

# The Stretham Scoop

Friday 6th March 2026



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



## Mr Sweeney's shout out:

Dear Parents and Carers,

We're already on the run down to Easter, how quickly does time go?! It is wonderful to now finally be seeing some signs of Spring, including lighter mornings and evenings! As always, the children are continuing to work incredibly hard.

This week has been particularly exciting with the focus all on books! With it being World Book Day yesterday, it has been wonderful to hear so much book talk across the school all week. Hearing children talk about their favourite authors, book that they love and also discussing texts that may not have been as popular has been wonderful to hear.

### A Message from Mrs E:

At Stretham, we are enjoying our 'National Year of Reading (2026)' and this week we have gone 'All In!' for World Book Day. Over the course of this week, every class has participated in online author, illustrator or literary events. Children have been exposed to new types of text, new authors and have even been surprised by how many of their favourite football legends are fans of reading (during the Footy and Booky Quiz).

On World Book Day itself (Thursday 5th), the school community was a riot of colour and laughter. We really enjoyed seeing who everyone had chosen to dress up as or to see who had the comfiest reading outfit - even the staff joined in. One member of staff couldn't quite decide on which favourite book character from all of their favourite books to be so she had to be ALL of them. It involved 4 costume changes throughout the day!

Courtesy of some very kind parent volunteers, we were also able to offer a drop in story sharing session in the library over lunchtime. It really was such a joy to see our children calmly sharing the joy of books with others. A huge thank you to those volunteers - the children had a wonderful time.

Also on World Book Day, each class had a scheduled session in our comfy 'Snuggle Up and Read' zone. Again, the children really relished the opportunity to relax with their reading, whether that was listening to an adult read, sharing a book with a friend or just enjoying time to read by themselves.

Finally, we ended the week with a visit from local story teller, Marion Leeper. She held an assembly to introduce herself and to share a tale with the whole school before leading Year 3 down to the Forest School area to enjoy their story telling session out in nature and around our fire circle. Each class in turn had a session with Marion and each class was gifted a different tale. Marion challenged all the children to take the tale they had heard home, share it with someone else and give them the gift of storytelling. Our kind parent volunteers once again came up trumps and kept the fire burning for all the classes to help keep the calm atmosphere of the story circle. A big thank you to our helpers - you were amazing!

Please do ask your children about their 'booky' week at school; I'm sure they will love telling you all the activities they have participated in. They may even want to become storytellers themselves and share their own imagined stories or stories they read from a book with you at home. Do help your children to use their World Book Day token to select one of their World Book Day £1 books before the deadline date; the selection this year are delightful!

It was a fantastic week all round and simply wonderful to see our school community showing their developing joy in Reading for Pleasure. Thank you all for your participation!  
Mrs E

This weekend is Cambridge Half Marathon; it's not going to be fast, pretty or enjoyable, but I'm hoping that I'll be able to get round in a respectable time! I am sure I may see a few of you around on the day, and for any of you running (like Mrs Yeoman is too) good luck!

Thank you for your support, as always.

Mr Sweeney and the Stretham Team

*'Achieving Potential Together As a School Family.'*

*- Compassionate - Curious - Courageous - Resilient - Inclusive*



## Safeguarding @ Stretham:

### ELSA

ELSAs are Emotional Literacy Support Assistants who have received specific additional training from educational psychologists from whom they receive ongoing supervision following training. We are very lucky to have two ELSA trained members of staff on the team: Mrs Galbraith and Mrs Loton. . In order for children to access specific ELSA support, they need to be specifically referred for this. It may be that children need help developing skills to understand and manage their feelings, cope with life challenges like family changes or loss, build self-esteem, improve social skills or handle anxiety and stress, enabling them to focus more effectively in school. Referrals usually come from teachers noticing difficulties or from parents raising concerns, aiming to provide a safe space and coping strategies, not fix problems, through planned sessions.

#### Common Reasons for Referral:

- Emotional Regulation: Difficulty recognising, understanding, or managing strong emotions like anger, anxiety, or sadness.
  - Social Skills: Trouble making friends, interacting with peers, or navigating social situations.
  - Self-Esteem & Confidence: Low self-worth, lack of confidence, or feeling isolated.
- Life Events: Coping with significant changes, such as family breakdown, bereavement, or illness.
- Behavioural Challenges: Acting out due to underlying emotional difficulties. What ELSA Support Does:
  - Provides a safe, confidential space for children to talk.
  - Teaches emotional literacy and coping mechanisms.
  - Uses activities like social stories, role-playing, and emotion cards.
  - Aims to build resilience, empathy, and self-worth.

#### How It Works:

Referral: Usually by a teacher, senior leader, or parent, often discussed with the SENDCo (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Coordinator).

Planning: The ELSA plans specific, short-term (e.g. 6 weeks) goals for the child.

Support: Delivered one-on-one or in small groups by a trained ELSA, with regular supervision from an Educational Psychologist.

Review: Sessions are reviewed to see if goals are met or further support is needed.

### Letters Sent Home:

Non uniform day for Rainbow Raffle  
Mother's Day messages  
OPAL request  
EIFA March 2026 newsletter  
Parent consultations



### Key Diary Dates:

Mother's Day messages in the Ely Standard - Thursday, 12 March 2026

Non uniform day for Rainbow Raffle - Friday 13 March 2026

Scholastic Book Fair - 19, 20, 23 and 24 March 2026

Parents evening - 17 March and 19 March 2026

LKS2 Production - 25 March 2026 at 9.15am and 26 March 2026 at 1.30pm

Kestrel Class West Stow class trip - 14 April 2026

Bikeability Level 1 - 5 May 2026

A very happy birthday to...

Shrihary, Kian, Harvey, Freya, James, Eve, Frank & Harper

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 95% threshold:

Rabbit - 99.2%  
Kestrel - 99.2%  
Hedgehog - 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.

### Staffing Update:

Unfortunately, Mrs Smith, our site manager, has had to leave Stretham due to family circumstances. We wish her all the best for the future and offer a huge thank you to her for all of her support over her tenure here.

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

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