



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

Grace	Cygnets	For being a helpful and kind partner
Henry	Melissa	For being kind and supportive to others
Florence	Edith May	For being so helpful on Egyptian morning
Evie	Thistle	For being a caring peer to others
Sophia	Edme	For encouraging others to be the best they can be

Well done everyone!

Diary dates Friday 22nd May -Friday 12th June

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

Monday 25th - Friday 29th May - half term

Monday 1st June - Return to school

Tuesday 2nd June - Dan The Skipping Man workshops all day (PTA funded)

Thursday 4th - Last Yr1 swimming

Friday 5th June RNLI visit and class workshops

Monday 8th - New parent info session 5-6pm

Tuesday 9th - New Reception children stay and play session - 2.10-2.50pm

Wednesday 10th - Yr5/6 trip to Christchurch Mansion

Thursday 11th - First Yr6 swimming session

Friday 12th - Edith-May sharing assembly - 2.40-3.10pm

Dear parents and carers,

After yet another busy fortnight we have much learning to celebrate and share with you.

As you will already know, we place a strong emphasis on reading at Chelmo. We already have 10 Millionaire Readers in Key Stage two. This means that since September, these children have read over a million words (when we tot up all the words in the books they have read) and to celebrate this amazing achievement, children are given a 'get out of class free pass' and have a tea party at the end of term. There is still time for those who want to join the fun!

Year 6 pupils should be commended for completing their SATs last week - all children tried their best and we can't ask for any more than that! Children were tested on spelling, punctuation and grammar knowledge and reading comprehension as well as arithmetic and maths reasoning. Well done, Year 6.

Last Monday, Year 5s spent the afternoon enjoying a handball festival at Holbrook Academy. I was invited, by Headteacher, Mrs Elliot, to visit earlier in the term. It was great to see our ex pupils getting on so well and I was impressed with how focused and engaged children were in the wide variety of lessons I visited.





Another highlight was the visit by Pantasy Steel Band - a thoroughly enjoyable and hands-on experience for everyone.



This morning, Years 3 and 4 have been immersed in Ancient Egyptian learning with their visit from Ipswich Museum curators - handling artefacts and mummifying their teacher - Mrs Grist! You can find out more in their class section below.

A big thank you to Chelmondiston Horticulture Society for preparing the ground and setting our pupils a sunflower seed growing challenge. All children have planted a seed and we look forward to seeing which will grow the tallest. Year 6 pupils were a great help, weeding our raised beds and replanting our entrance pots.





Our School Council led Collective Worship on Tuesday and were pleased to announce the winners of their poster competition to promote recycling. The standard was very high - well done everyone!

I hope you enjoy the half term break and we look forward to welcoming everyone back on Monday 1st June.

Thank you for your continued support.

Lesley Etchingham, Headteacher



A message from our PTA

Not quite sure how we are already at half term but that means that our school summer fete is fast approaching and we really do need your help to set this up and/or be extra hands on the day (Saturday 4th July) so please come and see us or give your details to Mrs Etchingham so that we can begin allocating small tasks to people.

Please see the attached poster regarding our Teddy Tombola and how you and your children can donate any unwanted teddies.

The children are in for a fantastic, high energy workshop in school on Tuesday 2nd June, organised by us so watch this space for more information!

Happy Half-Term and don't forget to sign up to help at the fete or it may be you who gets gunged!



KIDS GO FREE!

Half Term Fun at Banham Zone

click the link below for details...

https://www.banhamzoo.co.uk/may-half-term?utm_campaign=386378996-2026%20-%20BZ%20Kids%20Go%20Free%20May%20Half-term&utm_medium=email&hsenc=p2ANqtz-8lQEh9gy4bnB5lLkJe0ZS3dpR6ClDq485tRQzObcv0rf9zrlvtjTavpLkQ0tjo-Hb5LLY9HpbkFOeEL3Q14g8htHzVgGFVLzHLtNkRqtQmUZh0L4E&hsmi=136211813&utm_content=136211813&utm_source=hs_email

SDG
Shotley Drama Group
presents...

PENINSULA'S GOT TALENT

do you have a talent?

if so come to our
OPEN AUDITION
10AM - 4PM, SUNDAY 7TH JUNE 2026
at Shotley Village Hall, IP9 1LX

Prizes to be won!

All ages welcome!

Chosen acts will pay a £5 performance fee and will need to be free on the evenings of Friday 26th June, 2026 and Saturday 27th June, 2026 for a dress rehearsal and performance.

contact us at
sdg.shotleydramagroup@gmail.com

Here are our amazing learning highlights from the last fortnight:

Cygnets

Cygnets class has had a fantastic fortnight of learning and fun. They have shown an excellent understanding of our class book, '10 things I can do to help my world,' with all of the children able to explain how we can look after the world and the reasons we need to do it. The children have been writing sentences about the book and they are taking pride in their handwriting and letter formation.



Cygnets class showed amazing musicality and coordination during the steel pan workshop last Friday. They worked with a partner, finding and playing the notes starting with scales from A to G, then being challenged to perform a tune using CC-AA-FF-GG. They also enjoyed dancing to songs and nursery rhymes performed by the band!



Year 1 children are developing their programming skills in Computing. Following on from programming Beebots, they are now learning how to use and follow algorithms to move a sprite in Scratch Jr.

During focus child sessions, the Reception children continue to discover more about each other and complete learning activities inspired by their own interests. Our recent sessions have led to making

microphones to have a big Disney singing session and creating hobby horses, racing them around obstacle courses and caring for them in a stable!



Melissa

We have had a fun filled and busy couple of weeks in Melissa class. Our Forest sessions have been full of excitement and discovery, including finding a stag beetle last Friday! The children enjoyed crafting their own bird feeders, by sawing cardboard tubes and then covering them with lard and bird seed. Hopefully they attract some visitors to your gardens.



In music lessons the children have been playing the glockenspiels. They have been learning a song and last week were learning how to write the notes of the tune on a staff. They also had a great time last week having a go at playing the steel pan drums, what a fantastic experience that was!



Our Art lessons for the last few weeks have been all about clay. The children have been using their hands and a variety of tools to create different shapes and patterns.

This week they designed and made a clay house, thinking carefully about what tools to use to bring their design to life.



Edith-May

Hot off the press! Fabulous pictures from our Egyptian morning with Ipswich Museum!

The children had a fantastic time learning about Ancient Egypt. Amongst the learning experiences were; role playing the journey of the afterlife, handling original Egyptian artefacts and understanding about the importance of the River Nile.



Over the last couple of weeks, Edith -May have been learning about the discovery of Tutankhamun's tomb in The Valley of the Kings. As historians, they have been carefully looking at catalogued photographs of the treasures found and matching them with descriptions. They have also been learning about the hierarchy of Egyptian society and finding out about what they ate, wore and enjoyed doing as pastimes.

In preparation for our Egyptian morning, the children have been making their own flat collar necklace called a Usekh (or Wesekh). Traditionally, these would have been embellished with jewels, but Edith May have been practising their sewing skills with appliqued motifs. We are very grateful to the many parents that came in to help on 'Super Sewing Tuesday'.



In Maths, the children are now exploring shape and angles and using vocabulary such as quarter turn clockwise and three quarter turn anti-clockwise.

Whilst our sunflowers may certainly do a quarter turn to the sun, the big question is whose will grow tallest? Edith May enjoyed planting their seeds along with the rest of the school. We will definitely be nurturing them. Good luck everyone!

Thistle

In English, the class has completed their rewrite of our class text, *The Last Wild*. The children personalised the plot by adapting it slightly, but kept the main structure the same. Reading through and witnessing the progress of the class has been wonderful. Well done!

As mathematicians, the class is developing their knowledge of decimals and learning how to add and subtract numbers with different decimal places. Last week, the class used their knowledge of number bonds to 100 to solve calculations adding to 1 whole.

As scientists, the class discovered the various ways of separating materials and investigated this. Thistle were able to share their results with each other and demonstrate how to separate: salt and pasta, sugar and water and sand and water.



As musicians, the children had the wonderful opportunity to play steel drums together. After a quick masterclass learning the different chords, the children played in unison.



In P.E., Thistle class visited Holbrook Academy to participate in their Handball Tournament. The children played against each other as well as another school. They represented Chelmondiston fantastically.



Thistle class enjoyed planting their sunflower seeds and are eager to discover which will grow the tallest. Some children even planted their seed whilst sharing positive, kind thoughts, to encourage it to grow.

Edme

Wow! What an impressive group of individuals our Year 6 children are. Last week, after much anticipation and hours of preparation, they totally smashed the SATs. We were so impressed by the maturity and confidence shown by the children of Edme Class. Every one of the SATs tests, they took in their stride and, in spite of some extremely challenging questions, the children demonstrated 'total calm under pressure'. Well done, Edme!



On Friday, the children were delighted to celebrate the end of SATs week with the opportunity to play the Steel Pan Drums, courtesy of The Pantasy Steel Band. The children learned how to play some basic chords, which they then used to accompany some traditional Calypso tunes.



In another musical first, Edme Class has been learning how to play the ukulele. They have become proficient at playing the chords of C, F and Dm, and they have begun to change confidently between these chords by playing along to *The Drunken Sailor*, *Hot Cross Buns* and *Sur le Pont d'Avignon*.

On Tuesday, Edme Class took their learning outside to complete a range of gardening tasks around the school. While the Eco Monitors carried out some much-needed weeding in the raised beds, the rest of Year 6 tidied up the planters at the front of the school, bringing some late-spring cheer with some colourful new blooms. At the end of the day, the children planted one sunflower seed each, to take part in this year's sunflower growing competition.

