

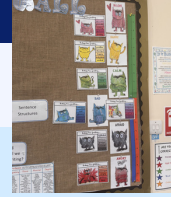
# The Stretham Scoop

Friday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2025



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

## Mr Sweeney's shout out:



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back! I hope that you've had a restful, enjoyable and family orientated summer! It feels like the break has flown by and the end of term was only 5 minutes ago! Where does time go?

A **huge** welcome to our new Ladybird parents and families, welcome to Stretham and welcome to our family. I hope that your children's first week has gone as well as possible; it has been a delight seeing the children settle in to routines, get to know each other and their big buddies too! What a fantastic start they have all made and we can see already that they are going to flourish and thrive at Stretham. A huge thank you, also, to the PSA for the organisation of the welcome bags for our new families too!

The children have returned to work in a settled, focussed and calm manner. The way that they have taken to their new classrooms, their new routines and new learning has been admirable. It is always a privilege to spend time in each classroom, but when doing so this week, it feels like the children have been in their new classrooms for a prolonged period of time, not just a week!

Thank you to you all for sending children in with the correct uniform and PE kits to school to. We are aware that this is a different approach to previous years, but again, the children have rolled with this brilliantly. It is lovely to see everyone looking so mature! Please don't forget that we have spare uniform at the front of school, and it can also be purchased from most supermarkets too, if you need anything extra.

As we have settled back into classes this week, the children have been exploring the text 'The Colour Monster.' The focus of this text is about identifying and naming different emotions and assigning a colour to them to show how we feel. Children have identified emotions, created their own colour monster books and looked at strategies of how to manage their feelings across the week. The conversations have been mature, considered and reflective, and it has been wonderful to be a part of these too. This is very similar to our work in school on Zones of Regulation, where we will state we are 'feeling a colour' to show how we feel at any given time. For example, if I was feeling red, I may be feeling overwhelmed or angry. In assemblies this week, we have been exploring what it feels like to 'feel red' with a focus on the text 'The Eyebrows of Doom.' We will look at other emotions over the next few weeks.

You may have seen some additions to our playground that were added over the summer. A giant sandpit has been constructed, along with a stage area too. We have many other plans to enhance our playtimes and lunchtimes and these will be implemented soon. I know that many pleas have been sent from the PSA and Mrs Everest for equipment and clothing that we can use in school. Thank you to everyone who has donated items. A huge thank you also to local businesses who have helped with the construction of the sandpit! We are also aware that there have been some 'hiccups' with the gate opening this week. Unfortunately, our site manager, Mrs Smith, is unable to be in work currently. We now have a plan to combat this. We are also grateful to members of our community who have been able to support with pool testing and cleaning to ensure it can stay open this half term too!

If you are able to volunteer any time to support in school (in any capacity), please do let us know. We are keen for more volunteers to come into school to support with reading, clubs (which will start in a few weeks time) building of equipment or supporting at Forest School. If you are able to support, please let the office or your child's class teacher know.

Have a fantastic weekend when it comes. Mrs Sweeney is back at work now so we are adjusting to our new routines. Unfortunately, it doesn't seem that sleep features highly on both of our children's plans so we will be having a busy weekend full of national trust visits and soft play, I am sure!

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

*'Achieving Potential Together As a School Family.'*

*- Compassionate - Curious - Courageous - Resilient - Inclusive*



## Safeguarding @ Stretham:

### DSL (Safeguarding Team)

Our Safeguarding Team at Stretham is formed of Mr Sweeney, Mrs Yeoman, Mrs Woodman, Mrs Everest and now also Mrs Spencer. If you have any questions, queries or concerns around the behaviour or safety of children or need some advice, any of us are happy to support and guide in any way possible.

### Support for Parents:

The NSPCC states: 'There's no such thing as a perfect parent. One day all's calm, the next it's chaos. However it's going, we're here with advice and support for parents and carers.' We all feel this! The NSPCC has some excellent guidance and pointers if you require any further support: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/support-for-parents/>

If you feel that you need more support, please let one of the safeguarding team know and we will support in any way possible.

### Whatsapp:

Whilst WhatsApp has an age rating of 13, a BBC investigation has found that children as young as nine have been added to WhatsApp groups and seen inappropriate content. If your child is using WhatsApp, check their group settings, as default, group privacy settings are set to 'everyone,' which means anybody can add your child to a group without their approval. You can change this setting to 'My Contacts' so only contacts can add them to groups without their approval. We have noticed upon our return that many children are using Whatsapp chats and sharing information that is not age appropriate.

### Letters Sent Home:

Flu Vaccination - e-consent  
Flu Vaccination - reminder  
Little City visit - Monday, 22 September  
School dinner accounts and payments  
Curriculum overview - Autumn 2025 - all classes  
Rabbit Class - Forest School Letter  
Wren class trip - Fitzwilliam Museum Trip  
Autumn Term swimming - Year 1 - Year 6  
Hedgehog Class - Forest School  
Letter from Mr Sweeney - Start of Academic year

### Attendance update:

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

Hedgehog 99.4%  
Rabbit 98.4%  
Robin 98.1%  
Kestrel 97.4%

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:

Flu Vaccination - Tuesday, 16 September  
Little City visit - Monday, 22 September  
Wren Class trip - Fitzwilliam Museum - 10 October 2025



A very happy birthday to...

Joseph W  
Archie C  
Remi  
Florence F

We hope you have a wonderful day!



### OPAL Plea from Mrs Everest:

At Stretham, we are beginning our OPAL journey. OPAL is an approach to improving the provision for outdoor play and learning for all of our pupils. Thanks to all the kind donations of play items, skills and time (as well as some small financial contributions), we are almost ready to launch phase 1 of our school's OPAL project. This should include our outdoor performance area, our giant sandpit and a quiet outdoor reading zone.

Although we now have plenty of dress up options for all ages and don't require any more donations of this type at this time, we are now seeking the following:

- 2 stacking storage units with 3-4 drawers - to help us store the dress-up items for child friendly accessibility.
- Some small tarpaulin covers that could be placed over the stacking drawers (waterproof garden furniture/ chair covers/ tarpaulins would be ideal) - to waterproof our storage option and protect the dress-up items.
- Multiple pairs of waterproof trousers or all in one puddle suits for all ages and sizes ranging from Age 4-5 all the way to small adult.  
(Further donations will be sought once new play zones open.)

Once we have these items, we will be able to run play assemblies to help all our children to understand how we can play safely in and share these new zones. The following step will be to open these areas for play.

We, once again, thank all members of the community who have donated in some way and hope that you continue to support us in improving play for all at Stretham.

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