

The Stretham Scoop

Friday 30th January 2026



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

Mr Sweeney's shout out:



Dear Parents and Carers,

Just like that, we're over half way through the term! I am not quite sure where the weeks go, but they are flying by! The weather is grey and drizzly, but the children continue to work hard and be in positive spirits!

Assemblies this past fortnight have focused on inspirational individuals who have overcome great adversity. We have discussed Rick Hoty and how his disability did not stop him from pushing himself both academically and athletically, whilst also finding out more about the first woman to swim the channel despite many stating she wouldn't be able to do it! This week, we also spent time reflecting on how it is 'okay to not be okay' and the strategies we can use to support each other.

Last Monday, a group of Year 4, 5 & 6 pupils, accompanied by Mrs Everest, Mrs Newton and some wonderful parent volunteers, attended 'Young Voices' at the O2. What an amazing experience this was! To sing with hundreds of other children in a world famous venue, is something that the children will never forget! It was wonderful to hear how polite, sensible and engaged the children were. A huge thank you to Mrs Everest, Mrs Newton and our parent helpers; without you, the show would have not 'gone on'.

Following on from this, in more musical news, last Wednesday, we had 'Rock Kidz UK' attend school to share messages about kindness and how we can 'live it loud.' It was **fantastic** to see everyone in their rockstar outfits and to be a part of the whole school bouncing and bopping along to a very catchy song with an excellent meaning. What struck me the most about this visit was the positive comments and feedback from both of our visitors who shared how brilliant our children and staff were; it made me very proud (as I always am) to work with such a fantastic group of children and adults.

A huge thank you to our parent volunteers who came in last week to support with the building of our mud kitchen ready for OPAL play; it looks fantastic!

With a huge amount of enrichment activities taking place, some incredible learning is still taking place. In a recent staff meeting, Mrs Rayment shared with us a great game for estimating amounts; it has been wonderful seeing these in use in a number of classrooms across the school. This week, Hedgehog class went for a winter walk around the village, searching for signs of winter around Stretham. Year 2 have been incredibly busy exploring and writing their own fairy tales, whilst Year 3 have been deepening their understanding of the Indus Valley and ancient settlements. In Year 4, Robin class have begun to explore newspaper reports and the features of these, ready to write their own. Year 5 have been immersing themselves with knowledge of the Anglo Saxons and particularly Sutton Hoo. Year 6 have been honing their persuasive skills, encouraging others to put some of their 'pet peeves' into Room 101. A lot of great learning is taking place!

You may have noticed that we have some new chairs in the entrance to school. Thanks to a kind donation from Isolex Consulting, these were provided for the school and look very professional.

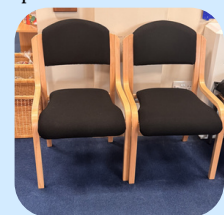
Finally, I wanted to take a moment to say a heartfelt thank you to Mrs Cullum, who today, after 26 years, is saying goodbye to Stretham Community Primary School as she begins her retirement. She is an incredible lady who is quite frankly irreplaceable in so many ways. Her calm, kind and patient nature with all members of our community and her fantastic financial knowledge will be sorely missed. The difference she has made to the school and the impact she has had on so many people is immeasurable and Mrs Cullum has earned every moment of her retirement! I am certain that she will still be contacted by all of us and I am sure we will see her lots both in and out of school. Thank you for everything; you leave big shoes to fill!

With Mrs Cullum leaving, we have a new finance manager joining us after half term. Mr Philip Atkin will be taking on the role and brings a wealth of financial knowledge from previous roles. We are all just hoping he has the same baking skills as Mrs Cullum too!

Whatever the weekend brings for you, I hope it is an enjoyable and a restful one. Marathon training is on pause for me as I nurse a calf injury, so I think it will be a National Trust kind of weekend instead!

Thank you for your continued support, as always.

Mr Sweeney and the Stretham Team



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Safeguarding @ Stretham:

Positive Parenting:

A child's needs and behaviours can change as they grow and it is how we respond to those changes that can make a difference. Every child needs love, guidance, rules and boundaries. It is important to have set routines and be consistent with these. Rewards and sanctions can be used effectively to manage challenging behaviour. It is important to clearly define the rewards and sanctions that you are setting and then ensure that you are seeing these through. Always remain calm and try not to get into a confrontation with your child. Talk to them about the behaviours being displayed and try to find the underlying cause for these behaviours.

Talking to children about difficult topics

It's important that every child has someone they trust that they can ask for help. There'll be times when children need advice or support. There'll also be times when you need to explain something that might upset them. You might need to start a difficult conversation because you have to break some bad news or ask them about something you're worried about. The NSPCC has lots of good advice for helping you decide how to talk to your child in an age-appropriate and supportive way. But remember that you know your child best, so trust your judgement about what's going to work for them.

https://www.nspcc.org.uk/advice-for-families/talking-about-difficult-topics/?utm_old=difficulttopic

Monitoring Online Safety

Take time to talk to your child about the dangers they may face online - be honest and open with them. Ensure that they have the correct privacy settings on their devices and that you have parental controls on. Children should be aware that a person they think of as a friend online could in fact be a complete stranger. Online abuse takes many forms which include; bullying, blackmail and general trolling. Remind children that social media apps have age restrictions designed to keep them safe. Encourage your child to speak to an adult if they feel uncomfortable with anything that they access, or see, online

Operation Encompass:

Operation Encompass is a police and education early information sharing partnership enabling schools to offer immediate support for children experiencing the impact of domestic abuse. Information is shared by the police with a school's trained Key Adult (DSL) when officers have attended a domestic abuse incident. Children experiencing domestic abuse are negatively impacted by this exposure; with domestic abuse identified as an Adverse Childhood Experience (ACE). Operation Encompass aims to mitigate this harm by enabling immediate support and thus making the child's day better

Letters Sent Home:

EIFA February newsletter
Trip letter - Rabbit class
West Stow trip
Year 4 Residential trip - Burwell
Bikeability Level 1 - reminder - reply slips

Key Diary Dates:

Rabbit class trip - 11th February
Robin class Residential - 12th February
World Book Day - 5th March
Kestrel class West Stow class trip - 14 April
Bikeability Level 1 (Year 3 and Year 4) - 5th May

A very happy birthday to...

Emma, Digby, Simay, Mia, Joshua, Torin, Derrin, Bobby

We hope you have a wonderful day!



Attendance:

As we start 2026 a reminder, consistent attendance ensures that your child fully benefits from the learning experiences and social interactions that school provides. On the other hand, poor attendance can severely hinder their progress, leading to gaps in learning, diminished confidence, and social isolation. By prioritising attendance, you are actively supporting your child's right to learn and succeed, setting them on a path toward a brighter future. Where is your son/daughter currently on the attendance ladder?



Attendance update:

Well done to the following classes with the highest attendance figures this week which are above the 95% threshold:

Rabbit 96.7%
Hedgehog 96.7%
Robin 96.4%
Kestrel 96.2%

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, Arbor 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.

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