

# The Stretham Scoop



Friday 26<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,

Happy Bon Jovi week (we're half way there!) I cannot believe that we are already half way through this half term; where does the time go?! It only seems five minutes ago that the children were entering their new classes, and now it feels like we have been back at school for much longer than 4 weeks. The children are clearly starting to form their new routines, and I have seen a lot of **respectful** and **safe** behaviour around school. There has been a lot of reaffirmation of our behaviour agreements of **Be Ready, Be Safe and Be Respectful**. We would really appreciate if you would continue to reiterate this at home too. Staff have revisited the concept of Zones of Regulation recently and we are using the language of feeling 'red, yellow, green and blue' in all of our classrooms. From time to time, all of us (including adults) find it hard to manage strong feelings such as worry, anger, restlessness, fear or tiredness, and this stops us from getting on with our day effectively. Children who feel these emotions often find it hard to learn and concentrate in school. The Zones of Regulation aims to teach children strategies to help them to identify their emotions and cope with these feelings so they can get back to feeling calm and ready to learn. These coping strategies are called 'self regulation'. We continue to explore these in assemblies too and this week have looked at the book 'Feeling Boo' to explore how we feel when we are in our blue zone.



The **ZONES** of Regulation®

BLUE ZONE	GREEN ZONE	YELLOW ZONE	RED ZONE

There has been a lot of enjoyable experiences across the school in the last two weeks, with Key Stage 1 revisiting the Forest School area, a new approach to writing being rolled out and lots of enriching opportunities already taking place! A huge thank you to our PSA! Last Friday, our children at Stretham Primary School had a wonderful 'Art Day' which linked closely to our work on Zones of Regulation and 'The Colour Monster'. It wouldn't have been possible without your contribution. Laura Tod, our local artist, came to school to work with the children on a small piece of artwork. She later described the school as being so 'welcoming' and stated that she 'really enjoyed her time with us all'. The children were brilliant at representing our core values of being 'Ready, Respectful and Safe' throughout their sessions. In Reception and Year 1, the children created Monster Emotions, which were colourful, fun and creative. From Year 2 to Year 6, the children got incredibly messy (sorry)! They had a great time creating scratch art and had to scratch into layers of oil pastels to create an emotive image. The children's great knowledge of emotions, coupled with their concentration and efforts, meant everyone was successful in their scratch art challenge. Here are some of our favourite quotes of the day:

'I enjoyed doing it because it was my first time making one.'

'My favourite part was when we were blending out the black oil pastel and got all messy.' 'My favourite bit was drawing my emotion on the card.' 'It was just so much fun!'

Laura was such an inspiration to all the children and we thank her for coming to our school. Well done to all of our children too, I think our display is going to look brilliant!

If your child enjoyed their session with our visiting artist, she runs her own art sessions - do visit her website: <https://canvasandco.org/>

We look forward to more creative opportunities throughout the year!

Mrs Spencer

(Art and DT Lead)

In addition to this, the PSA very generously funded the visit of 'Little City' on Monday. Little City is just that, a Little City for your children. It is a role play area with many different areas, where children can explore different professions or interests and most importantly just play. It was wonderful to see every child in school (from EYFS to Year 6) immerse themselves in this interactive role play. Every child was beaming! What an absolutely fantastic day, full of joy. In addition to this, the PSA, alongside Stretham Charity, have also kindly donated a substantial amount of money to ensure that we have new laptops that are suitable for children's use across the curriculum. A huge thank you again to the PSA and Stretham Charity for their support and generosity.

Enjoy whatever this weekend holds for you. My weekend will be full of running (I need to sort my training out, as I promised the children I would complete this marathon last year) and birthday parties! Look after yourselves and take care. I look forward to seeing many of you at our Harvest assembly on Monday.

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:

### Attendance:

#### You may or may not be aware that:

- All schools must report their termly attendance percentages to the local authority.
- Parents have a legal responsibility to ensure that their child receives a full-time education.
- Parents can be issued with a fixed penalty notice for failing to ensure their child attends school regularly – this includes taking a child out of school on holiday.
- The local authority has the power to prosecute parents in the magistrate's court for the offence of failing to ensure their child attends school regularly.
- If your child arrives after 9.15am we are required to mark them as having an unauthorised absence for the whole morning – arriving after 9.10am once in a week brings their attendance down to 90% for that week.

There is much evidence to show that good attendance plays a vital role in helping your child to achieve their potential.

We also know that poor attendance can lead to other problems for children. Children who do not attend school regularly are more likely to:

- Fall behind in their school work
  - Find it difficult to make and keep friends
  - Be unhappy at school
  - Misbehave so that others cannot see that they are finding the work difficult
  - Learn poor attendance habits that follow through to secondary school and future employment
- Poor punctuality can also disadvantage children in many ways:
- Being frequently late adds up to lost learning. For example, arriving 15 minutes late every day is the same as being absent for 2 weeks of the year
  - When children are late they find it harder to settle in to the routine of the day
  - When children arrive late they often miss key messages and teaching which continues to have an effect on their learning for the rest of the lesson or day
  - Poor punctuality disrupts the class and is embarrassing for the child
  - Your child being late disturbs the learning of the whole class

Getting here on time every day really is important in helping your child to become a happy and successful learner. Every day really does count!

### Letters Sent Home:

Cotteham Village College - Open Evening - Year 6  
Message from Hedgehog Class teachers  
Phonics Meeting Thursday, 9 October - Ladybird, Hedgehog and Rabbit class parents  
STEM Day at Soham Village College - Kite class  
Harvest Assembly - 29 September - 9.10am start  
Young Voices

### Key Diary Dates:

29 September 2025 - Harvest Assembly - 9.10am  
01 October 2025 - Drop in with the PSA at 2.30pm  
9 October 2025 - Phonics Meeting at 9am - school hall - Ladybird, Hedgehog and Rabbit class parents  
10 October 2025 - STEM Day at Soham Village College - Kite class  
21 October 2025 - Open Day for Reception year 2026-2027 at 9.30am  
24 October 2025 - Treat Friday  
10 - 13 November 2025 - Bikeability level 2  
14 November 2025 - Treat Friday  
18 November 2025 - Film Night  
19 November 2025 - Tempest Photography - Individual and sibling school photos



A very happy birthday to...

Freya Z

We hope you have a wonderful day!



### 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.

### General Updates:

#### Communicating with the school:

It has come to our attention that there have been some messages and grievances on class WhatsApp groups that should be communicated with staff at the school in the first instance. If you have any concerns or worries about your child, or something happening within school, please talk to your child's class teacher or a member of SLT in the first instance. Often, we are already aware of concerns, but in a rare instance we are not, it means that we can address anything immediately or put a plan in place to do so.

We appreciate your support with this.

#### Cycling:

It has also come to our attention that children are cycling across main roads and in front of cars before school. May we please request that you continue to remind your children of how to cycle safely, as we are in school. Can we also request that children please wear helmet when cycling; this is for their safety.

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