

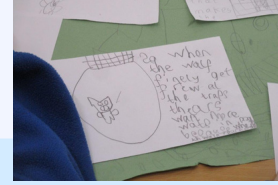
The Stretham Scoop



Friday 31st January 2025

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

Mr Sweeney's shout out:



Dear Parents/Carers,

Just like that, we are half way through the term! I'm not quite sure where time is going. We have been hit hard as a school by some quite nasty winter bugs, both norovirus and flu, and ask you to keep reminding your children of good hand hygiene! If your child is not well, please do let us know and we do understand! Both of these bugs seem to be quite tricky to recover from!

Thank you to those of you who have responded to our website consultation survey. There is still time to respond to this, if you wish, as we begin the redevelopment of our school website. Your views and thoughts have been incredibly helpful and have been passed on to the website redesign team. We are hoping we will be able to share more with you soon and that the website will be able to be launched as quickly as possible! Watch this space!

In assemblies these last two weeks, we have spent a lot of time discussing how to embrace and make mistakes beautiful and that consistency is key! We've spoken about how to keep on going and how to use our network of support to help us in doing so. In addition to this, we've also explored how to manage pressure. The world is a tough place, currently, and there are a lot of external pressures that our children have to face on a daily basis. It's vitally important that we try to equip them as positively as possible to face these and help them build a tool kit of positivity in order to do so. If any children have been singing surface pressure from Encanto at home, this is why!

It's been a busy two week of purposeful learning across the school and it always makes my heart swell popping into classrooms and seeing the children challenge, probe and question each other. In Ladybirds class, this week, they have been celebrating Chinese New Year, the Year of the snake! On Wednesday, the children had a special walk down to the local takeaway where they were able to pick up prawn crackers and fortune cookies before having a feast together, including spring rolls that they had made themselves. I'm just really disappointed that they didn't save me any!! In Hedgehog class, the children have continued their learning around winter and discussed how certain animals have winter adaptations - their knowledge blew me away! Rabbit class have been reading lots of different fairy tales and, this week, they met the father of the three little pigs, designing new, up to date and safe houses for his children and then met the 'big, bad wolf' who they realised wasn't too bad after all! Wren class have been working hard with their problem solving skills and their developing knowledge of their multiplication tables is quite astounding! Robin class have been applying their knowledge of Roman tessellating tiles, creating their own Roman mosaics - they look superb. Well done everyone! Kestrel class have transformed into fantastic musicians, learning how to play the 8 bar blues both on glockenspiels and on the piano; they've also been attempting to write their own blues lyrics to accompany this; watch this space! In Year 6, Kite class have been working incredibly hard on their descriptive writing, using figurative language to accurately describe settings - their writing has given us goose bumps!

Finally, we are aware of some ongoing, continuing issues with our lunchtime provision. This is a source of disappointment for us and one that we are not willing to sit and allow to happen. Thank you to those of you who have contacted us with yours and your children's concerns regarding the volume of food and the service delivered. I have recently met with the Lunchtime UK team and have been assured that we will now see an improvement. If we do not, we will continue to raise these concerns and ensure you are updated as to our next steps. We are very keen for this to improve immediately. The scaffolding comes down this weekend and our heating and lighting system is now up and running fully - school is wonderfully toasty, long may that continue!

Thank you for your support and we wish you a wonderful weekend.

Mr Sweeney and the Stretham team.

Superb Stretham Snippets:

-A huge thank you to our school council who have just recorded our new answerphone message for our phone system; listen out for them very soon!

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- Compassionate - Curious - Courageous - Resilient - Inclusive



Safeguarding @ Stretham:

We have recently noticed an upturn in children talking about their gaming experiences at home. It's a great way to refocus and switch off but we wanted to share some important considerations for parents around use of gaming and online platforms:

1. **Addiction and time management:** Many games are designed to be incredibly engaging, encouraging players to continue playing to achieve new levels or collect rewards. Without proper boundaries, this can lead to excessive screen time, interfering with school responsibilities, chores, and other essential daily tasks.
2. **Impact on mental health:** Excessive gaming has been linked to heightened levels of stress, anxiety, and even depression, particularly when it becomes a primary coping mechanism for real-world challenges. Over time, this can affect self-esteem and emotional resilience.
3. **Social isolation:** While many games offer online interactions, too much gaming can sometimes replace face-to-face friendships and family time. Children may choose gaming over in-person socialising, leading to feelings of loneliness.
4. **Exposure to inappropriate content:** Numerous games feature violence, strong language, or mature themes. Even titles marketed for younger audiences can expose children to content that may not be suitable. Multiplayer games might also subject kids to negative behaviours from others, such as cyberbullying or inappropriate remarks.
5. **Sleep disruption and health issues:** Gaming late into the night can disrupt sleep patterns, resulting in fatigue, poor focus, and irritability. Prolonged periods of sitting can also impact physical health, leading to issues like eye strain, headaches, and a lack of exercise.

Letters Sent Home:

Data update on Arbor Parent App
Running Club - amended dates
Letter from Mr Sweeney - Friday, 14 February 2025
Class photos
Young Voices
Year 5 - Kestrel Class School trip
Reminder - Year 5 - Kestrel Class reply slip deadline 31 January 2025
Message from Premier Education - Premier Holiday Camps
CCC Holiday Voucher Scheme - February Half Term
Reminder - NSPCC Number Day - 7th February 2025

Attendance update:

It's been a tricky week with a lot of viruses and bugs passing their way round! Well done to the following classes with the highest attendance figures this week

Ladybirds: 97.4%
Kites: 97.6%

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 or via our studybugs app. We now have a dedicated absence line which is sent directly to the office email too, so please use the method of communication that is most beneficial for you.

Key Diary Dates:

7th February - NSPCC Number Day
14 February - "Feel Good" Friday
14 February - PSA Treat Friday
14 March - Rainbow Raffle Donations - non uniform day
14 March - PSA Treat Friday
20 - 21 March, 24 - 25 March - Book Fair
4 April - Rainbow Raffle Draw



A very happy birthday to...

Evie D, Spencer, Taimur, Simay, Mia H and Joshua B

We hope you have a wonderful day!



Performing Arts Week 10th March 2025:

As you may recall, in our last newsletter, I mentioned about our 'Performing Arts and Music' week the week commencing the 10th March 2025. The theme of this week is 'believing in myself' and a lot of the week will be spent exploring how we can share a positive message about our own self-esteem. We have a number of exciting visitors joining us throughout the week, and I wanted to take a moment to share two of these, who will be working with all children throughout their visit.

Rock Kidz UK will be joining us on Monday 10th March 2025 to launch the week in an incredibly exciting way! The hall will be transformed into a Rock Venue and the children will participate in a range of self-esteem boosting and positive message workshops, all underpinned by rock music!

For the day, we are asking if everyone (staff included) can come into school dressed as a rockstar, pop star or musician. Key Stage 2 will also be undertaking a TT Rockstars battle of the bands on this day too.

In addition to this, Rocksteady will also be joining us in the week. They will be demonstrating a range of musical instruments and offering children workshops to try each of these. From this, they are then keen to deliver music lessons (with all instruments included) for children who are interested.

More information about both of these visitors will follow in a letter about the week, very soon.

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