

The Stretham Scoop



Friday 17th July 2026

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

Mr Sweeney's shout out:

Dear Parents and Carers,

So, we have reached the end of the academic year and it's nearly the summer holidays. What a year it has been! In fact, what a three years it has been. I have written a message below, but wanted to say thank you as many times as I possibly can. The children at Stretham are an absolute credit and have made wonderful progress this year. There is so much to be proud of and I've detailed some of the highlights of the past fortnight below:

Gross Busters:

Year 5 & Year 6 have wowed us with their musical and performance talents in their production of Grossbusters last week. The humour, joy and enthusiasm you brought to the stage was a wonder, and I am certain that many of you have got a bright future on the stage ahead of you. Thank you for being so fantastic, I know each audience absolutely adored the work you have put in!

Wicken Fen:

On Wednesday this week, Year 1 visited Wicken Fen. They had an absolutely brilliant time, although I've been told that the highlight was pond dipping. Mrs Dunham and Mrs Connolly shared that they have never seen a group of children so enthused about the activity and they could have continued for hours. Their behaviour was excellent and the children were a credit to us at Stretham, well done Year 1!

Year 6

Today, we say goodbye to our Year 6 cohort of 2025-2026; what a year it has been! Whilst their time at Stretham has not always been smooth sailing, the maturity and growth they have shown as a year group this year in particular has been a delight to see. Being a part of their leavers event, seeing how they care for and support each other and their enjoyment being in each other's company has been great. Today, they will receive their KS2 SATs results, and they have worked so hard on these! The children should be very proud of their achievements; we are of them.

Mrs Everest

Today, we say goodbye to Mrs Everest who leaves Stretham to become a Deputy Head Teacher in Red Lodge. For 9 years and 9 months, Mrs Everest has given her all to Stretham, immersing herself in everything possible to enhance the life chances of all of our children. Whether it be sharing her love of books or driving the English curriculum or planning and leading OPAL and immersing herself in productions, her motto of 'I've just had an idea' will be echoed throughout the corridors for a long time to come. In her time here, we've been through a global pandemic, a new King and four Prime Ministers, Mrs Everest has spent around 1900 school days at Stretham, in over 3,500 assemblies and given thousands of smiles. Mrs Everest, your care, your tenacity, your empathy and drive will be missed by everybody here. You will fly in your new role, and I know you will always be welcomed back at Stretham if you are passing! Keep flying high, keep defying gravity! Good luck from us all.

A Message From Mr Sweeney

How lucky I am to have something that makes saying goodbye so hard.

It is very rare that I am lost for words or become emotional. In fact, the last time I cried would have been either my wedding (and not because that's for life!!!) or the birth of my boys. Then, up stepped Stretham! The kindness, reception, compassion and support I have received in my time here has been phenomenal, but the last week has taken this to a new level. I am completely overwhelmed by every kind word spoken, every message in every card and your incredible generosity. Please rest assured that I am working my way through all the cards and gifts of which I never expected, but you have made me feel incredibly humbled. Stretham is the most wonderfully special place; there really is no place like it. As a community, and from day one, I have felt wonderfully supported and challenged and have developed such an affinity for the village, the school and you all. I am a firm believer that there is no such thing as 'goodbye' it is always 'see you soon' and I hope that I will see many of you around the local area. It really has been the most difficult decision I have ever made to leave, but I do so knowing that the school is in a brilliant place to flourish further under Mrs Swann's leadership. I will be keeping an eye from afar. Stretham will always have a large piece of my heart. We really are a family, and you've all helped me to reach my potential, I hope I've been able to do the same for the children here too. I am still in post until the 31st August and if you have any concerns of need any support, I can be reached on checkin@stretham.cambs.sch.uk for any concerns, worries or queries when you need immediate support.

Thank you again for welcoming me, supporting me and pushing me to be better.

I really will 'Never Walk Alone.'

Mr Sweeney

Whatever the summer holidays hold, I hope they are wonderful and many memories are made.

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:

Support for Families Over The Summer:

Resources to help

With the cost of food and childcare continuing to have an impact on many families, the upcoming summer holidays are likely to be a worrying time for those parents who are struggling. Thankfully there are many resources available to help during this period and I have compiled some of these below:

1. Kids Eat Free schemes across the UK

Some supermarkets and restaurants allow children to eat for free or at a reduced rate during the school holidays. To access these schemes, children DO NOT have to be eligible for free school meals – they are available to anyone. <https://www.moneymagpie.com/save-money/where-can-kids-eat-for-1-or-less-this-holiday>

2. Holiday Activity and Food Programme (HAF)

The Holiday Activity and Food Programme is a holiday scheme which offers in-person enrichment support for school-aged children from Reception to Year 11 and will be available over the summer holidays for children in England who are eligible to receive free school meals. The programme aims to provide: • Enrichment activities for children aged 4+ • At least one free healthy meal a day • At least 4 weeks' face-to-face provisions during the six-week holidays It is important to note that anyone wishing to access support from the HAF programme must submit an application for each holiday. More information about the programme and how to apply, can be found on the Government website.

3. Vouchers and food parcels from local councils

Some councils across the UK currently offer weekly food vouchers such as Healthy Start food vouchers or parcels to families in need. Other initiatives offered by councils that can help to ensure that children have continued access to nutritious food throughout the summer holidays, include:

- A weekly food voucher (from selected councils in England) The support available varies between councils and authorities, so check with the local council to see what help is on offer.

4. Food Banks

Families can also access emergency support from food banks. There are over 1,400 Trussell Trust food banks across the UK, and many independent food banks such as the Ely Food Bank, offer vouchers and food packages along with essential toiletries. Families needing support can get a referral from Citizen's advice, GPs, social workers, or their local council.

Attendance update:

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

Rabbit - 96.1%
Hedgehog - 96%
Kestrel - 96%

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...

Sophie, Summer, Lincoln, Devon, Jovan, Nazarene, Thoma, Robyn, Rosie-Mai, Daniel, Hugo, Martha, Charlie, Jamie, Kayden, Ethan, Stephen, Alana, Cecil, Kaine, Iyla, Otis, Jessica

We hope you have a wonderful day!



Key Diary Dates:

INSET Days - 1st and 2nd September 2026

First day of Academic year 2026 - 2027
- 3 September 2026

Letters Sent Home:

Message from Wren class teachers
Message from our Chair of Governors
School dinner balances - Year 6's
School dinner account payments
Information and Guidance for Parents - FSM
Library books
Letter from Premier Education

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