



# Chelmondiston CofE Primary School Newsletter

20.03.26



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

Edie	Cygnets	For being a kind and helpful friend
Olivia	Melissa	For showing kindness to others
Arwyn	Edith May	For being polite in class
Isobel	Thistle	For being a good role model to the younger pupils
Emilee	Edme	For being such a keen classroom assistant and helping others

Well done everyone!

### Diary dates from Monday 23rd March - Friday 17th April 2026

Monday 23rd - Book Fair in main hall - 3-4pm

Tuesday 24th - Music concert - 2.20-3.05pm

Book Fair in main hall - 3.15-4pm

Wednesday 25th - Cross Country (those involved have received letters) 12:40 -3.30pm

Thursday 26th - Last Yr2 swimming session  
Friday 27th - Last day of spring term  
Easter church service at St. Andrew's - 10.30-11.15am (all welcome)

**Monday 30th March - Friday 10th April - Easter holiday**

Monday 13th April - Children return to school  
Thursday 16th - Yr3/4 trip to the School Farm and Country Fair  
No swimming  
Friday 17th - KS1 morning spring walk to Pin Mill  
PTA Quiz night at the Freston Boot - 7pm

**School Menu from April to October 2026**

There are new school menus which will come into effect when we return from the Easter holiday.

These are on the website, please see the link below, and will also be put in the noticeboard outside the main entrance.

<https://www.chelmondiston.suffolk.sch.uk/school-lunches>

Dear parents and carers,

Of course, it has been another fun and learning filled fortnight at Chelmo! As I'm sure you will be aware already, our successful OFSTED report has been celebrated in the local papers and it has been recognised that we are the first school in Suffolk to have achieved the 'strong' standard in all areas in the region.



<https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/provider/21/144625>

<https://www.eadt.co.uk/news/25943234.chelmondiston-school-near-ipswich-gets-positive-ofsted/>

A massive thank you to our fantastic PTA for the wonderful Mothers' Day flowers that children enjoyed potting - the flowers were beautiful and I am sure, most appreciated. All this was made possible by the generous support of Bourne Garden Centre (on Wherstead Rd) Thank you! We are lucky to have such a supportive PTA - last week we also had our 'civvies day', tonight we are looking forward to our PTA discos and, on 17th April, our quiz night. Please contact the school if you would like to find out how to get involved with our wonderful PTA team.

Thank you to parents and carers who came to see their child(ren)'s books last Thursday and for all parents/carers for engaging with our consultation evenings this week. It is always such a great benefit to each child when home and school work together.



This week, Year 5 pupils participated in Bikeability training and the leaders commented on how hard the cyclists tried and how well they responded to the important road safety instructions.

Cygnets and Melissa classes have just returned from an amazing trip to the food museum in Stowmarket - there are pictures and more information in the class sections below.

Please note that our Late Bird wrap around care will be closing its doors on April 24th as we hand over the Chelmo Kidzone, next door. On Wednesday, our Late Bird Club popped next door to enjoy a fun, interactive Spanish session. Please see the attached flyers for other activities they are running.

This week we have participated in Neurodiversity Celebration Week. In Collective Worship, children have learnt about the fact that everyone is different and that our minds work in different ways. Children have learnt about famous neurodivergent role models who have autism, tourettes, ADHD, dyslexia and dyspraxia.

Please join us for our Easter service on Friday at St Andrew's Church at 10:30am.



As always, thank you for your continued support.

Lesley Etchingham, Headteacher

## **Here are our amazing learning highlights from the last fortnight:**

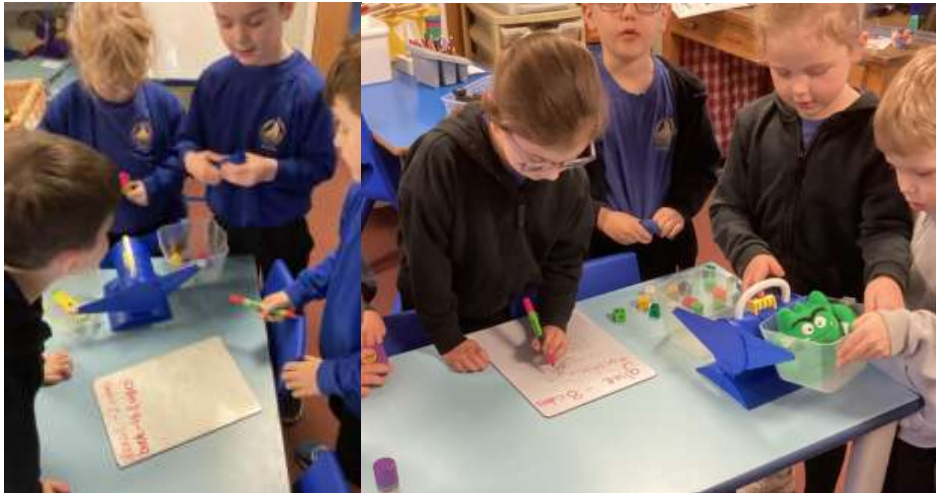
### **Cygnets**

In Literacy, we have been reading 'Where the wild things are.' The children enjoyed creating their own wild rumpus, moving and dancing like the creatures in the story. Through shared writing, they then adapted the poem 'Celebration' by Alonzo Lopez to make it fit the scene:

I shall dance tonight.  
When the forest keeps growing,  
There will be dancing and climbing trees.  
I shall dance with the wild things  
    in climbing  
        in leaping  
            in stomping.  
Laughter will weave into the night.  
Among the forests of the wild things.  
Drums will be played  
And I shall be  
    a part of it.

The children have also looked closely at the pictures in the story to spot how the creatures are made with features of different animals, and then drawing and labelling their own wild thing creations.

In Maths, the children have all been exploring length. They have had great fun measuring the length of classroom objects in cubes, seeing how far they could throw a beanbag, and using the story 'Superworm' as inspiration for finding and making long things. Year 1 mathematicians have also explored mass and have used balance scales to compare and weigh objects from around the classroom.



In our Focus child session, the children were fascinated to learn more about one of their peers and, inspired by their interests, they practised cutting and styling paper 'hair', decorating magic wands, making pipe cleaner 'skiers' and racing their skiers and ice skiers down the slope in the outdoor area.



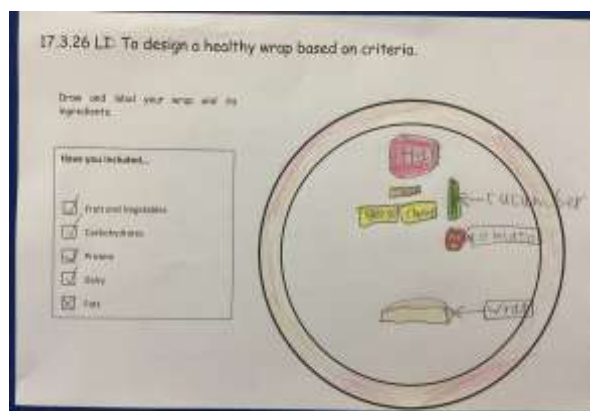
The children have focused on road safety this week in their PSHE learning. As this half term topic is 'Healthy Me' the children have learnt about keeping ourselves healthy and looking after ourselves. In this lesson the children talked about being safe and feeling safe. Then went on to discuss the rules for crossing the road safely before putting this into practice in the playground!



## Melissa

It has been another very busy fortnight in Year 2. Thank you to everyone who attended our assembly two weeks ago. The children really enjoyed preparing and performing their assembly for you.

A big theme this half term throughout the foundation subjects has been keeping healthy and looking after ourselves. In PSHE, Melissa class has learnt about getting enough sleep, the benefits of regular exercise and different ways to relax. This week Jigsaw Jo helped the children to learn about staying safe around medicines. The children were able to give him lots of good advice, such as only taking medicine when a trusted adult is there to support you. The learning in DT this half term has linked nicely with the PHSE topic and the children learnt about having a balanced diet of different food groups. On Tuesday they planned a healthy wrap, including different food groups, which they will make and eat next week.



In Science, Year 2 have been learning about life cycles. The children enjoyed learning about the different stages of the human life cycle by listening to the story 'Once there were giants' by Martin

Waddell. When learning about animal life cycles, the children made spinners to show the life cycle of a butterfly and can confidently explain each stage. This helped them to understand that not all young creatures look the same as the adults in their species.



In maths, the children have continued their learning about measure. This week they learned about mass and enjoyed using the balancing scales and ordering mass using different weights.



Today both Cygnet class and Melissa class enjoyed a wonderful trip to The Food Museum. They had a great time meeting the animals there, including Suffolk Punch horses, pigs, sheep, ducks and a very noisy turkey! They learnt a huge amount about where lots of the food we eat comes from, saw the water mill in action grinding flour and even had a go at making their own butter.





## Edith May

In English this week, Edith-May have been polishing their skills on the 'mechanics' of writing. They have been learning about; when and how to use paragraphs, inverted commas and subordinating clauses. We are looking forward to seeing these skills applied in the next, narrative piece of writing about a boy left abandoned on a tropical island!

Our mathematicians have been learning about mass this week and tackling two or three step problems. It is wonderful to see how the increased fluency in times tables is being applied by all pupils, helping to reduce their cognitive load.

As Geographers, Edith-May have enjoyed exploring some super-size maps this week! The maps, which are aviation maps, were kindly donated to the school. The children have been able to identify map symbols that they have learnt about as well as showing curiosity about ones that are familiar to the aviation industry and discussing what they might signify and how they would be used.



Our classroom was a blaze of colour as the children proudly selected and planted their Mother's Day primrose to take home. Primroses are not the only plant to thrive in Edith-May however! We are very excited about the recent developments of 'Roz', our reading plant. This plant is watered only by

drops from a pipette, carefully measured by the children. Each read (at home) is counted and equates to one drip. Together, with a fantastic class effort, what was a rather dull, brown bulb, is now thriving! We cannot wait to see what colour the bloom will be.



## Thistle

Thistle class has had another wonderful fortnight with engaging activities, bikeability and more!



As writers, the class completed their persuasive leaflets, which advertise their new theme park, inspired by our class text, *Cosmic*. The children needed to be concise with their writing, ensuring that key information is shared as well as keeping a persuasive tone. After, Thistle has been completing their independent writing which, also inspired by our text, is a narrative set in space!

As mathematicians, the class continue with their decimal and percentages unit, all the while

completing their end of term assessments. The children have identified decimal numbers up to thousandths, ordered and compared decimal numbers and found equivalent fractions and decimals.



As scientists, the class started their next unit, *Properties and Materials*. This has revisited their prior knowledge from Year 3, *States of Matter*, which they retained well. The

children discussed the terms evaporation, condensation, freezing and melting. This week, the class grouped materials together based on their properties, learning new vocabulary, such as: durable, magnetic, absorbent and flexible.

In RE, the class is enjoying their unit, Humanism. This takes an alternative approach to RE as this organisation does not believe in a God. The children are noticing the difference and the similarities between religions they have learnt and this new group. Most significantly, they found similar themes across them, such as, aiming to live a good life, being kind to others and helping the wider world.



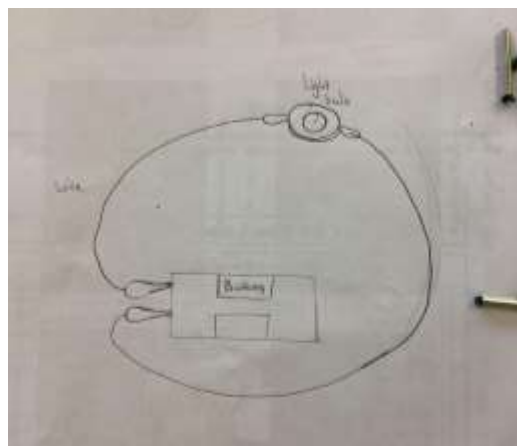
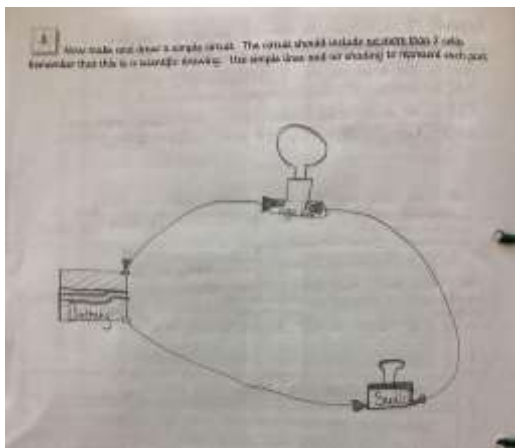
We were lucky enough to receive a flower from Bourne Gardens for each Mum or special person for each of our children to give on Mother's Day. The children planted their flower, decorated their pot and wrote a heartfelt message to be put into the soil.

Lastly, Thistle has successfully achieved their Bikeability award this week. The children have cycled around the village, learning how to approach junctions, avoid hazards and remain safe whilst cycling on the road. Well done, Thistle class. Enjoy your new freedom and stay safe.

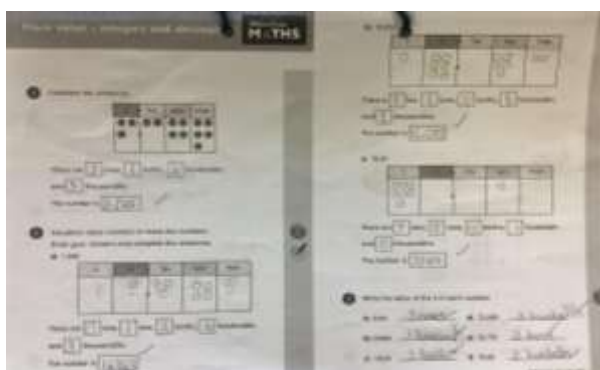
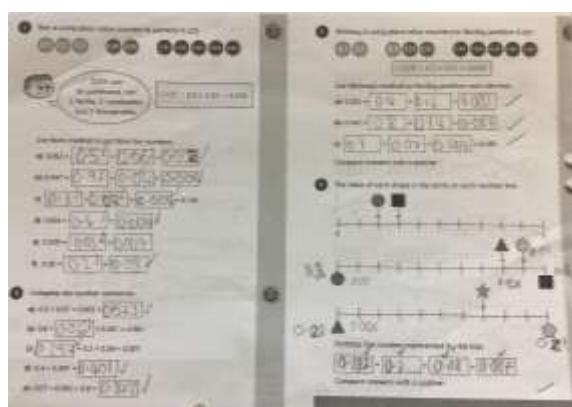
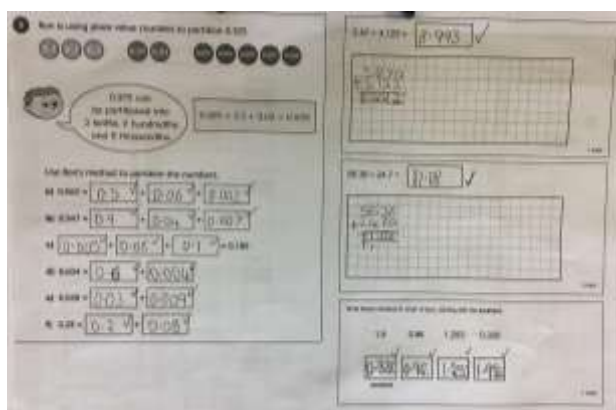


## Edme

Edme Class were delighted to get stuck into their new unit of Science learning this week - Electricity. In preparation for what will be a cross-curricular project resulting in each child making their own *steady hand* game, the children explored electrical components and used these to create and draw simple circuits. The children noticed that adding more wires to their circuit affected the brightness of the bulb, even making it flicker in some cases. The children also showed off their knowledge of conductivity and how to add a switch to the circuit to interrupt the flow of electricity running through it. In subsequent lessons the children will learn how to draw circuits using the correct symbols and layout.



As mathematicians the children have had fun forming and solving one and two-step equations and finding pairs of values to satisfy different equations. They have applied these skills to some tricky reasoning and problem-solving challenges. This week the children have dived, head first, into place value in decimal numbers, learning how to partition these numbers and to order and compare them.



Last week, as readers the children analysed how authors use language to develop characters and plot. Using our class book, 'If You Find This' by Matthew Baker, the children found examples of Matthew Baker's use of the 'Show Don't Tell' principle, which helps the reader to step inside the story, empathise with the characters and better imagine the story as it unfolds. They then used these techniques themselves while rewriting a key scene from another character's point of view. This week, the children have taken part in our whole-school independent writing task, through which they have written an adventure story.

As artists, Edme class have responded to the work of sculpture, *Mother and Child* by Henry Moore. The children pinched, pulled, twisted and smoothed the clay to recreate part of the sculpture captured within the confines of a view finder.



Emilee



Ava



Kyrylo



Mollie



Miane