

The Stretham Scoop



Friday 2nd May 2025

A bi-weekly round up of what's happening in our school!

Mr Sweeney's shout out:

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back! I hope you all had a restful and enjoyable Easter break. It's been wonderful to see how positively the children have returned to school—full of energy, enthusiasm, and ready to learn. Staff have been so impressed with how hard everyone is working already; it really sets the tone for what promises to be a busy and exciting term ahead.

Thank you for ensuring children are arriving in the correct school uniform and with their PE kits—this makes a huge difference in helping the school day run smoothly and supporting a sense of readiness and pride in our school. We discuss a lot about us being a school family and seeing children proud to represent us is wonderful to see!

We're also keeping our fingers crossed as we await results from the swimming pool water testing. Once we receive the green light, we're looking forward to opening the pool and getting children back in the water! We will let you know as soon as we have any further information.

It's been a busy two weeks of learning across school, Ladybird class have been labelling and identifying parts of plants and their knowledge is phenomenal! In their Science lesson this week, Hedgehog class gathered and recorded data to help answer the question 'Do children with the biggest feet have the biggest hands?' Rabbit class have made a fantastic start to the term, they have started exploring fractions; finding halves and quarters of numbers and shapes. They have also been looking at the book "The Storm Whale". The children have been empathising with the characters and imagining life living by the sea. They have also been exploring what the seven different continents of the world are like. In Wren class, they have really enjoyed their Science learning about Plants this week. They are experimenting with growing plants in different conditions with one currently in the freezer! They are also looking at whether a plant grows without leaves making lots of varied predictions about this. In English they are writing non-chronological reports about plants to connect their learning even more. Robin class have been busy writing their narratives around the idea of camping at the bottom of their garden! They have really enjoyed this writing and have been learning how to build suspense throughout their stories. They have also completed a local habitat survey around the school grounds in Science and this week they have finished their learning about animals and their habitats by going on an invertebrate hunt, as well as dissecting an owl pellet in Forest School. Kestrel class independently investigated the solubility of various materials (solutes) in a solvent like water. First, they reviewed how sugar particles reacted when combined with water and from this they made predictions, agreed methods and fair test protocols before testing began. Their focus was making appropriate observations, accurate recording of results and using both to draw conclusions through which they could demonstrate their vocabulary and knowledge of this area of science. Kite class have returned with a very focused and positive attitude towards their learning! They have been busy learning the different components of blood (even making our own blood using marshmallows, oil, food colouring and sprinkles), playing competitive tennis matches, reading their new book "Anna at War" and interviewing Jewish children who have arrived in England during WWII to include in their newspaper articles.

Over the past two weeks, our assemblies have focused on taking accountability and working collaboratively. The children have shown real maturity in exploring these themes, and to lead by example, I shared with them that I've committed to running a marathon next year—so I'll be holding myself accountable too!

As part of our commitment to improving children's experiences beyond the classroom, we're excited to introduce a new initiative: OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning). This programme aims to enhance the quality of play during lunchtimes, and we're looking for a Parent OPAL Champion to help us make it a success. If you would be keen to join us and help support the development of playtimes at Stretham, please let us know via the school office.

Finally, we're pleased to let you know that our new school website is scheduled to go live shortly. Our website provider is also in the process of updating all key information. It will remain at the same web address, but it may take up to 48 hours to appear on all devices depending on your internet provider—so don't worry if you don't see it straight away.

Enjoy the long weekend and we look forward to seeing you next week.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.
Mr Sweeney and the Stretham Team



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Safeguarding @ Stretham:

You may have seen the Netflix series 'Adolescence' or have heard about it. As a parent, it was a truly frightening watch. The Ivison Trust (formerly known as Parents Against Child Exploitation (PACE)) are holding two evening seminars specifically for parents and carers in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough with a focus on County Lines and Criminal Exploitation. These seminars will be delivered with a parent whose child has been a victim of exploitation, sharing their experiences and advice on responding to risks.

The sessions will share what criminal exploitation is, with a focus on county lines and explore how to spot signs that it may be happening to your child or a child you know. They will also cover trends in the local area and where to get advice and support if you are concerned.

For more information and to register a place visit Parent webinars - county lines and criminal exploitation - Ivison Trust

What parents will learn

- Learn what county lines is
- Understand what is happening in your local area
- Learn how exploiters groom children
- Understand the signs that your child might be at risk
- Know where to access support and advice if you have concerns

Upcoming webinars

- Cambridgeshire 17th June 2025 7:00pm - 8:30pm
- Peterborough 18th June 2025 7:00 - 8:30pm

Letters Sent Home:

Hedgehog Class trip to South Angle Farm - 20 May
VE day - 8 May
Class Summer term curriculum overviews
School Uniform and PE kit Expectations
Y6 SAT's revision
Reception year Vision Screening
Opal Survey

Attendance update:

Well done to the following classes with the highest attendance figures this week:

Robin Class - 95.7%
Kite Class - 95.3%
Hedgehog Class - 95.3%
Rabbit Class - 95.2

Please ensure that you make the office aware of any absences by **9am**, at the latest, each morning. You can do this via email, the telephone or via our Studybugs app. We now have a dedicated absence line, which is sent directly to the office email too. Please use the method of communication that is most convenient for you.

Key Diary Dates:

13 May - Reception year Vision Screening
16 May - Colour run
18 May - Feast stall
20 May - Hedgehog class trip to South Angle Farm
22 May - Treat Thursday - last day of half term
02 June - 06 June - Year 6 Residential trip
24 June - Wren class trip to Wandlebury
09 July - 11 July - Robin class Residential trip



A couple of brief updates:

Before/After School:

We ask that when entering/leaving the school grounds that you please use the footpath when entering the school grounds from, particularly at the front entrance. We have lots of deliveries and vehicles entering and exiting the school car park and it's not safe to be walking, cycling or riding scooters across the car park. In addition to this we can ask that children and adults **do not ride bikes or scooters until off the school grounds**. We have had a few near misses recently with children almost colliding with other parents or each other. Thank you in advance for your cooperation with this.

OPAL Survey:

In addition to the OPAL information in the shoutout, we're also looking to seek your views on playtimes in school and how we can make them better. A link has been sent out as a parent email via Arbor.

A very happy birthday to...

Mhairi, Olly, Elsie, Freddie Y, Livvi-Arna, Joseph,
Zeynep, Emie, Noah P, Nobel



We hope you have a wonderful day!

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