

The Stretham Scoop

Friday 1st May 2026



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

Mr Sweeney's shout out:

Dear Parents and Carers,

The sun is out, the shorts are on and we are truly in the summer term! This is my favorite term with so much happening, and the lighter mornings certainly help too! Today, you will have seen that Tiddlywinks are now part of the school. They've always played a key part in our school life, but we are delighted that they are now 'formally' part of the team, and we cannot wait to work with the staff and families. This week you will also have seen that Mrs Swann will be writing these letters from September, and I am certain she is going to be phenomenal. The transition process has already started between us and I will share with you soon when she is in school, in order for you to put a face to a name!

OPAL Update:

This week, our OPAL play team - Mr Sweeney, Mrs Everest, Mrs Burling, Mrs Jeffrey, Mrs Jovulero and Mr Ellison (a governor) met with our OPAL link to discuss our current playground provision and to look at our next steps. It was a hugely positive meeting where our current play set-up was praised and we are now beginning to plan for how we can take it even further. This means that all of us were trained in how to perform 'benefit-risk assessments' to then plan for and undertake 'large loose parts play.' This means that over the coming weeks/months, bikes, tyres, den-building and other varying play opportunities will appear on the grounds. These will only ever be introduced after a 'play-assembly.' A huge thank you to the whole OPAL team for all of their hard work in getting this all going!

Year 5 Maths Challenge

On Tuesday 28th April, we were proud to host the annual Year 5 Maths Challenge organised by the Cambridgeshire Maths Team. 7 teams from local schools joined us for the challenge, which consisted of reasoning puzzles and problem solving that tested the children's: memory, drawing and describing skills, estimation, logic and teamwork.

Our competent team of four consisting of Noah, James, Charlie and Zeynep worked incredibly hard to challenge their year 5 counterparts and made us so very proud.

Thank you all for your hard work!

Mrs Rayment

A huge thank you to Mrs Rayment for her time in organising, hosting and supporting this event!

Pool Plea

I feel as if the swimming pool is a hot topic of conversation around school currently. We are incredibly keen to open it up for all children for after half term, but the only sticking point is getting it set up in the first instance. We have contacted a number of local businesses but to no avail. If you know of anyone who would be willing to support with the set up of the pool, please let us know. Alternatively, if you were able to volunteer any time to support some of us in clearing it out and refilling the pool ready for opening, could you please let us know via the office? Any time would be appreciated and with a larger number, it should be a quick turnaround. Thank you in advance, if you are able to support.

Talking to Children About What's Happening In The World:

Many of the events happening around the world are discussed frequently in the news and on social media. Even if adults try to shield children from it, they often pick up snippets of conversations, headlines or comments from other children. Because of this, children may already have partial information, misunderstandings or worries that they have not shared. For primary-aged children, it is usually better that the trusted adults in their lives help them make sense of what they are hearing. When parents and carers talk openly and calmly about world events, it helps children feel safe, supported and able to ask questions. The goal is not to give lots of detail or expose children to distressing information. Instead, it is about helping them understand the basics, reassuring them that they are safe and reminding them that many people are working hard to help.

Why these conversations matter

Talking about world events in a calm and supportive way can help children to: feel safe and reassured by hearing information from a trusted adult correct misunderstandings they may have picked up from others develop emotional awareness by talking about feelings and worries build resilience and empathy by learning how people help each other during difficult times.

When children are not given opportunities to talk, they sometimes fill in the gaps with their imagination, which can make things feel scarier than they really are. If your child is interested in finding out more, it can help to use news sources designed specifically for children. Programmes such as BBC Newsround explain current events in a clear, age-appropriate way that avoids unnecessary distress.

Thank you for your support, as always.

Mr Sweeney and the Stretham Team

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Safeguarding @ Stretham:

Why social media isn't appropriate for primary-aged children

Many children become curious about social media while they are still in primary school. They may hear friends talking about it, see older siblings using it or ask for accounts themselves. While this curiosity is completely natural, most social media platforms are designed for teenagers and adults, not younger children.

Popular social media platforms, such as **TikTok, Instagram, Snapchat and YouTube**, set a minimum age of 13 for creating an account. These limits are largely linked to online data and advertising regulations rather than a guarantee that the platforms are suitable for young children and teenagers. In reality, many of the conversations, videos and images shared on these platforms are created by and for older teenagers and adults. This means children may easily come across content, language or ideas that are confusing, upsetting or simply not appropriate for their age. Even for children who are 13 or older, these platforms often require careful guidance and supervision from adults. For younger children in primary school, social media can therefore expose them to online spaces that they are not yet ready to manage safely or confidently.

Why waiting matters

Choosing to delay social media use can help children in several important ways.

Protecting emotional wellbeing

Social media often includes comments, likes and comparisons that can affect children's confidence and self-esteem.

Reducing exposure to unsuitable content

Even with filters and controls, children may come across upsetting, confusing or inappropriate material.

Supporting healthy friendships

Children benefit most from learning social skills through face-to-face interaction, play and real-world experiences. Helping children build digital skills gradually As children grow older, they develop stronger judgement, critical thinking and resilience that help them manage online environments safely.

Letters Sent Home:

Wren class trip to Wandlebury - 16 June 2026
Bikeability Level 1 - Tuesday, 5 May - reminder

Sandringham Permission form - reminder

Vision Screening - Reception year - Tuesday, 5th May - Reminder

Little Recyclers Clothing Collection - 6th May

Message from Governors

Stretham Feast Float - reply slips

Class overviews

Cambridgeshire County Council Shine Study Invitation

Absence and Attendance

Year 6 Leavers book photos request

Tiddlywinks Update

Key Diary Dates:

5 May - Bikeability Level 1

5 May - NHS Vision Screening - Ladybird class

6 May - Little Recyclers Collection

15 May - Colour Dash

17 May - Stretham Feast Parade and Stretham Feast

18 May - 22 May - Year 6 Residential trip

22 May - Treat Friday

3 June - Year 4,5 and 6 Sandringham trip

4 June - Reception, Year 1,2 and 3 Sandringham trip

12 June - Treat Friday

16 June - Wren class trip to Wandlebury

19 June - Summer Fair

03 July - End of term Disco

A very happy birthday to...

Elsie, Freddie Y, Hannah, Livvi-Arna, Joe P, Zeynep, Emie,
Noah P, Wyatt

We hope you have a wonderful day!



How to talk to your child about social media

When children ask about social media, a calm and open conversation can help them understand the reasons behind family rules.

Explain the purpose of age limits
Let children know that these rules exist to help keep them safe.

Focus on readiness rather than punishment
Frame it as something they will be able to explore when they are older and better prepared.

Acknowledge their feelings
Children may feel frustrated when friends seem to have access. Listening to their feelings helps them feel understood.

Keep the conversation ongoing
Rather than a single "no," make it an ongoing discussion about online safety and responsibility.

Conversation starters

If you are unsure how to begin the conversation, these prompts can help:

- "I know lots of children talk about social media. Have you heard people at school talking about it?"
- "What do you know about apps like TikTok or Instagram?"
- "Some apps are designed for teenagers rather than younger children. Do you know why that might be?"
- "Our job as parents is to help keep you safe while you're still learning about the online world."

Attendance update:

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

Rabbit - 96.6%

Kestrel - 96.4%

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.



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