 10 ones.

In D.T, the class has been learning about pivots, levers and linkages. The children have been looking at everyday mechanical household objects that have these features and have been building their own linkages which will form part of a monster in future weeks!



In Geography, the class has begun a unit on 'Map making'. We have started by looking at all the different kinds of maps that we use from town plans to sat-navs, to atlases and globes. The children have recognised that:

"We still need maps because we don't always have signal or battery power for our phones and sometimes parents might just leave them in the car!" Carter

Edith-May

This week, Edith May combined cooking skills with creative writing! After reading about the mind-controlling noodles in *Pugs of the Frozen North*, the children had a go at making their very own hand-pulled noodles. They practised stretching, twisting and pulling the dough until it formed long, even strands. Once the noodles were complete, the class used their experience to write clear, detailed sets of instructions. They focused on imperative verbs, adverbials of time and precise descriptions so that anyone reading their work could recreate the noodles at home (mind-control not included!).



As historians, the class continued to investigate the Viking invasion of Britain. We learned about why the Vikings chose to raid and settle here, the journeys they took and the impact they had on Anglo-Saxon life. They also explored why Alfred the Great earned his famous title. The children discovered how he defended his kingdom against Viking attacks, improved laws, promoted education and worked to unite the English people.

In Geography, the children examined how the water cycle shapes the movement and flow of rivers. They traced the stages—evaporation, condensation, precipitation and collection—and discussed how each one plays an important role. *What would happen if the precipitation stage stopped? Was the question that the class discussed.* They shared thoughtful ideas, recognising that without precipitation, rivers would gradually dry up, plants and animals would lose vital water sources and entire ecosystems could be disrupted.



Thistle

The class enjoyed another successful fortnight. Thank you for your continued support and for attending their Sharing Assembly.

As writers, the children developed their **show not tell** skills by writing a short suspenseful narrative based on their class text. The children included figurative language such as personification and similes. This week, Thistle class finished *The London Eye Mystery* book and was surprised by the reveal of Salim's disappearance.

As mathematicians, Thistle concluded their Multiplication and Division unit which developed their understanding of squared and cubed numbers and multiplying and dividing by 10, 100 and 1,000. The class began revisiting their learning of fractions this week through exploring equivalent fractions of unit and non-unit fractions.

As geographers, Thistle is learning about volcanoes and earthquakes and accurately labelled parts of a volcano, such as: conduit, lava flow, main vent and ash cloud.

Last week, Thistle class had the magnificent opportunity to participate in a Circus Skills workshop. It was wonderful to witness the children have a go at something new and different, such as balancing a peacock feather on their nose and juggling with scarves.



Forest school sessions came to an end last Friday, but I believe it was their best one yet. The children were set the challenge of looking after an egg for the afternoon. They decorated and named it, carried it around and nurtured it. There was even an established and organised day-care business.



Finally, Thistle completed their first swimming session this week. It is wonderful to see the progress the children have made and their increased confidence in the water.

Edme

From circus skills to their sharing assembly showcase, Edme Class has had an enjoyable and engaging two weeks. The fun began in earnest with a circus skills workshop last Tuesday, courtesy of our wonderful PTA. The children delighted in learning a whole host of new skills, such as juggling with scarves, balancing peacock feathers on different body parts and spinning plates. The children were completely absorbed as they attempted to master these new skills. They then had the chance to demonstrate them to the rest of the school in an end-of-the-day assembly. Such great fun!



Aside from this, as musicians, the children have continued to work on their group compositions, honing their use of the inter-related dimensions of music to emulate the sound of crashing waves. They used body percussion and other untuned instruments to achieve this effect. As part of the process, the children revisited recordings of their initial performances and identified ways to improve them. They considered using texture by adding layers of sound dynamics to create the crescendo of waves crashing against the shore and experimented with different body percussion sounds. After further rehearsal, they were ready for their final performance of this unit of work. Two of the groups then performed these compositions as part of our sharing assembly.



To enrich the learning around our class book, *Skellig* by David Almond, the children have also had the opportunity to dissect owl pellets this fortnight. Using tweezers and toothpicks and a good measure of dexterity, the children gently teased apart the mass of fur regurgitated by a local barn owl. They then used an identification key to classify each bone found. The children were fascinated by just how many tiny bones were contained in each owl pellet. From this investigation, the children learned that a barn owl's diet consists of small mammals such as mice, voles and shrews.



A proud moment as Year 6 recited, *In Flanders Fields*, by John McCrae at St Andrews Church as part of this year's Remembrance Service.