



Chelmondiston CofE Primary School Newsletter

28.11.25



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 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

Sidney	Cygnets	For being a kind friend and helpful learning partner
Matilda	Melissa	For showing such care to a new member of our class
Evie	Edith May	For being a kind friend
Olivia	Thistle	For supporting others when faced with challenges
Pippa	Edme	For kindness and sensitivity towards others

Well done everyone!

Diary dates from Monday 1st December to Friday 19th December 2025

Tuesday 2nd December - Parent consultations (online and then in school)

Thursday 4th December - Yr5 swimming session

Parent consultations (in school and then online)

Wednesday 10th December - Christmas dinner & jumper day

Thursday 11th December -

Yr5 swimming session

Friday 12th December -

PTA Civvies day and school discos

Tuesday 16th December

Christmas performances - **No Late Bird session**

6pm - KS1 - 'Knock, knock'

7pm - KS2 - 'A funny thing happened on the way to Camelot'

Wednesday 17th December

Christmas performances -

1.15pm - KS1

2.15pm - KS2

Thursday 18th December

NO SWIMMING

Friday 19th December

Last day of term - **No Late Bird session**

Christmas service at St. Andrew's Church - 2pm
(parents welcome to join us).

Dear parents and carers,





We had an extremely productive working party afternoon last Friday. Whilst Edith May class enjoyed a particularly sunny Forest Schools session den and swing building, Edme class set to work building a stag beetle pyramid, weeding our raised beds, repairing our bug hotel and planting bulbs that will flower in the spring. A big thank you to Mrs Mills, Mr Price and Mr Beech for helping the afternoon to be such a success.

Thank you to those who joined us for the phonics parent workshop last week - the feedback was extremely positive and we are planning to run another one in the new year. Also, it was great to see so many families joining us for our parent/carer and child book sharing session on Wednesday. We always invite parents to come and share their child's learning together in class before discussing this further in parents' evenings. Please make sure you have made your appointment (they can be either face to face or on-line) as this is an important opportunity for home and school to share information and work together to benefit our children.

It has been a pleasure to show prospective parents around our school for our open mornings over the last fortnight - we visit all classes, and without exception, we find children happily engaged in their learning in a calm and positive atmosphere.

Following on from my celebration collective worship earlier this week, where all children thought about what it means to show kindness, we have decided that we will be having an 'Advent Calendar of Kindness' in school as we mark the season of Advent - more detail to follow soon.

As always, thank you for your continued support. If you have any questions about school, please don't hesitate to contact the school office, your child's teacher or catch me on the playground before or after school.

Warmest wishes,

Lesley Etchingam, Headteacher

Here are our amazing learning highlights from the last fortnight:

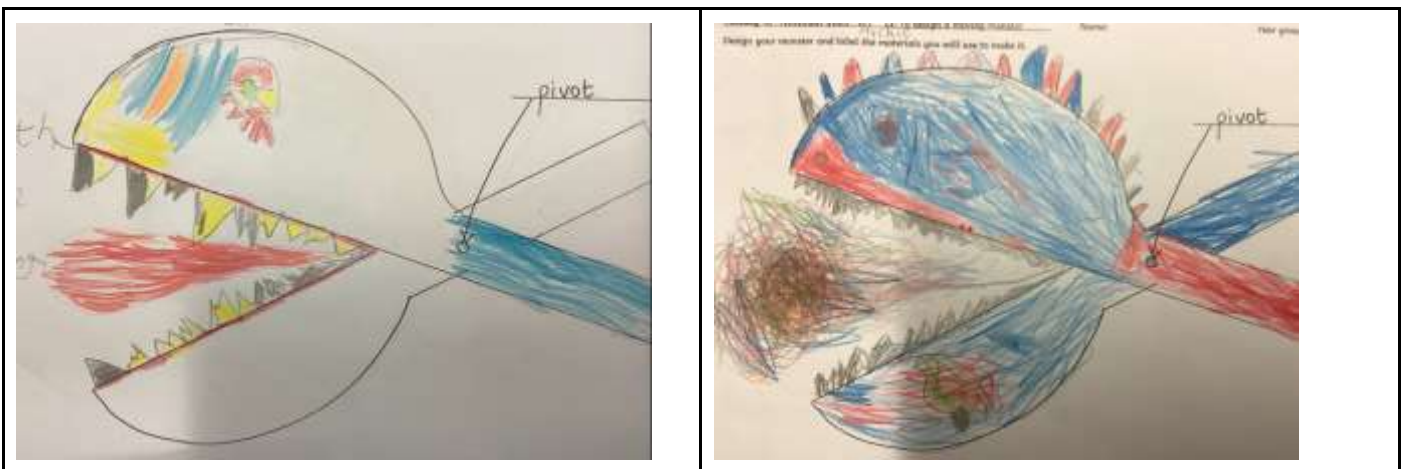
Cygnets

Cygnets have had another fantastic fortnight of learning. The children are thoroughly enjoying our new class book, 'What the ladybird heard.' They worked together to create collages of the different farm animals. Reception children have used their phonics skills to identify sounds in the animal names as well as the noises they make. We have also focused on the maps in the story, and the children have learned to use compass points to give directions around the farm.

In PE, the children have been using their gross motor skills to balance, hop and jump and show off some brilliant dance moves.



The Year 1 Cygnets have been working on the design criteria for their 'Moving Monsters'. They have carefully put together their linkages with pivots and are now using their creativity to think of what resources they would like to use to decorate their monster faces. They have created some fabulous designs!



Melissa

Last Friday Melissa class took our maths lesson learning outdoors. The children worked in partners to solve different addition and subtraction problems hidden around the field and the woodland area. They worked brilliantly together in pairs, sharing ideas on how to carefully work out the calculations and also go back to correct their working out where they needed to.



The Year 2s have also been working hard in PE lessons recently, starting a unit of gymnastics skills. They have practised different balances, jumps and rolls, as well as discussing how we use the equipment safely and jump and land safely on to the mats.



In Geography lessons, Melissa class has been exploring real maps of our local area. The children worked to identify and highlight different landmarks on the maps. Perhaps you can spot some of these when you are out and about at the weekend!

Edith-May

In Maths the class has been continuing with their learning of fractions - exploring different representations of fractions and successfully making a whole number as well as adding and subtracting fractions with the same denominator. Practising times tables is also a regular occurrence in Edith May!

The class has also been writing a non-chronological report about polar bears. In this formal writing style, the children practised using fronted adverbials to explain how the polar bear is adapted to their Arctic habitat to thrive.

"Although a polar bear's habitat is icy and cold, it has adapted to stay warm because it has a thick, fluffy coat." Henry N

"Did you know that Arctic temperatures can reach -37 degrees Celsius which is 60 degrees Celsius colder than our body heat? Remarkably, these significant creatures have adapted to be carnivores because there are no plants in their Arctic habitat." Elijah

In Science the class has explored classification of different creatures, including sorting by whether the animal is an invertebrate or a vertebrate. Children created keys, using lolly sticks, and identified other distinguishing physical features too.

Edith May children love Forest Schools! Last week and today, the class enjoyed a range of activities, including the longest pine cone line challenge, den building, the mud kitchen creations, tree climbing and creating stick men. All of these activities nurture important social and communication skills and an appreciation of nature and the outdoors.





Finally, as linguists, the children have practised asking and answering opinion questions in French by surveying their classmates about their likes and dislikes. They have used actions, emoji's and repetition of key language to memorise key phrases and challenged their classmates to justify their opinions using adjectives such as *amusant* (amusing), *fatigant* (tiring), *intéressant* (interesting) and *passionnant* (exciting).

Here are some of our DT creations.



Thistle

Thistle class has enjoyed another fantastic fortnight. From drone footage showing volcanic eruptions, to challenging swimming techniques, it has been a wonderful time.

As writers, the children developed their understanding of personification and parentheses and included examples of this in a setting description. The class is reading a new text, *The Viewer*, which they are thoroughly enjoying and the language generated from the book has been astonishing.

In Mathematics, the children have continued deepening their understanding of fractions, by converting improper fractions to mixed numbers and then from mixed numbers to improper fractions. Next, the students will compare fractions greater than 1.



As geographers, the children were mesmerised by footage of a volcanic eruption which sparked numerous questions. The class studied the formation of volcanoes, how they erupt and learned key vocabulary such as active, dormant and extinct.

In P.E., the students are focusing on flexibility and strength through gymnastics and dance. As musicians, the class completed their notation unit which involved writing their own piece of music to be played on the glockenspiels.

Finally, Thistle completed their R.E. unit, answering the key question, 'What spiritual pathways to Moksha are written about in Hindu scriptures?' The children learned that Hindus believe there are numerous pathways to Moksha - reuniting with God - but they typically follow the pathway Bhakti - loving devotion to God. The children decided which pathway suited them best and created a symbol to represent it.

Edme

Edme Class has been busy, busy, busy again this fortnight. From investigations in Science, to speaking-based surveys in French and working with our team of volunteers to complete some gardening and maintenance work in the school grounds, all in all, it's been a productive and enjoyable two weeks.

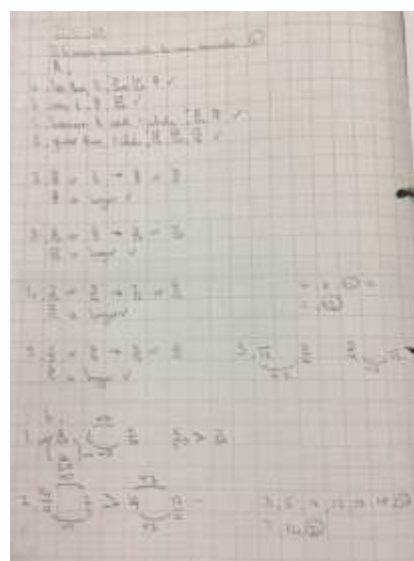
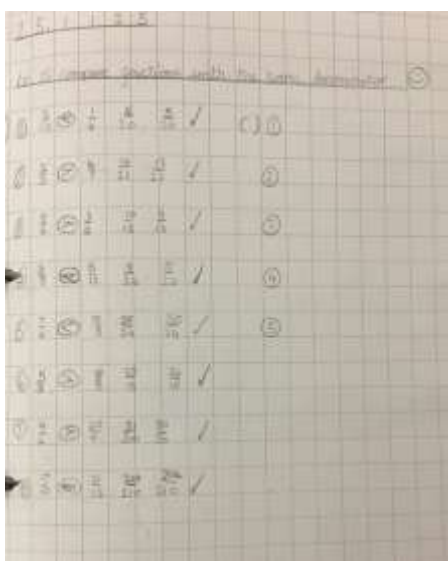
As geographers, the children have explored the fascinating world of volcanoes. They have learned that volcanoes are typically formed along tectonic plate boundaries when these plates pull apart or collide. In learning about this, the children have built on prior knowledge about the layers of the earth, using a catchy song to remember the key facts. The children have also learned about 'The Ring of Fire' and how 75% of the world's volcanoes can be found in this area.



As mathematicians, the children have been sharpening their skills in times tables recall as they have used the highest common factor and the lowest common multiple to simplify, order and compare fractions. The children have used the following stem sentences to help them with the process of ordering and comparing.

When fractions have the same denominator, the greater the numerator, the greater the fraction.

When fractions have the same numerator, the smaller the denominator, the greater the fraction.



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