

The Stretham Scoop



Friday 19th December 2025

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

Mr Sweeney's shout out:



Dear Parents and Carers,

It feels like we've blinked and the Christmas holidays have arrived! The last few weeks in school have been full of festive enthusiasm, lots of winter themed activities and very busy classrooms. The children have kept going right until the very end and have done so with amazing resilience and determination. It will be very strange coming back to school in January with no Christmas decorations up; it has been wonderful walking through school recently.

A huge **congratulations** to Ladybirds, Hedgehogs and Rabbits for their performances of 'A wriggly nativity' last week. There is something incredibly refreshing and humbling about seeing the children's nativity each year. They performed with great flair, the singing was wonderful, the dancing brilliant and it was lovely to be sat in a hall full of so many proud grown ups. They absolutely smashed it. Well done everyone!

Yesterday's Christmas lunch was a great success and it was lovely to see so many children sat together, talking about their Christmas plans and sharing their lunch with staff too. Thank you for sending your children in, in an array of Christmas jumpers; everyone looked fantastic and it was a fabulously festive day! On Monday, we had our termly Rocksteady concert. The children not only looked the part, but they also sounded it too! It was remarkable to see how much progress they have made in such a short space of time (Rocksteady have been with us under a year) and to see their confidence grow! If your child is interested in starting Rocksteady music lessons, please let us know via the office and we will be able to point you in the right direction to sign up.

Our OPAL rollout is continuing at some pace! We now have a lego area and small world area on offer for our children each breaktime. It has been wonderful to see the children immersing themselves in a range of different play areas and we cannot wait to see this continue into the new year.

Welcome to Jon Partridge (who has renewed his term) and Christina Emmess who were successful in their nominations as parent governors. We look forward to you joining us next calendar year!

We are still in need of volunteers, please do let us know if you are able to help!

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! 🌟📚🌟

We had a special visit from a man in a big red suit today, who shared a Christmas gift for every child thanks to the PSA. A huge thank you to both Father Christmas, for coming in and to the PSA for their continued support of the school and all they do for all of our children!

Finally, what a joy it has been today to be a part of our annual Christmas service at St James's church. I often feel pride working at Stretham, but an event such as today's take this to a whole new level. Seeing our community come together and share some Christmas joy was very special. It was wonderful to hear the beautiful singing from the whole school, a big mention and well done to the choir (and Mrs Woodman and Mrs Joveluro!) You were absolutely outstanding.

Whatever you are doing this Christmas, I hope that you have an enjoyable break full of family, joy and love. We know that Christmas can be a stressful time for families and we will also continue to check the email address - checkin@stretham.cambs.sch.uk if there is anything you need or find yourselves in need of support over the break.

We look forward to seeing the children back again on Tuesday 6th January 2026. But for now, a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you all!

Thank you for your continued support, as always.

Mr Sweeney and the Stretham Team

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Safeguarding @ Stretham:

Important Attendance Information:

Holiday Requests

Parents are required under the Education Act (1996) to ensure children attend school regularly. The headteacher of a school has a discretionary power to authorise absence only in exceptional circumstances. A family holiday is not an exceptional circumstance. If you complete a leave of absence request form and the request is declined, (as it will be in the majority of cases) and you still take your child out of school, each parent with parental responsibility will be issued with a £160 penalty notice for each child you have taken out of school. Continuing to take term time holidays could lead to prosecution. Support and guidance on attendance is always available and if you have any questions about this, or if you need help to achieve an improvement, then please contact Mr Sweeney, in the first instance.

Advice for parents about sleep:

Like everyone, children need sleep and it's really important they get it (both for them & you). Sometimes getting them to sleep is tricky, but a predictable routine can help. It's pretty obvious that a child who is getting enough sleep is more likely to be happy and alert than a child who isn't. Getting your child into a good sleeping pattern isn't just about avoiding tantrums though, lack of sleep has been linked to future problems, such as anxiety, depression, obesity and high blood pressures. Top tip: Turn off screens an hour before bedtime. Audiobooks or good old-fashioned paper books are a good alternative to eBooks. Light from screens stops the production of the sleep hormone melatonin.

As a rough guide, children need:
Aged 3yrs – 5yrs: 11 – 14 hours sleep
Aged 6 – 12yrs: 10 – 13 hours sleep

Letters Sent Home:

Hedgehog Class Forest School sessions
Bikeability - Level 1 - 5 May 2026
Rocksteady
School dinner payments - reminder
Vaccination UK - catch up clinics

Key Diary Dates:

School re opens - Tuesday, 6th January 2026
EYFS Early morning - Friday, 9 January 2026
Rock Kidz UK in school - Wednesday 21st January 2026

A very happy birthday to...

Charlie M-F, Soren, Tillie, Ernie, Rajesh, Myla, Mila,
Rohan, Jessie, Olivia & Harriet

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:

Hedgehog	96.6%
Robin	96.5%
Rabbit	96.4%
Kestrel	96.3%

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.

Staffing Update:

It is with great sadness that, today, we say goodbye to Miss Barnes. For those of you who have not met her, Miss Barnes has taught in Kite class for just over a year and the impact that she has had on so many children has been nothing short of remarkable. Whilst she is leaving for circumstances that are unavoidable, it does not make saying goodbye any easier and she will be greatly missed. Miss Barnes, you are welcome back at Stretham at any point and we really hope that we see you again soon. Please keep in contact!

From January, Mrs Nicola Egan will be joining us, teaching in Kite class. Mrs Egan has already met her new class and is looking forward to joining us. We have no doubt she will add to the Stretham family and we look forward to her start too.

Finally, unfortunately, as of the end of January, Mrs Cullum will be leaving Stretham Community Primary School in order to take a very well deserved retirement. Mrs Cullum is a key pillar of Stretham, working in a number of roles, and making such a transformative difference in each job she has done. She is irreplaceable as a person and we are going to miss her, greatly.

An advert for our finance manager vacancy has been released and can be found on our website.



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