



Chelmondiston CofE Primary School Newsletter

12.06.26



Parents in need of advice or support?

School Nursing Service

<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 Etchingham 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

Jasper	Cygnets	For always treating others with kindness
Otis	Melissa	For supporting a classmate when they needed a friend.
Ben	Edith May	For thinking of others
Charlotte	Thistle	For supporting her learning partner
Ava	Edme	For being sensitive and caring to others

Well done everyone!

Diary dates from Monday 15th - Friday 26th June 2026

Monday 15th -	Cygnets sharing assembly - 2.40-3.10pm
Wednesday 17th -	Sports afternoon with parents - 12.15pm - picnic on school field - 1.15pm - races begin
Thursday 18th -	New Reception children induction session - 9-10am Yr6 swimming session - 9-10am

Monday 22nd - Yr6 trip to Crucial Crew, Stowmarket
Thursday 25th - Yr6 swimming session - 9-10am
Friday 26th - Melissa sharing assembly - 2.40-3.10pm



NHS - Healthy Start (help to buy food and milk)

The Healthy Start scheme helps eligible pregnant people and families with children under 4 buy healthy food, milk and vitamins.

Families can receive up to £9.30 per week, worth around £1,000 per child over 4 years.

Please click the link for further details: <https://www.healthystart.nhs.uk/how-to-apply/>

Dear parents and carers,

Of course, it has been another exciting, learning-packed fortnight at school! We had a wonderful day skipping with Scarlet from 'Dan the Skipping Man' which was paid for by our fantastic PTA.

Throughout the day, classes enjoyed age-appropriate workshops - these were all fun and energetic and incorporated whole class skipping games with a long rope as well as other challenges that children completed independently. Our MDSAs also had a session to enable them to initiate different skipping activities at lunch time. We ended the day with a skipping show and children were called out to demonstrate all the different skills they had learnt. We'd like to thank the PTA for enabling us to have this experience which we know we will continue to build on - as we have with our McGrammar day.





We also welcomed Rupert from the RNLI who came to explain to all the children about the importance of water safety. With our close proximity to rivers here, it is important that children understand the dangers that water poses. Follow this link to find out more about keeping your family safe near water <https://rnli.org/safety> In particular, we should all know about the RNLI campaign, 'float to live' - there are more details here <https://rnli.org/safety/float>.



Our Y6 pupils have been leading Collective Worship and our JRSOs (Junior Road Safety Officers) have been monitoring parent parking outside school - both on Woodlands and St Andrew's Drive. I look forward to their report and any recommendations they have.

Years 5 and 6 visited Christchurch Mansion on Wednesday and thoroughly enjoyed an Art immersion workshop day - there is more information in the class sections below.

On Monday we held our induction and information session for parents of EYFS children joining us in September. It was great to see lots of familiar faces as well as welcome new families to our supportive and friendly school community. The following day, our new school starters joined us and quickly settled to play with the current EYFS children and we look forward to welcoming them to 'big school' again next Thursday morning for another induction session.

We have also begun our summer term class sharing assemblies so we can celebrate our learning together - well done to Edith May for being the first today and for sharing your learning with such enthusiasm and confidence. Next week, we look forward to our picnic and sports afternoon. The rain has hampered some of our preparations, however, the forecast for sunshine next week is most welcome.

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

Kind regards,

Lesley Etchingham, Headteacher



Chelmondiston PTA

Behind the scenes preparations are well underway for the summer fair on 4th July (12-3pm) so please save the date! Boxes are outside of the main entrance for teddy donations for our teddy tombola. All offers of help are most welcome - even an hour on the day will make a huge difference. You can contact the PTA by emailing chelmopta@gmail.com

Also, if you are buying new uniform items for next year or finding that school uniform items are going to school and not coming back because biro name labels are washing out, please consider using 'Stikins', stikins.co.uk. By doing so you are supporting the school as all orders generate more money for the PTA.

Here are our amazing learning highlights from the last fortnight:

Cygnets

Cygnets started the half term learning the story of The Gingerbread Man. As a class, children have made a story map and have been using it to retell the story. Reception children have written a sentence from the story while Year 1s have written the whole story and all children have really impressed us with the quality of their writing.



As mathematicians, the Year 1 children have been learning about fractions. They have been halving and quartering shapes and amounts. This learning has challenged the children to see and make the different fractions. In Reception, the children have been learning about patterns. This week they have been able to continue a repeated pattern and then make their own.

The Cygnet Class garden has been well looked after and the children have started to see new growth and even ripe strawberries. The class enjoyed planting, taking care of and then eating these at snack time.



The children had a fantastic time learning new skills in their skipping workshop. Year 1s also completed their last swimming lesson - they have really developed their swimming skills and greatly enjoyed doing so.



Melissa

Melissa class has had a great start back after the half term holiday. In Geography the children started a new topic all about the islands of Trinidad and Tobago. They will be reading the story 'Coming to England' by Floella Benjamin to support their learning. Last week the children used atlases and Google Earth to find the islands and describe their locations using geographical language.



In Art the children enjoyed finishing off their learning about 3D art by painting their clay houses. The houses have been designed and painted in the style of houses from the time of the Great Fire of London in 1666.



Following our visit from Rupert from the RNLI, the children created their own information posters about the different beach flags which are used by lifeguards on busy beaches in the summer.



The children all enjoyed the skipping workshop last week and are keen to keep practising their new skills.

Edith-May

Edith-May class has been extremely busy with so many wonderful activities happening in school. The class thoroughly enjoyed the skipping workshop and the children are keen to try out all the new

skipping moves they have learnt, some have even mastered 'the pretzel'!



The class also had a very informative workshop with Rupert, a volunteer from the RNLI, who spoke to the children about water safety and the crucial skill of floating like a starfish. We hope that the children will also teach friends and family this life-saving skill.

In Maths, the class is now learning about decimals and this will soon lead onto learning further about money, and how the decimal point is used within that topic.



As artists, the children have been developing monoprints and in History our Egyptian topic continues. In English, the children have been up-levelling their writing skills, making sure that their writing is the very best it can be. We are extremely proud of our Year 4 children, all of whom have completed the Times Tables Multiplication Check.

Thistle



Thistle class has had an incredibly busy fortnight, filled with trips, workshops as well as our usual lessons.

As writers, Thistle class wrote an independent narrative, based on our class text, *The Last Wild*. The children rewrote the opening part, but from a different perspective.

As mathematicians, the class completed their learning of decimals, as well as their learning about negative numbers. The children subtracted, compared and ordered them.

As scientists, Thistle revisited their previous learning on plants and identified parts of a flower and their function when flowering plants are reproducing. The children discussed the different types of reproduction in plants and identified tubers, runners and bulbs.



The class loved the skipping by Scarlet from the company, Skipping Man. This was the class learned new skipping as the pretzel!



workshop, led Dan the fantastic and techniques, such

This week, Year 5 children visited Ipswich Mansion for their 'Art in a Day' trip. This involved an exclusive John Constable exhibition where they were able to explore the artwork and artefacts, before walking around the Mansion, spotting various artforms. The class studied wallpaper from the 1700s and created their own. They also explored a local artist from the 1800s and recreated some of her 'grotesque' pottery.



As artists, the class continued with their reduction block prints. They look fabulous.

Edme

Edme Class has had an excellent first two weeks of their final half-term at our school. With SATs behind them, the focus has shifted to catching up on some exciting learning opportunities in the foundation subjects such as History, Music and DT.

As historians the children have begun to learn about crime and punishment and how it has changed over time. So far, the children have learned what constituted a crime in Anglo-Saxon England and during the Roman settlement of Britain, comparing this to the present day. It was interesting for them to learn that in the absence of a police force during Anglo-Saxon times, whole villages were responsible for upholding law and order. They were astounded to discover that thieves who persistently stole from others had their hands cut off!

Another highlight of this fortnight was the skipping workshop. The children learned some new skills such as the *double bounce*, the *double under*, the *criss cross* and the *pretzel*. We have some budding skippers in Year 6 and they really impressed us with their moves.



As designers and engineers, the children have continued to work on their *Steady Hand Games*. This week they have focused on assembling the electronics required to make their game and fashioning the 'course' that the player will navigate as they use it. Some debugging was required to make the games work, but now they are set to complete them and try them out for themselves.

Yesterday, the children joined Year 5 on a trip to Christchurch Mansion to explore 'Art in a Day'. They explored the Mansion in search of different types of art including pottery, embroidery, glass and portraiture. They even got to enter the new John Constable exhibition. As if that wasn't exciting enough, the children then get stuck into a workshop in which they made their own wallpaper designs.

So much has happened already this half-term term. It seems that the best way to capture the remaining highlights is in the montage below.



RNLI Assembly and Workshop

Ukulele: Using Chords C, F, Dm and G7



Art in a Day at Christchurch Mansion



Worship Leaders
The Story of David and Goliath



Exploring Resistance in Science