



Chelmondiston CofE Primary School Newsletter

30.01.26



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

Oakley	Cygnets	For helping a friend when they were hurt
Dagny	Melissa	For showing kindness to others
Aurora	Edith May	For being keen to encourage others in the class
Spencer	Thistle	For being supportive to his learning partner
Miane	Edme	For being so caring and playful with KS1 children

Well done everyone!

Diary dates from Monday 2nd to Friday 13th February

Tuesday 3rd - Yr3/4 trip to the Energy from Waste Centre

Wednesday 4th - Cygnets sharing assembly - 2.40-3.10pm

Thursday 5th - Last Yr 6 swimming session - arrive at 8:30am

Times tables Workshop session for Yr3 & 4 parents - 2.40-3.10pm

- Monday 9th - **Children's Mental Health Week**
NHS Mental Health Support Team workshops and assembly with children
- Tuesday 10th - Safer Internet Day
Safer Internet workshop for Yr 5 & 6 parents - 2.30-3.10pm
Afternoon - Tractor visit in School - R and KS1
- Thursday 12th - First Yr 2 swimming - arrive 8:30am
Orchestra visit R, Yr 1 - 4
- Friday 13th - Last day of half term
Edme sharing assembly - 2.40-3.10pm

Monday 16th - Friday 20th February - Half Term

Dear parents and carers,

Well done to Edith May for their fantastic sharing assembly this afternoon - it was wonderful to hear about all their exciting learning experiences.

We have much planned to look forward to in the two weeks before half term, with a 3 & 4 visit to the recycling centre at Great Blakenham, a tractor visit to school, sharing assemblies from Cygnet and Edme classes and parent and child workshops. If your child is in Year 3 or 4, please sign up for our hands on times tables workshop on 5th February - a link was sent with the invitation.



The week beginning Monday 9th February is Children's Mental Health Week and children will be taking part in a wide range of activities throughout the week. This year's theme is 'This is my place'. Please see the link below to find out more about resources for families to use to support wellbeing.

<https://www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/families/>

On Monday, the NHS (MHST) will be running workshops with all classes and a whole school assembly. Thank you to all the parents who joined us last Friday afternoon for a coffee and chat to meet the MHST team and find out more about what they can offer to support children and their families.

On Tuesday 10th February it is Safer Internet Day. We have found it beneficial to forge a strong link between wellbeing and Safer Internet Day as we know that current research is proving that there are elements of internet/screen use that directly affect brain development and children's mental health. On this day, parents of children in Y5 and 6 are invited to join us for a parent child workshop.

Thank you for your continued support.

Lesley Etchingham, Headteacher

School Council Noticeboard

Dear parents and carers,

The School Council has done an audit of playtime snacks and we found that some children are bringing in unhealthy snacks, including chocolate, crisps and cherry Bakewell tarts.

Please can you send a healthy snack for your child, like apples, oranges, carrots, breadsticks, raisins, cheese and crackers.

Thank you, from Scarlett G and Spencer, Chelmondiston School Council

Here are our amazing learning highlights from the last fortnight:

Cygnets

As historians, Cygnet Class have put themselves into the shoes of some famous explorers from the past. Learning about the race to the South Pole, the children found out how the brave men of the Terra Nova expedition, led by Robert Falcon Scott, had reached their destination only to find Roald Amundsen and his team had beaten them to it. They found the Norwegian flag already present. Year 1 pupils have written diary entries from the perspective of Scott and here are some extracts -

'Dear diary, we are trying to get there. The wind is freezing and it is so far. We have frostbite.'

Tommy

'Dear diary. Today I got to the South Pole. I am very happy even if we are the second to get there but I think I am going to freeze.' - Isla

'Dear diary. I tried and tried to get back but my team and I won't make it. We do not have food and drinks. The weather was so bad in the wind and snow storms. It was so hard to move as we all had frostbite.' - George B

'Dear diary. I got to the South Pole but I was disappointed. I was the second to get there. It was cold!' - Effie

Cygnets' learning about Antarctica has not stopped there! With our class story, 'Blue Penguin', the children have researched and observed penguins, coming up with some impressive facts, a fun song and some wonderful writing. The children are excited to share these with you at their class assembly next week!

As mathematicians, Year 1 children have been strengthening their number bond knowledge, using what they know about bonds to 10 to learn the number bonds that make 20.

In Reception, the children have been using balance scales to weigh and measure different items from around the classroom. Their challenge this week has been to make a balance, reinforcing new vocabulary - same, balance, heavier, lighter.



The children have enjoyed their first Forest School sessions where they have taken part in the RSPB Big Birdwatch, made pine cone bird feeders and bird nests and played lots of imaginative games.

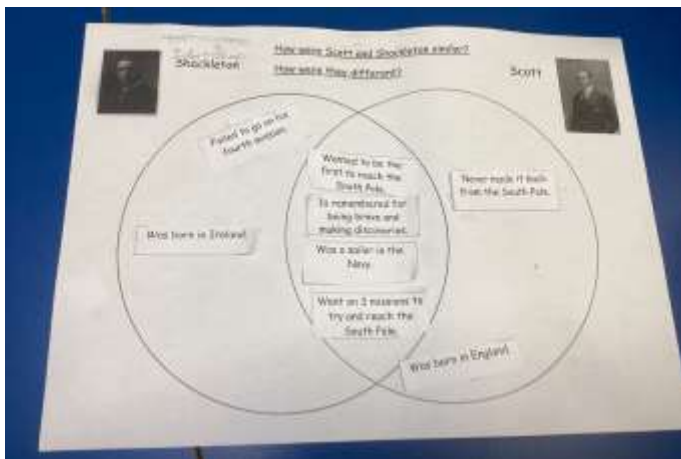


Melissa

In Maths, Melissa Class has been working on our multiplication skills. The children learnt to identify and make arrays to show multiplication facts. Following this, they have been learning the 2, 5 and 10 times tables and using them to solve problems.



In History, the children are learning about polar explorers. They compared the lives and adventures of Robert Falcon Scott and Ernest Shackleton.



Melissa Class has continued their learning about materials in Science. As scientists, the children conducted a building inspection of our school to find out what materials have been used for different features. They then decided that our school is made of suitable materials and can explain why different materials are chosen for different purposes.

In Art, the children completed artwork inspired by the text 'Leaf' by Sandra Dieckman. They used positive and negative stencils to create a background with paint. Finally, they enjoyed drawing the main character to finish their piece.

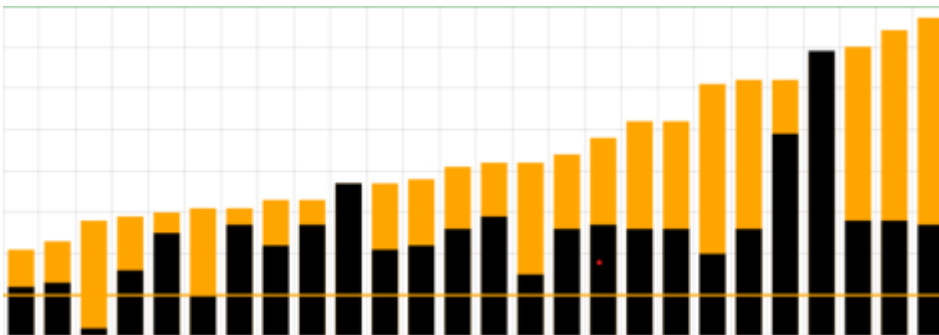


Edith-May

There has been a buzz of excitement in Edith-May this week as the children have been eagerly putting together their sharing assembly to showcase their learning. As well as the challenges of reading aloud and working as one team towards a performance, the assemblies give children an opportunity to reflect on their learning and realise just how much they have learnt.

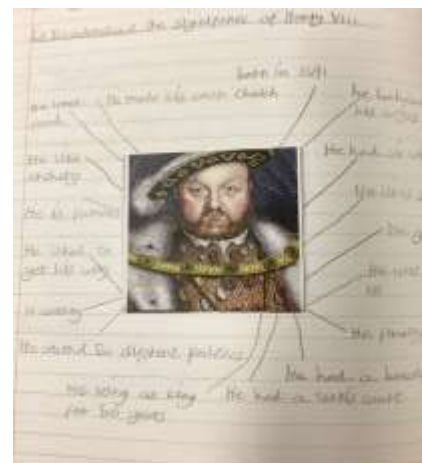
In English, the children have completed their wonderful non-chronological reports on robots. From the initial research to the presentation, Edith-May has shown that attention to detail really is important and they can all be proud of the work they have produced. The children also came up with marvelous ideas for future robots, saving world problems from pot-holes to pollution.

In Maths, the class has started a new unit on measurement and are building their confidence at using cm and mm interchangeably. The children have also been practising on TT Rockstars, just look at the **progress (in yellow)** that they have made since December, showing that all that practice at home really does pay off.



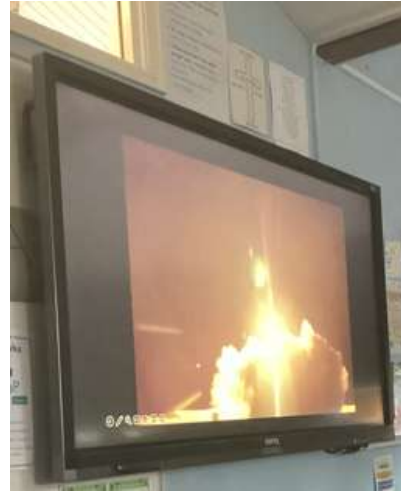
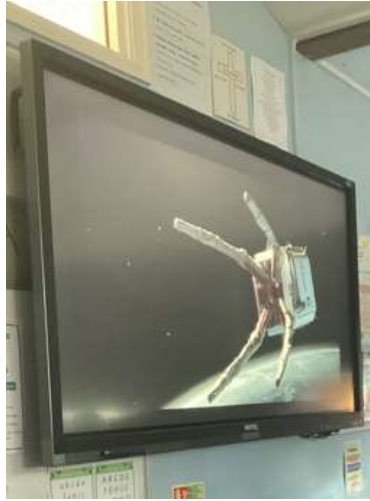
Science has definitely lit up some faces with the delight of being 'electricians', and investigating why or why not a circuit is working and fixing the circuit so that the bulb lights.

History has also sparked the imagination of Edith May as they have stepped back in time to learn about the Tudor monarchy. The children were surprised to learn that poorer people tended to have a healthier diet than the meat-packed diet of the rich. They were also shocked to hear that Henry VIII had to marry his brother's wife!



Thistle

Thistle class has had another wonderful, engaging fortnight at school. From workshops travelling into space, to creating 3D sculptures, the learning has not stopped.



As writers, the children have prepared their balanced argument which tackles the question, 'Should Pluto Still Be a Planet?'. The class felt strongly about Pluto's declassification which led to a debate in class. This has been driven into their balanced argument, using evidence to back up their points.

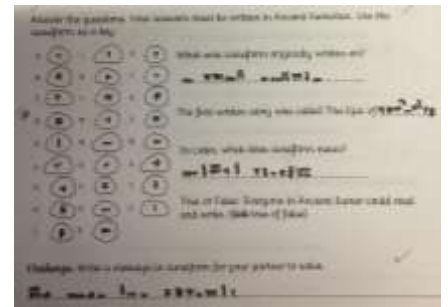
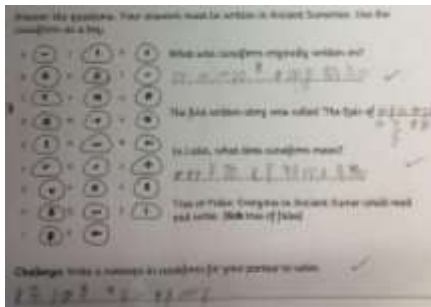
As mathematicians, the children have shown immense resilience whilst tackling the multi-step calculations of long multiplication. Even with the numerous steps the children must remember, their drive and hard work has seen they are successful.

As scientists, the class travelled into space to help launch satellites to collect space debris from the rockets. The children selected the method in which to send it into space, whilst learning about the different equipment that is up there at the moment.

As artists, the class has created 3D sculptures inspired by the work of Alberto Giacometti, using crafting wire and tin foil. The children focussed on creating the shape of a human and ensuring the joints were distinct. I adore the creativity and imagination the children have shown during the project.



As historians, the children have continued to learn about Ancient Sumer. They have discovered that Ancient Sumerian society was similar to ours in that it was organised into classes with the King at the top of the hierarchy. The children have also discovered that the Ancient Sumerians invented the world's first writing system - Cuneiform. This system allowed humans to record language, history, literature and complex abstract ideas for the first time. They have had a go at using this fascinating logo-syllabic writing system to write secret messages to one another.



Finally, as linguists the children have delighted in receiving correspondence from our partner school in Eccques, Nord pas du Calais. Our French friends have introduced themselves to our Year 6s using the English that they have learned. In response, the children of Edme have drawn postcard images of the local area and are in the process of writing messages in French to introduce themselves in return.