



Chelmondiston CofE Primary School Newsletter

11.09.26



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

Harper	Cygnets	For sharing nicely with her new friends
Effie	Melissa	For being kind and helpful to others
Evelyn	Edith May	For being a supportive and caring classmate
Hali	Thistle	For always being helpful
Isabel	Edme	For consistently thinking of others and being kind

Well done everyone!

Diary dates from Monday 7th to Friday 18th September

Friday 18th - Jeans 4 Genes Day

Bawdsey Manor residential parent info session - 3.30-4pm (Y5/6)

Future diary dates for autumn term 2026 (also on our website calendar)

October

Friday 25th - MacMillan Coffee Morning - 10.30am

Tuesday 13th - Harvest Festival at St. Andrew's Church - 10.45am

Wednesday 14th - Flu vaccinations

Edith-May sharing assembly - 2.40pm

Friday 16th - Thistle sharing assembly - 2.40pm

Tuesday 20th - Cygnets sharing assembly - 2.40pm

Friday 23rd - BRIGHT day - details to follow

Monday 26th - Friday 30th October - Half Term

November

Monday 2nd - PD day (non-pupil day)

Tuesday 3rd - Children return to school

Wednesday 4th - Yr5/6 Bawdsey residential trip

Friday 6th - Yr5/6 return from residential trip

Melissa sharing assembly - 2.40pm

Monday 9th - Open morning for prospective new parents

Tuesday 10th - Open morning for prospective new parents

Wednesday 11th - Remembrance Service at St. Andrew's Church - 10.45am

Thursday 12th - Edme sharing assembly - 2.40pm

Friday 13th - Children in Need - details to follow

Yr6 SAT's information session for parents

Monday 16th - Van Cols individual photographs (All children in uniform - no PE for Rec today)

Tuesday 17th - Anti-Bullying Week - Odd Socks Day

Friday 27th - 2:45- 3:10 Parent learning log sharing session - come and see your child's work

December

Tuesday 1st - Parent consultations - details to follow

Thursday 3rd - Parent consultations - details to follow

Wednesday 9th - Christmas dinner and jumper day

Friday 11th - PTA civvies day and discos - details to follow

Tuesday 15th - Evening Christmas performance - details to follow

Wednesday 16th - Afternoon Christmas performance - details to follow

Friday 18th - Last day of autumn term

Christmas church service at St. Andrew's Church - 2pm

Monday 21st December 2026 - Monday 4th January 2027 - Christmas holiday

January

Tuesday 5th Children return to school

Message from Chelmo Kidzone

The Kidzone team is looking forward to welcoming your child/ren to our upcoming events, costing £8.75 for the session. Please contact Chelmo Kidzone on 01473 788122 or info@shotleykidzone.co.uk to book your child/ren's place. We have also welcomed Mrs Rowland to our team, who is leading our wrap-around care. We look forward to hearing from you.



Dear parents and carers,

I am delighted to report that we have had a wonderful start to the new term. This week, our Chair of Governors, Mrs Whalley visited each class and was impressed by the calm, purposeful atmosphere across the school and by how settled the children were in their new classes. We have been very impressed with our new Reception pupils, who have already shown that they are keen to learn and make new friends.

This week, the Y5 and Y6 buddies dropped in KS1 and helped out.



Today we have enjoyed a 'Spirituality Day'. As a Church of England school, we believe that our Christian values of Respect, Being Caring, Resilience, Being Equal and Courageous should guide children to be the best that they can be. Alongside this, we want to ensure that our children have the opportunity to ask big questions and explore what it means to be who they are, how other people are important to them, and to look beyond themselves to feel a sense of awe at the beauty of nature around them and to reflect on what their place is in the world. We are using these four words to guide our exploration of spirituality - self, other, beauty, beyond.

Next Friday is Jeans for Genes day. Each year we raise money to support families affected by genetic disorders. Children can donate £1 and wear jeans/denim to replace uniform items. If your child doesn't have any denim, then other blue items are fine.

If you have any questions about school, please contact your child's class teacher via Tapestry or Dojo, the school office (admin@chelmopprimary.uk) or catch me on the playground before or after school. Thank you for your continued support.

Lesley Etchingham,
Headteacher

Here are our amazing learning highlights from the last fortnight:
Cygnets

What a fantastic first week at school!

Cygnets class has experienced so many firsts this week. First day of school, first playtime on the field, first circle time, first Dough Disco, first PE lesson, first phonics session, first Mastering Number session, first time using the choosing sticks and many others. The children have learned new routines and made a class charter to go with our school rules. It has been wonderful to see the children forming new friendships, being confident and having a go at lots of new activities. The children have played and worked together with kindness and shown care towards each other and the resources we have at school. The children have been eager to explore the provision and have worked exceptionally well at carpet times or when listening to stories being read to the class. One of the highlights of the week was when the children in Cygnets Class got to meet their Year 5 buddy. The children loved getting to know each other and are excited that they have a new friend in the school who will look out for them.



Melissa

Melissa Class has come back to school with amazing enthusiasm and a 'ready to learn attitude.' It has been so nice getting to know all the children.

In English, the children have been learning about the story 'Beegu' written by Alexis Deacon. They have been exploring thoughts and feelings from the character and predicting what might happen in the story. This is developing their inference skills as they explain their ideas and opinions. In class the children have been asking questions and looking at what punctuation is used when writing questions.

In Maths, the children have started the unit on place value and have been looking at how many tens and ones are in a number. The children explored this using equipment such as tens frames, bead strings and base ten.

In Geography, the class has been exploring our local area and where we live. We spoke about Chelmondiston being a village and Ipswich being our town. Together as a class we researched our area

by looking on Google Maps to show where we are located on the Shotley Peninsular. The class is going to have a walk around our local area in the coming weeks.

In PSHE, Melissa Class has been sharing experiences of how they feel safe and special in and around school. The children enjoyed making their superheroes for the wall.

The children enjoyed a walk in Science, looking at the seasonal changes. They made observations on the changes in weather, temperature and how the trees have changed from summer to autumn.



Edith-May



Edith May have really been getting stuck into reading this week! They have all come back with such enthusiasm and it has been great to see them discussing different books they are enjoying. English lessons have been focused on sentence structure, and using conjunctions correctly, and also reading comprehension skills.



In Maths lessons this week the children have revisited place value, and have also begun to learn about Area. They had fun working out how many different shapes they could create which all had the same area.



In Science the children have begun to explore light. They have learnt about the differences between light sources and reflective surfaces, and this week explored how different shiny objects create different types of reflections.

There has also been much excitement about our first topic in History, where the children will be learning about the Saxons and the discoveries made locally at Sutton Hoo. Stay tuned for lots of fantastic History knowledge coming home.



Thistle

What a fantastic start to the school year. Thistle class has settled in exceptionally well and have kicked the year off with purposeful learning.

As mathematicians, the class revisited and built on their place value skills from last year. They have represented numbers to 1,000, which then enabled them to represent numbers up to 10,000 - a Year 4 objective. They used place value counters and Dienes for this.

As writers Thistle class focused on sentence structure, ensuring they are able to identify and write simple, compound and complex sentences. The children linked this with their first class book of the year, *Charlotte's Web*, and they collected ambitious vocabulary to be used to describe the setting in the book.



As scientists, the children identified light sources as part of their new unit, Light. The class identified that some light sources are natural and some are human-made. Moreover, the children compared different reflective materials and observed their reflection.



Edme

Wow! What a busy start to the school year. Edme Class jumped right into learning on Day One, digging into their Maths repertoire to review and learn more about Roman Numerals. They revisited the rules that govern the use of this system and applied them consistently to writing numbers up to thousands. An impressive start!

As writers, the children have drilled down into the finer points of sentence structure to become fluent at recognising and writing simple, compound and complex sentences. With a little help from our friend, MC Grammar, they have also remembered the difference between coordinating and subordinating conjunctions in order to use them correctly when writing. We have also read the foreword to our new class book and the children have used this to make predictions about the characters and plot.

As Musicians, the children have enjoyed singing ensemble and unaccompanied as they explored a well-known South African call and response song, *Shosholoz*. This week they have begun to learn a set of chords which they will play on the glockenspiel to compliment their vocals. Their performance is a work in progress, but we look forward to sharing the polished version at our Sharing Assembly later on in the term.

Finally, as part of our settling in activities, the children have drawn self-portraits using the trace and transfer technique. I am sure you will agree that the finished pieces are magnificent.



If the first week and a half are anything to go by, Edme Class is set to have an awesome term.