

The Stretham Scoop

Friday 14th November 2025



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

Mr Sweeney's shout out:



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to Autumn 2! The clocks have gone back, the evenings are darker earlier, and it is certainly colder! The good news, however, is that we have found that our heating system is working well which is incredibly reassuring! The children have returned in a very settled manner and we have been incredibly impressed by their resilience and determination over the last two weeks. It has been fantastic to see extra-curricular clubs starting and with so many children involved. I am hoping that the weather doesn't curtail anymore sessions. I must say that the choir sound absolutely fantastic already and we cannot wait for you to hear them at our end of term Christmas concert.

Children in Need/Kindness Week

This week has been our Kindness week in school, in line with the national 'Anti-bullying' week, of which the theme this year is 'Power for Good.' A reminder that our definition of bullying at Stretham is:

- When someone says or does something unintentionally hurtful and they do it once – that's unkind.
- When someone says or does something unintentionally 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.

Today we celebrated Children in Need with a wonderful splash of colour across school, as each class proudly wore a colour chosen by our School Council. Throughout the week, pupils have been completing 25 acts of kindness, ranging from sending thoughtful messages to members of our community, supporting peers in and out of class, or simply sharing a smile with someone who needed it. It has been heart-warming to see our children embrace these small but meaningful gestures, and we hope this spirit of kindness continues well beyond this week.

A huge thank you to all our families for supporting our cashless JustGiving page this year. We are incredibly proud to share that, thanks to your generosity, we have raised £246 so far. Your support helps us make a real difference, and we are grateful for the enthusiasm shown by our whole school community.

Assemblies this week have focused on how we can be kind not only to each other but to ourselves; something that is not easy to do. We have explored strategies and ways to support others in order to be kind to themselves too. I hope that some of you will get a random cup of tea by the end of this week too!!

A special mention to our Year 6 children this week who have had their first attempts at the End of Key Stage 2 assessments this week. Their resilience, calmness and willingness to improve is a credit to themselves. We are incredibly proud of all of you. Well done!

New Writing Approach

Across school, we are refining our writing approach to ensure that children are able to reach their full potential as authors. The new approach 'Essential Writing' uses a range of high quality books and texts as stimuli to enhance and inspire writing. Whilst we are still in an emergent stage with this, we have been impressed by the quality of children's writing and their enthusiasm to share and then publish these. As the year progresses, we will share some examples of these pieces from a number of year groups.

Parent Governor Vacancies

As I hope you will have seen this week, we have 2 vacancies for parent governors at Stretham. This is a great opportunity to support and guide the school as we continue to move forwards as a team. Our governing board are a group of like-minded and committed individuals who care deeply about the school and all of our children. If you are interested, but are not sure if it's for you, please do come and have a chat with me! The deadline for nominations is **Wednesday 19th November**.

★ We Need Your Help – Come Volunteer!

I am including this message again from the last newsletter in the hope more of you may be able to volunteer! Thank you to those of you who have already volunteered your time!

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! 🌈📖🌟

Whatever the rainy weekend entails for you, I hope that it is an enjoyable one. Coming back after a half term is always tricky! The countdown to Christmas is on now, and I'm pretty sure I've got a different Christmas jumper for each day of December, much to my wife's dismay! I look forward to seeing many of you at the Christmas craft afternoon in two weeks time.

Thank you for your support as always,



Mr Sweeney and the Stretham Team

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Safeguarding @ Stretham:

We are sure that, like us, you as parents and carers realise the importance of attendance and punctuality. At Stretham, we continue to work hard to continue to improve our attendance levels and to reduce incidences of lateness.

Attendance facts:

- 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 9.15am 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:

Christmas Raffle Prizes Wanted - PSA request
Year 4 Residential trip - Burwell House Information Update
Christmas Craft afternoon
Scholastic Book Fair
Christmas Holiday Activity - HAF
Tempest Photography
Film Night
Young Voices - O2
Parent Governor letter/nomination form



Key Diary Dates:

18 November - Film Night
19 November - Tempest Photography - Individual / Sibling photos
19 November - 24 November - Scholastic Book Fair
25 November - Christmas Craft afternoon
26 November - Open Day for Reception year 2026-2027 at 9.30am
4 December - Open Day for Reception year 2026-2027 at 9.30am
5 December - Christmas Fair
9 January - Open Day for Reception year 2026-2027 at 9.30am

A very happy birthday to...

Laila, Evelyn, Zac, Ollie, Noah, Ronnie & Courtnie

We hope you have a wonderful day!



Attendance update:

Well done to the following classes with the highest attendance figures this week which are above the national average:

Rabbit - 97.6%
Hedgehog - 97.4%
Kestrel - 97.1%
Robin - 96.8%
Wren - 96.6%

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.

Social Media Use:

Apps such as Snapchat and TikTok require users to be 13 years old, meaning they are not appropriate for primary-aged children. We are aware that some of our children are using Snapchat outside of school on their devices, in some cases with public accounts, which exposes them to significant risks. These include contact from strangers, the ability to share personal information or location, the possibility viewing inappropriate content, and the pressure created by features like disappearing messages, streaks, or public posts.

What parents can do:

Please check devices regularly to see which apps your child is using and ensure privacy settings are switched to the highest level. Tools such as TikTok's Family Pairing and Snapchat's Family Centre allow parents to monitor contacts, manage privacy, restrict content, and set screen-time limits. Most importantly, please have open conversations with your child about staying safe online and remind them that they should not be using social media platforms designed for older children.

OPAL:

We were excited to open our Role play and Creative areas as part of our OPAL offer this week. Children from every class have taken the opportunity to be creative either by dressing up, performing on the stage, running around in role or being artistic with colouring resources for Remembrance and Kindness week. Through our Play Assemblies, we have been learning how to use our new resources kindly and respectfully. All our children have impressed up with their developing responsibility and collaborative skills. You can see some of the photos on page 1!

Well done Stretham!



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