

# The Stretham Scoop



Friday 24th October 2025

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

## Mr Sweeney's shout out:



Dear Parents and Carers,

We have reached half term! This is an incredibly long half term, and it is clear across the school that everyone is feeling tired currently, but I am incredibly proud of the resilience, teamwork and determination shown by everyone across the school. It is hard to keep positive when the temperatures drop, the wind gets stronger and it keeps raining, but I still see incredible perseverance and positivity each day. It was lovely to see this shared at this week's parents evenings.

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.

### **🌸 Cambridge Curiosity and Imagination – Artscaping Project**

Last week, our Year 2 and Year 4 pupils took part in an inspiring Artscaping project led by Cambridge Curiosity and Imagination (CCI). CCI is a creative organisation that works with schools to encourage children to explore their ideas and express themselves through art and imagination. Their Artscaping approach connects creativity with nature, helping children see the world around them as a place full of stories, wonder, and possibility. During the project, the children worked together on the theme "The World Under Water." Please look out for the Artscaping soundscape that we will soon share on our website! Rabbit class said 'It was really fun because you got to make your own water creatures'

### **Message from Ely Foodbank:**

*'We would like to say a heartfelt thank you for your generous Harvest donation of 115.9kg, which will provide 276 meals for people in crisis across our community. Harvest is always a special time of year for us. Each autumn, we are humbled by the generosity of schools, churches, and community groups who come together to share what they have. Your support this year has helped replenish our shelves at a time when need is particularly high, ensuring we can continue to be there for families and individuals facing hardship this winter.'*

### **Our School Vision and Values**

At Stretham Community Primary School, our vision is clear:

**"Stretham Community Primary School is committed to being a welcoming, safe and respectful place where everyone is celebrated, encouraged and nurtured."**  
To bring this vision to life every day, we ask all members of our school community – pupils, staff, parents, and carers – to live by our core values:

- ♥ **Compassionate** – showing kindness, empathy, and care for others.
- 🔍 **Curious** – asking questions, exploring ideas, and developing a love of learning.
- 🦁 **Courageous** – being brave enough to try new things and stand up for what is right.
- 🌱 **Resilient** – persevering when faced with challenges and learning from mistakes.
- 🌈 **Inclusive** – celebrating our differences and ensuring everyone feels they belong.

By working together and demonstrating these values in all we do, we create a positive, nurturing environment where every child can flourish – and an environment that our whole community feels proud to be a part of.

### **Assemblies:**

Our assemblies this week have been focussing on the themes of showing a growth mindset and demonstrating patience. Something that is not always easy to do! We looked at the book 'Tilda tries again' by Tom Percival, discussing what to do when our 'world is turned upside down'.

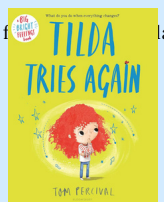
### **★ We Need Your Help – Come Volunteer!**

Our school community thrives when parents get involved, and we'd love for you to be part of it! We're always looking for volunteers to help make learning even more exciting and meaningful for our children. Whether it's listening to children read, supporting activities in Forest School, lending a hand on class trips, or sharing your own skills and knowledge that connect to our curriculum – your time and enthusiasm make a real difference. Volunteering is a wonderful way to be part of your child's school experience, meet other parents, and see our pupils' learning come to life. If you're able to help, even for a short time, please speak to your child's teacher or contact the school office. Together, we can inspire curiosity, confidence, and a lifelong love of learning in all of our children! 🌈📚🌟

I hope that you have a fantastic half term, whatever you are doing. I hope that there are opportunities to make memories, spend time with family (if that's possible!) Next week, we are starting potty training with our eldest and plenty of soft play visits!

We look forward to seeing you **Monday 3rd November 2025**

Mr Sweeney and the Stretham Team



'Achieving Potential Together As a School Family.'

- Compassionate - Curious - Courageous - Resilient - Inclusive



## Safeguarding @ Stretham:

### A Child's First Phone

According to Ofcom, about a quarter of 5-7 year olds own a smartphone, while by age 11, 91% of children have one. If you're considering getting your child a phone or passing down an old device, here are four crucial questions to think about:

- 1. Is your child mature and responsible enough?** Evaluate if your child can adhere to screen time guidelines and use the phone appropriately.
- 2. Have they shown responsibility in other areas like taking care of their belongings?** Make sure your child understands the potential risks of smartphone use, such as exposure to inappropriate content and cyberbullying.
- 3. What are your child's communication needs?** Think about whether your child truly needs a smartphone. If they're occasionally away from you and involved in activities where they need to stay in touch, a smartphone might be helpful, but not always necessary. If it's for educational purposes, consider whether they should have their own phone or if it could be a family device.
- 4. What safety features does the device offer?** Activate parental controls before handing it over to them to limit access to unsuitable content. Explore apps on your phone to monitor their usage. Research the device to understand the available safety features. What boundaries should be set to ensure your child's safety when using a smartphone? Establish clear rules regarding phone usage, including when and how it can be used, permitted apps and guidelines for communication with others. Discuss consequences for not following the boundaries and model healthy smartphone habits yourself to set a positive example for your child

### Snapchat: A leading social media platform for kids

Despite the minimum age requirement of 13, many younger children sign up for Snapchat as there is no age verification process. Here are some safety tips for parents and carers of children who use the app.



### Letters Sent Home:

New Lunchtime Co menus - effective from 03 November 2025

Commemorative school tea towel orders  
Reminder - School tea towel orders  
October Half Term Holiday Voucher scheme

### Key Diary Dates:

- 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...

Faye, Mary, Bella, Raman, Felix, Noah B

We hope you have a wonderful day!



### Attendance update:

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

Rabbit : 97.2%  
Hedgehog: 97.1%  
Kestrel: 96.9%  
Wren: 96.1%

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.

### The Significance of Sleep

For children, sleep plays a crucial role in supporting the many changes happening in their growing bodies and developing minds. Below are some key reasons why sleep is so important:

- Physical growth and development: Sleep triggers the release of growth hormones that are vital for healthy physical development.
- Brain development: Quality sleep supports brain growth, particularly in areas linked to decision-making, impulse control, and emotional regulation.
- Emotional well-being: Adequate sleep helps children manage their emotions, reduce stress, and supports good mental health.

Ensuring children get enough quality sleep is essential for their growth, learning, and overall well-being. The National Sleep Foundation recommends that children aged 5-12 years get 9-11 hours of sleep each night.

### Barriers to Good Sleep

There are many reasons why children may not get enough quality rest. Some common barriers include:

- Irregular sleep schedules - Staying up late or sleeping in on weekends can disrupt a child's routine.
- Use of electronic devices - Screens used late at night can interfere with falling asleep.
- Noisy or brightly lit bedrooms - A calm, dark, and quiet environment helps children sleep better.
- Caffeine or sugary snacks - Consuming these, especially in the evening, can make it harder to fall asleep.
- Lack of understanding about sleep's importance - Some children may resist bedtime if they don't realise how much sleep helps them feel and perform their best.

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