

The Stretham Scoop



Friday 10th October 2025

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

Mr Sweeney's shout out:



Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a really positive couple of weeks since our last newsletter, and it certainly feels like Autumn has arrived! The cooler mornings, falling leaves and golden colours are a lovely reminder of the changing season. It has also been wonderful to see so many of you at the front of the school; I really enjoy those morning greetings and conversations. Thank you.

A quick reminder to please continue using the footpaths and avoid walking through the school car park wherever possible. Children should also dismount scooters and bikes once on site. Thank you for helping us to keep everyone safe.

There has been lots of wonderful learning and experiences taking place in school over the past fortnight. Our youngest children in Ladybird class have made a fantastic start to Forest Schooling. It has been wonderful to see them exploring, working together and showing curiosity and teamwork. They are now attending assemblies too and demonstrating that they are truly Ready, Safe and Respectful.

Year 1 enjoyed a lovely Autumn village walk, spotting signs of the season and applying their discoveries in their learning back at school.

Meanwhile, Rabbit class have been working hard in Art and DT, creating their own 3D maps using a range of materials. The outcomes have been brilliant – a great example of creativity and persistence. The class have also been exploring which materials are waterproof in a very damp Science investigation!

Year 3 had an exciting trip to the Fitzwilliam Museum today, learning all about the Ancient Egyptians. Their behaviour was exemplary; they are a real credit to the school and we are incredibly proud of them.

Year 5 have been developing their reading skills through our whole-school guided reading sessions. The level of inference and deduction they are showing is incredibly impressive. Today, Kite class enjoyed a brilliant STEM visit to Soham Village College. They worked so maturely, supporting each other and representing the school with pride.

Year 4 recreated the digestive system! It was VERY messy.

We started by placing a digestive biscuit and banana in a bag and mused it together or bashed it with a spoon (our teeth) to break it up! This represented the teeth chewing up the food and our tongue moving it around. Then, once ready, we had to imagine swallowing the contents and it passed down our oesophagus and into our stomach. We added orange juice, which was the stomach acid, and churned it up with the food. After this, the food passed through the duodenum which neutralises the stomach acid and goes into the small intestines - the tights! The children had to squeeze the food through the tights and remove the nutrients. When it reached the end of the tights they had to squeeze hard in the large intestines to remove excess water. The waste product, the bits our bodies don't want, moved into the rectum (a cup with a hole in it). Using another cup, which was the signal to the brain to say that we need the toilet, the children pushed the waste out of the hole as stool.

In our assemblies this week, we have been exploring what it means to be in our "Yellow Zone" and how this can sometimes make us feel fizzy! We've been reading "What If, Pig?" and discussing the "what if" questions we all have about the future and the unknown.

Our Harvest Assembly last week was a real joy. Thank you for your generous donations and for helping make it such a special occasion. It was wonderful to see the children share their learning with such confidence and pride.

OPAL Update

A huge thank you to our parent volunteers who kindly gave up their time to construct storage for us. Our sand pit opens next week – and excitement levels are high! The children had a special play assembly about it today and can't wait to get started. Please make sure they have waterproofs in school ready for this; we cannot wait to see them immerse themselves in this.

A Note on Bullying and general unkindness:

We've had a few queries recently around bullying and wanted to take a moment to share our definition:

- When someone says or does something unintentionally hurtful and they do it once – that's unkind.
- When someone says or does something intentionally hurtful and they do it once – that's mean.
- When someone says or does something intentionally hurtful and they keep doing it over a period of time, even when asked to stop or shown that it is upsetting – that's bullying.

We do not tolerate bullying in any form. If you believe your child may be experiencing bullying, please speak to their class teacher in the first instance. We will always address concerns sensitively and conscientiously – **every** child deserves to feel safe at school.

And Finally...

Good luck to Mrs Yeoman, who is running the Royal Parks Half Marathon this Sunday in aid of Macmillan Cancer Care – we're all cheering you on!

Enjoy the crisp Autumn weekend ahead, and 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:

Spotlight on: County lines and CCE

County lines is when gangs and organised crime groups exploit children to transport and sell drugs, normally between big cities where the exploiters are based to smaller towns, sometimes across county boundaries but also locally and within and across villages. The children have dedicated mobile phone 'lines' for taking orders for drugs; children are used as they are less likely to be stopped by police, allowing adult dealers to avoid the risk of arrest.

County lines is a form of criminal exploitation; this occurs where a person or a group of people takes advantage of their contact with and influence over a young person to coerce or manipulate them into carrying out a criminal act. Children as young as 6 are known to have been targeted by gangs for this purpose. Young people may be recruited for county lines and other forms of criminal exploitation by a process of grooming: At the targeting stage, the exploiter befriends the young person and gains their trust. Young people may also be recruited through social media and/or through their peer group. Some parents of young people who have been exploited through county lines involvement have reported that they went through a sudden change in behaviour.

Possible indicators of involvement include:

- Unexplained money, clothes or gifts
- Frequent, unexplained phone calls
- New friendship circle that involves older children or adults
- Not attending school
- Carrying weapons

Vaping:

It has come to our attention that some of our children are finding and trialling disused vapes at the local recreation ground. We have spent a lot of time speaking to the children in Upper Key Stage 2 regarding the risks of this, not only using these substances, but where they are being located from too. Please could we ask that you reiterate this message at home. It is a serious safeguarding matter, and something we are monitoring very closely.

Letters Sent Home:

Secondary School applications - deadline - Year 6 parents
School dinner cost increase
Year 6 Residential - Arbor payment open
Burwell House Letter - Year 4
Education Inclusion Family Advisor newsletter - October 2025

Key Diary Dates:

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
12 November 2025 - Open Day for Reception year 2026-2027 at 9.30am
14 November 2025 - Treat Friday
18 November 2025 - Film Night
19 November 2025 - Tempest Photography - Individual and sibling school photos
26 November 2025 - Open Day for Reception year 2026-2027 at 9.30am
4 December 2025 - Open Day for Reception year 2026-2027 at 9.30am
9 January 2025 - Open Day for Reception year 2026-2027 at 9.30am



A very happy birthday to...

George P, Makayla, Sebastian, Suzannah, Finn

We hope you have a wonderful day!



Attendance update:

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

Rabbit Class: 97.8%
Hedgehog Class 97.7%
Kestrel Class 96.9%
Wren Class 96.7%

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:

OPAL Update:

We are still requesting, and will continue to do so, any spare waterproofs/trousers/wellies or equipment that could enhance our playtimes and lunchtimes. If you are able to share anything, please do let us know via office@stretham.cambs.sch.uk

Thank you in advance!

The text 'Spy Dog':

We have been made aware of a potential issue with a website link found in some copies of the Spy Dog children's books by Andrew Cope. The web address has been taken over by a third party and now leads to an adult pornographic site. Consequently, the publisher Puffin and author Andrew Cope have halted sales and distribution of these books and are working to have the site removed through legal channels.

The publishers are aware and have recommended withdrawing all copies of the book. We do not have any copies of this in the school.

More information can be found at:

[Spy Dog: Children's books pulled over explicit weblink - BBC News](#)

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