

The Stretham Scoop

Friday 13th February 2026



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 here we are at half term already! The spring term is certainly a short one, but so much takes place in the limited weeks that we have. It is also unbelievable that we are already half way through the academic year too; so much has happened and as a school there is so much of us all to be proud of.

Excitingly this week, our OPAL provision for play time and lunchtime has expanded. In our most recent play assembly, the children have been introduced to the mud kitchen. It has been wonderful seeing so many children embracing the mud (in their waterproofs) and putting together some superb creations. Our OPAL rangers have been very busy ensuring that children are using our equipment correctly, and safely, and are doing a fantastic job in doing so!

A very special shout out to Rabbit Class on their excellent behavior and attitude on their school trip on Wednesday. The children absolutely adored their time in the stain glass museum and their pizza express visit too. Their impeccable behaviour was even commented on by members of the public; well done Year 2, we are very proud of you!

Many of our Year 4 children experienced their first school residential at Burwell House this week too. It has been an absolute delight to see the children working together so respectfully, showing wonderful resilience across a range of activities (even when making their beds...) and for trying new foods too. The children have been an absolute credit to us all and we could not be prouder of them - their weather reports were outstanding. Photos will follow in the next newsletter as Burwell House wifi is very patchy and we cannot get them to download!

Year 6 have worked incredibly hard over the past fortnight whilst tackling a range of SATs papers. The children have been absolutely superb throughout, showing great resilience and determination; it has also been very refreshing to see the children respond to feedback and spot the areas that they feel they may need a little more support with, this is no mean feat.

Elsewhere in the school, Ladybird class have been busy baking biscuits, ready for valentines day and continuing to enjoy their forest school sessions. In Year 1, the children have been writing their own reports after meeting a monster and their baby, whilst also enjoying the text 'Oi Frog!' Wren class have been working hard on measurements and applying these to a range of practical situations. Year 5 have been working hard on their own mythical creature descriptions and they are fantastic!

Finally, we would like to say a huge thank you, good bye and good luck to Miss Morrissey and Miss Young who have been teaching in Robin and Rabbit class respectively since before Christmas. They have truly embedded themselves into the Stretham family, but their placement has come to an end. We wish them all the best in their training and future careers and will miss them greatly. Thank you to both of you; you have bright futures ahead!

Whatever this half term holds for you, I hope you have time to rest and reset, ready for Spring 2. We are very proud of all of our children and what a credit to Stretham they continue to be. Unfortunately, my injury and an 18 month old who enjoys avoiding sleep have led to me having to withdraw from the marathon in April, but I will be on the start line at Cambridge Half Marathon and hope to run more from there. This means half term for me will consist of time with our boys and running where possible! We look forward to seeing you all on Monday 23rd February 2026. Have a great half term!

Thank you for your support, as always.

Mr Sweeney and the Stretham Team

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- Compassionate - Curious - Courageous - Resilient - Inclusive



Safeguarding @ Stretham:

What is Criminal Exploitation?

Criminal exploitation is where children and young people are manipulated and coerced into committing crimes. They might be victims of violence or pressured into doing things like stealing or carrying drugs or weapons. They might be abused, exploited and put into dangerous situations, or find themselves as part of a gang, where through peer pressure illegal activity may take place. Some of the dangers of criminal exploitation are: being subject to threats, blackmail and violence; having their safety or the safety of family and friends threatened; risk of emotional harm or long-term impact on education or employment prospects. For more information visit the NSPCC website: https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/types-of-abuse/gangs-criminal-exploitation/?utm_old=cce#crimalexploitation

County Lines

County Lines is the police term for gangs exploiting young people into moving drugs from a hub, normally a large city, into other markets - suburban areas and market and coastal towns - using dedicated mobile phone lines or "deal lines". Children as young as 12 years old have been exploited into carrying drugs for gangs. This type of exploitation can involve children being trafficked away from their home area, staying in accommodation and selling and manufacturing drugs. In some cases, the dealers will take over a local property, normally belonging to a vulnerable person, and use it to operate their criminal activity from. This is known as cuckooing.

Attendance:

Statistics show pupils with good attendance achieve well in school and children with attendance over 96% make better progress socially and academically. Children who are persistently absent do not make the same level of progress and usually struggle socially. Persistent absentees are those children who have missed more than 10% of their school sessions. In a year there are 190 teaching days. If a child misses 19 days or more they will be classed as persistently absent. Children who are persistently absent, for whatever reason, are much more likely to fail in school. The parents of these children may be referred to the Local Authority Education Welfare Team. You can check your child's attendance by logging into the Arbor Parent/Carer portal

Letters Sent Home:

Letter from Mr Sweeney - Ladybird Class
Lunchtime Co - Menu 3 - w/c 23 February 2026
Stretham Parish Panto
Stretham Sporting FC Family Quiz event

Attendance update:

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

Hedgehog - 96.6%
Rabbit - 96.4%
Kestrel - 95.9%
Wren - 95.9%

Key Diary Dates:



Back to school - 23 February 2026
World Book day - 5th March 2026
Scholastic Book Fair - 19, 20, 23 and 24 March 2026
Kestrel Class West Stow class trip - 14th April 2026
Bikeability Level 1 - 5th May 2026

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.

Staffing Update:

A big welcome to Mr Philip Atkin who has joined us as our new finance manager. He is 'getting to grips' with the role and beginning to meet many of the children across the day!

Mrs Kim Tucker (who already works in our catering team) is joining us as a cleaner after half term, we look forward to welcoming her to the Stretham Family.

A very happy birthday to...

Ralph, Kourney, Phoebe, Reggie, Minnie-Star, Michael, Dolly,
Ruby, Felicity & River

We hope you have a wonderful day!



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