

The Stretham Scoop

Friday 17th April 2026



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



Mr Sweeney's shout out:

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back! It only seems five minutes since I wished you a happy Easter, and now we are back to it and the first week of the summer term is complete! It has been wonderful to spend time outside (without a coat) and to see the continuation of our OPAL provision at breaktimes and lunchtimes. There is a different 'noise' outside now, it feels more purposeful and it is pleasing to see so many children working together in a range of different ways. Whether it be crafting, lego, small world or the sand pit area, seeing children engaged in meaningful and reciprocal play has been a delight. We are looking to speed up our OPAL roll out over the coming weeks, following training we will receive at the end of the month. A huge thank you to Mrs Everest, Mrs Jeffrey and Mrs Burling for all of their help with this. We are looking for parents to join our OPAL working group, so if you are interested, please let us know via the school office!

This week, the staff received their resuscitation training ready to use for when the swimming pool is opened. Currently, we are awaiting a date for this. With the school currently recruiting a site manager, and the need to have a fully trained pool operator to commission the pool, we are relying on local companies to do this for us. We are hopeful that this will be sooner rather than later, but will continue to update you when we have more information. A huge positive, however, is that we have had a number of individuals visit the school for the caretaker/site manager role and hopefully will be able to share more news regarding this role soon. If you know anyone who works in pool maintenance, do let us know however; it could be really beneficial moving forwards!

My favourite part of each day is walking around school to observe learning that is taking place, there is always a wonderful buzz in classrooms and the children are always so keen to share what they have been learning. It has been wonderful to welcome Mrs Johnson back following her knee surgery (for three days a week so far) and a huge thank you to Ms Ahmed who is continuing in Ladybirds until Mrs Johnson is back full time. The children in reception have had a fantastic week, creating their own 'Mr Greenheads' and back out at forest school on a Friday morning. A huge thank you again to Mrs Yeoman and Mrs Bowen who also supported the children before Mrs Johnson's return. In Hedgehog class, the children have shown themselves to be budding artists, creating wonderful interpretations of flowers using sandwich bags as printing tools. In Year 2 the children have been holding purposeful debates about whether the fens should be drained; the maturity of their language and opinion was astounding. Wren class have been busy planning their scientific investigations regarding the growth of plants, I am looking forward to seeing how well the plant in the freezer grows! Robins have been busy preparing their own Haiku poems after a wonderful nature walk this week, they will be performing these in assembly next week and I cannot wait to see them in all of their glory! They have also been creating prototype cars as part of their DT project - the excitement in the hall this afternoon was great to hear as they tested their vehicles. Year 5 had a wonderful trip to West Stow this week, and the feedback on their level of respect, engagement and questioning was a delight to hear; well done Kestrel class! In Year 6, Kite class have been busy exploring photographing/collage artwork, in preparation of creating their own later on in the term.

Our assemblies this week have focussed on 'pushing ourselves to achieve.' By focussing on Artemis II, we have explored the level of commitment needed to reach our goals, but also to share that anything is possible if we keep pushing ourselves and challenging our thinking. The children's maturity and reflective nature around this topic is really quite remarkable.

Whatever your weekend holds, I hope it's a good one. My boys are both having their hair cut (my youngest has just started walking, so I'm predicting carnage!) With the weather looking pleasant too, I think the weekend calls for some bike rides and perhaps a couple of runs too (and therefore possibly a takeaway...!) I am working hard to try and do something to reset each day - I hope that I can maintain this, and am encouraging the children to do the same too; it's a busy term ahead! 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:

Danger from Strangers

Evidence shows that children are in fact often in greater danger from people they know, from other children, or on the internet, but abuse and dangerous situations do continue to happen outside the home and it is important to teach your child how to stay safe. It helps to teach your children how to identify and respond to threatening situations. Children need to understand the difference between strangers who could hurt them and strangers who may help them. Let them know who they can trust if they need help. Explain that they must tell a trusted adult if they have been approached by someone they do not know or if they feel uncomfortable about a situation. Ensure your child is aware of their surroundings, and alert to potential danger when walking or playing outside.

Staying Home Alone

There is no legal age a child can be left at home alone, but it's against the law to leave a child alone if it puts them at risk. Every child matures differently, and because of this, it would be almost impossible to have a "one size fits all" law. As your child gets older, talk to them about how they feel about being left home alone. If they're worried, work out what parts of being home alone worry them. Do they feel safe in the neighbourhood? Are they afraid of the dark? Talk about anything that's bothering them and discuss a solution. Understanding why they don't feel comfortable will give you an idea of how to help - or why they might not be ready to be left alone. Don't do it if they are not comfortable.

The NSPCC have created a questionnaire to support you in deciding if your child is ready to be left at home alone.
https://www.nspcc.org.uk/advice-for-families/home-alone/?utm_old=homelaone

Online Well-being

There are lots of positives to being online for children, from staying in touch with friends to learning about the world. There are some challenges, too, and the online world can be tricky for children to navigate. For some it can become overwhelming trying to keep up with friends, and the pressure can mount. Noticing how your child is affected by being online is the first step in helping them manage their wellbeing. You can: manage the content that your children see, ensure the interactions they have are suitable and manage how long they're online, in balance with other activities.

Letters Sent Home:

Bikeability Level 2 2026-2027 Academic year
Bikeability level 1 - reminder
Rabbit class Forest School letter
Feast Disco - flyer
Pupil permission to walk home - final request (KS2)
New lunchtime menus



Attendance update:

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

Rabbit	96.6%
Hedgehog	96.2%
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.

Key Diary Dates:

Feast Disco - 24 February
Bikeability Level 1 - 5 May

Attendance & Safeguarding:

At Stretham Community Primary School we believe there is a strong link between attendance and safeguarding. A child's absence from school can often be an early indicator of an increased need within a family and poor attendance can be a sign of a safeguarding concern. A child who is not in school is a child who is not achieving: development, social and emotional wellbeing and safety may all be compromised. It is important that if your child is going to be absent from school, parents call in every day throughout the absence.

A very happy birthday to...

Freya C, Fergus, Teddy, Marlowe, Mhairi, Freddie, Olly

We hope you have a wonderful day!



'Achieving Potential Together As a School Family.'

- Compassionate - Curious - Courageous - Resilient - Inclusive