

The Stretham Scoop



Friday 17th January 2025

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

Mr Sweeney's shout out:



Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back and Happy New Year! It doesn't feel five minutes ago that we were on the run down to Christmas and we are back again, already flying through the Spring term. I do hope you had a wonderful break! We have launched ourselves back into our learning and the children have returned positively and full of enthusiasm, which has been wonderful to see.

Ladybirds have had a fabulous week learning all about Chinese new year and started the week with a visit from The Animal Experience and Charlie the snake; they were much braver than me holding it! Hedgehogs had a wonderful welly walk this week and explored the village of Stretham; it was so lovely to hear how much they have learnt about the village from this! Rabbits have been learning all about different lifestyles and can explain the different stages of certain animal's lives. In Wren class, there has been a lot of excitement about different types of rocks and the children's knowledge of each category has been exemplary. In Robin class, there has been a lot of excitement and methodical thinking whilst the children create their own Roman mosaics. In Kestrels, the children have been broadening their knowledge around Sutton Hoo and have loved researching this further! It has been wonderful visiting Kite class this week and hearing all about their new class novel - Holes. It has been a joy hearing their excitement when developing their reading skills through this text.

For the last two weeks, our assemblies have focused on showing resilience and having a growth mindset. As the term progresses, we will continue to unpick what a growth mindset looks like and how we can overcome a fixed mindset that sometimes tells us something is too tricky. We have begun to explore what it's like to be in the 'learning pit' and how great this is to help us grow, not just in our learning, but with every challenge we face. We are now talking about the power of 'yet' and how not being able to do something 'yet' is nothing to worry about!

We had an impromptu fire alarm this Wednesday when a piece of toast got caught in the toaster in the staffroom! The children were absolutely superb throughout, especially as a lunchtime fire drill is not common. Every single child showed incredible resilience and patience whilst this took place and we are incredibly proud of all of them.

Last week, I wrote to you all explaining that there were a few 'hiccups' with Arbor as we implement this across the school. I know that the most recent challenge has involved emails getting caught in junk email boxes. This is immensely frustrating, for all of us as parents and staff especially as it is out of our control, but Mrs Kirsten has now sent out how to ensure these don't get sent to the wrong email inbox. Due to the change over, our normal email communication platform was not working correctly, meaning we had to use Arbor, but for the meantime, we will be reverting back to this system now it is back up and running properly. If you have any concerns or questions relating to Arbor, please do not hesitate to contact us via the school office.

We are currently in the process of redesigning and updating our school website. A survey will be sent to you next week to gain your views on what is working well with our website and what aspects or areas are not as helpful. We want our website to be as user friendly as possible, whilst containing all the necessary information. If you are able to take a moment to fill this in next week, it would be really appreciated. Alongside this, we are also currently in the process of setting up and implementing an online first aid system rather than the paper based, slip system. More information will follow on this in due course.

Finally, we are aware of the presence of some rodents making an appearance near the 'top gate' close to Tiddlywinks in the mornings. We have been in contact with a number of pest control companies, who have stated that this is happening in the mornings as this area is being used as a 'run through' and have followed their advice which includes ensuring all food/seeds are cleared from the areas surrounding as this attracts them to the area. We are also in constant communication with external agencies regarding this and hope that from this, they will not be on site, very soon.

Mr Sweeney and the Stretham team.

Superb Stretham Snippets:

- Congratulations to Sapphire house who are our first 'House Point' winning house. The children will be selecting their house reward next week.
- As mentioned earlier, a big shout out to all of our children who were so mature, resilient and patient during our unexpected fire drill!

'Achieving Potential Together As a School Family.'

- Compassionate - Curious - Courageous - Resilient - Inclusive



Safeguarding @ Stretham:

We are always mindful for the safety of our children near roads and conscious of how vulnerable they can be. At this time of year, with reduced visibility for drivers, your child is even more vulnerable near roads. With new bikes and scooters arriving at Christmas for some, the temptation to go out in the evening will be even stronger, so I have included some safety tips below so that you can discuss with your child/ren how important it is to be visible when near roads. These tips emphasise how wearing brightly coloured clothing shows up well in daylight but, as it gets dark, reflective clothing and accessories are far more effective in signalling pedestrians or cyclists to drivers. If you're a driver, remember it will be more difficult for you to see pedestrians and cyclists when it's dark. Not everyone will be dressed in bright colours or reflective clothing. Children and others often wear dark coloured school uniform, winter coats or blazers.

Attendance update:

Well done to the following classes with the highest attendance figures this week

Rabbits: 97.4%
Robins: 98.1%
Kites: 97.8%

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.

Letters Sent Home:

Class Photos - Wednesday, 22 January
Emails going to junk/spam folder
Club day amendments
Message from PSA - Raffle prize donations
Message from Mr Sweeney - Arbor
Arbor Parent Portal and App

Key Diary Dates:

24 January - Film night
14 February - Treat Friday
w/c 20 January - All clubs start again



A very happy birthday to...

Rex, Leo, Max T, Aaron S-A, Ashton S-A, Savannah,
George P, Hethermarie, Ellie Y, Tiffany, Grace G,
Florence P, Samson, Daniel M, Zack

We hope you have a wonderful day!



5 top tips on how to **BE BRIGHT & BE SEEN**

- 1** Brightly coloured or fluorescent clothing shows up well in daylight and at dusk when you're heading to and from school.
- 2** If you're out and about when it's dark, wear reflective gear to make sure you can be seen in car headlights. Reflective vests, sashes or wristbands work well. Remember, fluorescent clothing doesn't work after dark!
- 3** Don't forget to accessorise! Even small items such as clip-on reflectors, armbands and stickers on your outfit or school bag are a great way to improve your visibility.
- 4** If you like to cycle, remember that it's the law to have clean and working lights at night (white at the front, red at the back), as well as a rear reflector. It's good to fit spoke reflectors too.
- 5** Of course, 'Being Bright' isn't the only way to stay safer. If you're out at night, choose routes and crossing places that are well lit and remember to always use the Green Cross Code.

For more road safety tips, games and videos, visit the Tales of the Road website at www.direct.gov.uk/talesoftheroad

Exciting news:

This term, we are introducing a 'Feel Good Friday.' On this day, the children can come into school in whatever they feel comfortable (sport kit, non-school uniform, pyjamas, fancy dress - it is up to them!) Across the school, there will be a range of activities designed to let the children just 'be' and enjoy something a little different. More information will follow in future communication. The date for our first Feel Good Friday is Friday 14th February.

In addition to this, we are looking to hold 'theme weeks' each with a different focus around different curriculum areas. On the week of the 10th March, we will be having our first theme week which will be our 'Performing Arts week.' Please keep an eye out for further information



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