



Chelmondiston CofE Primary School Newsletter



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

Lucy	Cygnets	For looking after a friend when they were hurt
Ezra B	Melissa	For being thoughtful and looking after his friends
Ezra	Edith May	For being supportive and helping a younger child to read
Esme	Thistle	For being an understanding and sensible member of the class
Mollie	Edme	For looking out for others and vouching for them

Well done everyone!

Diary dates Monday 11th to Friday 22nd May

Y6 SATs week for our Y6 pupils (Monday - Thursday)

Monday 11th - 1-3pm Yr5 Handball Festival at Holbrook Academy

Thursday 14th - Yr1 swimming

Friday 15th - Pantasy Steel Band performance and workshops

Wednesday 20th - Yr1 swimming (change of day)

Thursday 21st - Outdoor classroom day

No swimming (see Wednesday)

Y3/4 Egyptian morning - Ipswich Museum visit to school

Census Day - lunch change - Golden Fish Fingers & Chips (& vege option)

Friday 22nd - PD day (non-pupil day)

Monday 25th - Friday 29th May - Half Term



Dear parents and carers,

Well done to our School Council for leading collective worship last Tuesday and explaining about the importance of eating healthy snacks.



Congratulations to all of our Handwriting Competition winners, who all received a certificate and extra house points for their team.



All children have been working hard on their handwriting this year, as part of our school development target to improve all aspects of writing. We have also had a strong focus on spelling accuracy, and we are already seeing that with both better handwriting and spelling, it reduces the cognitive load - freeing up brain space - so that children can concentrate more on the content of their writing. This week we were visited by a School Improvement Lead and Ofsted inspector from our trust and we were commended on the progress that our pupils are continuing to make with writing. We were also visited by our Trust Inclusion Lead last week, who praised staff for ensuring that learning is adapted and accessible with our 'ordinarily available' and 'targeted' offer for pupils.

On Wednesday and Thursday lunchtimes we offer extra sports clubs for children. These are led by our Premier Education sports instructor with the purpose to broaden children's experience of different sports. Last week, children enjoyed a hockey challenge.



Next week is the Y6 SATs week. Our Y6 pupils have worked hard and are well-prepared for these assessments so have nothing to worry about. We are all looking forward to Friday when we are welcoming Pantasy Steel Band who will be performing to the whole school and doing workshops with classes throughout the day. Thank you to parent, Mr Stanley, for raising the funding through the Easter Pin Mill Duck race - which was a huge success!

As always, thank you for your continued support.

Lesley Etchingham, Headteacher



Kidzone wrap around sessions

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are writing to inform you that we are currently reviewing our wraparound care sessions across both Kidzone settings for this Summer term and the Autumn term beginning in September 2026.

As part of this review, we are adjusting our wraparound provision, with a proposed finish time of 4:30pm across both settings because we do not currently have enough children after this time for it to be financially viable to be open until later. We are keen to ensure that any changes take into account the needs of our families as much as possible. We understand that wraparound care is an important support for many of you, and we are carefully balancing this with the rising operational costs involved in extending our hours.

As you will appreciate, we are committed to providing high-quality, flexible childcare that supports the needs of our families. At the same time, we must ensure that our provision remains financially sustainable in the current climate.

We welcome your feedback as part of this process. If you have any thoughts, concerns, or specific requirements regarding wraparound care, please do not hesitate to speak to a member of the team. We plan to review the sessions and will put together a waiting list for those children who would like the provision on a permanent basis. Therefore if there are enough, we would extend the timings.

Thank you for your continued support and understanding. Chelmo Kidzone





Chelmondiston PTA

Plans are well underway for our summer 2026 school fete which will be held on Saturday 4th July 12-3pm.

In order for this to be a real success we are asking for as much help as possible from parents and families before the event and on the day so please reach out to myself, Clare Potts, Ria and Nick Turner if you can help.

Any time or help is valuable to us and all profits made at the fete will be going straight back to the school and your children.

We are so fortunate to have raised a considerable amount of money through PTA events and fundraisers over the last few months and we have some exciting plans in place for the school and the children!

Thank you for your continued support of the PTA.



Census Day - Thursday 21st May - Golden Fish Fingers & Chips

Census Day will shortly be upon us. Having a school meal on this day can make a real difference, as the uptake helps generate valuable funding that supports resources and opportunities across the school.

Here are our amazing learning highlights from the last fortnight:

Cygnets

Cygnet class is enjoying learning how they can help our world with our class book this half term. In the last week, the focus has been on the environment and helping nature. As part of this the children have been planting seeds, maintaining our Early Years garden and have made a selection of bird

feeders to hang outside. After making the bird feeders, the children in Reception have sequenced the instructions and Year 1 have written their own.



As mathematicians, Year 1 has been tackling grouping and sharing. The children have had lots of practical experiences and have used arrays to show repeated addition. In Reception the children have started to explore numbers beyond 10 in more depth, counting out loud, counting objects and using 10's frames to show the numbers from 11 - 20 as 10 and how many more.



As historians the children have learnt facts about the Great Fire of London and the children created time lines for the events that happened. Following this the children questioned where to find out information about the past and had to look at a range of sources and decided if they were artefacts, writing or pictures.



Moving on from Didgeredoo making in Art, the children were challenged to use clay to create in 3D. Taking inspiration from the story 'Super Worm,' Cygnet class needed to use their fine motor skills to roll, pinch, twist and manipulate the clay to make different shapes to match Super Worm's antics!

Melissa

Melissa class started to learn about time in Maths this week. The children enjoyed using the clocks to read and make o'clock, half past, quarter to and quarter past. Please encourage the children to practise this skill at home! Next week we will move onto learning about the 5 minute intervals on a clock.



In Science, Melissa class continued to learn about plants. Last week the children used magnifying glasses to look at seeds, breaking off the seed coats to examine the seed underneath, and learnt what the different parts of a seed do. The sweet pea seeds that the children planted in the first week of half term have mostly germinated and have started to shoot up into seedlings.



Melissa class has been really enjoying their forest sessions on Friday afternoons. It has been wonderful to see them exploring the woodland area thoughtfully, noticing insects, plants and birds. Year 2s have enjoyed exploring the mud kitchen, den building, making a rope bridge, tree climbing and participating in brilliant woodland craft activities.



Edith-May

Edith May have been working extremely hard on their writing, retelling a story in their own words from the perspective of the lead character (shown to them as a wordless animation). Alongside remembering to write descriptively, they have included prepositional language, paragraphs and showcased their finest joined handwriting skills to date - a lot to juggle at the same time! Here are a couple of examples:

'In the night sky, over the shining stars, birds were chirping. I heard the embers of the camp fire crackling. Towards the river I saw an outline of the misty, crystal-topped mountains. The river had little currents flowing calmly back to the sea.' **Joubert**

'Little ripples emerged on the great, glimmering lake. Across the water there was a campsite in the middle of the dark, gloomy forest. Nightjars were chirping their songs in the dead of night. Whilst I was roasting marshmallows, the creature got closer and closer to me. I freaked out as loud as a rocket' **William**

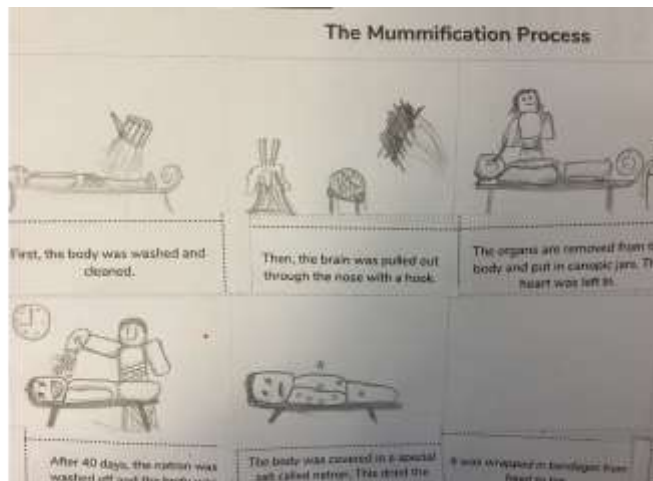
A photograph of a piece of lined paper with handwritten text in cursive. The text reads: 'I spun round and saw a slimy mysterious monster he had dinosaur, webbed ears. it's tall looked like a stegosaurus. In the night sky he slumped toward me with a scary grin. I put the marshmallow in my hand when it grabbed the marshmallow I screamed in fear. "Aaaaa!" I gave him more and I ran out of them. I'

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A lovely improvement in handwriting for several children, as illustrated by Tilly C's example here.

In Maths, it has been time to do 'time' (no pun intended!). The children have been polishing their knowledge on quarter to and quarter past and learning how this is represented digitally too.

The children are continuing to enjoy their History topic on the Egyptians and learnt this week about the significance and process of mummification. You might find that our historians are keen to share some of the fascinating (and rather gory) details - such as how the brain of the deceased person was carefully removed. Example diagram by Emil.



Thistle

As writers, the class took on the role of our main character, Kester, and wrote a diary entry, detailing the decision to leave Spectrum Hall. Furthermore, the children, having read the first part of the text, are in the process of rewriting this into their own words. Also, the class revisited compound sentences by creating their own using vocabulary strips.

As mathematicians, the class completed their Shape unit, which focused on finding angles in a full turn, on a straight line, and inside regular and irregular polygons. This week, the children started the next unit, position and direction, and have been reading and plotting co-ordinates, and describing the position of shapes on a grid.

As scientists, Thistle has investigated the electrical conductivity of different materials, as well as separating different materials from each other using a range of methods.

As musicians, the class created their own looped music using an online music software.



As

artists, the class designed their own reduction block prints which involved carving out the patterns they wanted to be kept white to prepare for their ink next lesson.



In PSHE, the class continued their learning of online safety and discussed the benefits and risks of joining different online platforms and groups. Then, the children wrote some advice for people joining online games, detailing how to stay safe and respectful.

Edme

The atmosphere in Edme Class over the last two weeks has been one of complete focus and diligence. The children have impressed us no end with their stamina, resilience and determination to succeed. With just a matter of days of preparation left, the children have been busy reviewing key content, polishing their skills and getting themselves ready to totally SMASH their SATs. Here are pictures of children enjoying a sunny lunch break.

