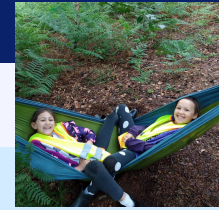


# The Stretham Scoop

Friday 5th June 2026



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



## Mr Sweeney's shout out:

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back! After a gloriously warm (and at times is it okay to say too hot(!)) half term week, we are back for the final half term of the academic year. Typically, the weather turned and the heavy rain has put paid to some plans this week, frustratingly, but the children are in great spirits and are excited for a very busy and very exciting final half term. Plans are well underway for the Summer Fair, and I've been slowly building up my running fitness in preparation in case I'm challenged to another race (which I'm sure I will still lose spectacularly!)

### What's been happening in school.

Before half term, Year 6 spent a week at PGL. It was an absolute privilege to join them for part of the week! Their sheer resilience, maturity, willingness to support each other and friendship were a credit to us as a school and to their parents. Every child (and the adults) challenged and pushed themselves to learn new skills or face their apprehensions and they did so with such a positive attitude! Well done!

In a week, so much has happened. Both Year 3 and Year 5 have been visited by Chris Parsons from Kings in Ely to hone their singing skills in preparation for two performances the school has been invited to. Next Wednesday, Year 5 are attending a workshop and performance at the Maltings, and Year 3 are taking part in Ely Arts Festival at Ely Cathedral on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of June; they are sounding superb and we cannot wait for them to perform.

On Tuesday, Year 4, 5 & 6 went on the first of our two trips to Sandringham where they enjoyed a forest school session, a nature walk, an art session and the play area. The children were absolutely fantastic and represented the school wonderfully. Regrettably, due to the weather, Reception, Year 1, Year 2 and Year 3 were unable to attend the following day, but we are looking forward to their visit in July which we were able to rebook. A HUGE thank you to the PSA for funding the whole trip, to Mrs Yeoman, Mrs Rayment and Mrs Bowen for their organisation, all of the staff who threw themselves into the visit and for their preparation work and for all of our volunteers who gave up their time to ensure it could happen. It has been (and will be) a fantastic experience for all of our children.

### Swimming Pool Update:

Mr Barsby has been a revelation! The pool is clean, all maintenance issues have been addressed and he's even managed to complete his pool carers course alongside other areas of maintenance work and cleaning. He has been a hugely positive addition to our team already and we are very grateful to him for everything he has done thus far. This means, now, that we are just awaiting results of our pool's microbiological testing and then the pool can open! We are all very ready for this to happen and hopefully we will have dodged the rain and storms by then too! As soon as the pool is opened, you will be notified.

### Nuts in school/Snacks:

Just to remind you that we request nut based products are not sent into school. We have a number of pupils and staff who if they were exposed to any form of nut based product could become quite severely ill. We ask that lunchboxes and snacks do not contain these products. Whilst discussing snacks, can we please also remind you that snacks should be healthy snacks such as fruit. We have seen a number of children with crisps/cake bars recently. Many thanks for your understanding and support with this.

### Mrs Swann:

As much as I have buried my head regarding transition for the end of this year, we are now in the final half term and preparations for September are ongoing. As part of this, Mrs Swann and I have been meeting regularly already, but she will now be in school to get to know the children, staff and to meet yourselves. On Monday (8<sup>th</sup> June), Mrs Swann will be in for the first of these transition days. She will be stood with me at the beginning of the day outside, so if you'd like to pop over and say hello, please do!

### Tiddlywinks Update:

As I hope you are aware, Tiddlywinks are now managed by the school and its governing body. In each newsletter, we would love to share with you what has been happening with the children too:

In Tiddlywinks, the children have been learning how to keep our planet healthy by recycling our rubbish. The children have different boxes where they will place different recyclable materials in. These boxes are then taken to the school, with the children, to be placed in the correct large bins.

The children have been learning about minibeasts and wild animals, with a particular focus on wild cats - which lots of the children are really interested in! Soon, we will be learning about the Amazon rainforest and which animals live there. We also now have a letter of the week where children are encouraged to bring in an object or toy from home to show everyone and share their thoughts about it.

Whatever your weekend holds, I hope it's an enjoyable one. Here's hoping for no more rain!

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:

### Helping children understand loss

At some point in life, most children experience the death of someone they know—whether it's a grandparent, a family friend, a beloved pet or another important figure in their life. Bereavement can be confusing, sad and sometimes frightening for children, especially if they don't fully understand what's happening. As parents and carers, your support can make all the difference in helping your child feel safe, heard and comforted during this difficult time.

### Understanding how children grieve

Grief in children can look very different from grief in adults. Young children may move in and out of sadness quickly- one minute playing happily, the next asking a difficult question about death. Here are some common ways children might react: asking the same questions repeatedly showing changes in behaviour (clinginess, anger, quietness) worrying about others dying too having trouble sleeping or concentrating acting out emotions through play.

### Practical ways to support your child

**Keep routines going** – children feel safer with predictable routines such as school, mealtimes and bedtime.

**Create space to remember** – light a candle, draw pictures, make a memory box or photo album together.

**Give choices**– if there's a funeral or memorial, ask your child if they'd like to attend or do something else to say goodbye.

**Use stories**– reading books about loss can help children talk about their own feelings.

### Staff Update

Mr Banham will no longer be at Stretham Community Primary School due to being redeployed by Premier Education to a school that is closer to his home. We thank Mr Banham for his incredibly positive contribution to our school and wish him all the best in his new role!

Mrs Tucker, our cleaner, has decided to leave her role due to personal circumstances. She will still, however, be working in our school kitchen which we are really pleased about. We are currently recruiting for a new cleaner and hope to share more information soon.

As you will have seen, Mrs Everest leaves us at the end of the year, and we are all very excited for her and her new role! We are currently recruiting for a teacher and will share more information when we have it.

### Letters Sent Home:

New Sandringham school trip date - Reception, Year 1 - 3 only

Sports Day - Tuesday, 23 June

Staffing update

Annual Summer Fair letter - Hedgehog and Rabbit class

Summer holiday HAF voucher scheme

Year 5 - Singing outreach workshop - Wednesday 10 June

Bikeability Level 2 2026-2027 e-consent forms - reminder



### Key Diary Dates:

9 June - School Art Gallery

10 June - Year 5 Singing outreach workshop at the Maltings

12 June - Treat Friday

16 June - Wren class trip to Wandlebury

19 June - Summer Fair

23 June - Sports Day

23 June - Ely Arts Festival - Wren class

1 July - Reception, Year 1-3 Sandringham trip

### Attendance update:

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

Rabbit 96.5%

Kestrel 96.3%

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.

A very happy birthday to...

Louie, Riley, Keira & Logan

We hope you have a wonderful day!



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