

The Stretham Scoop

Friday 15th November 2024



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

Mr Sweeney's shout out:



Dear Parents/Carers,

With one week to go, it felt like a good moment to pause and reflect on our term so far (which has been incredibly busy...) I feel an overarching sense of pride and humility and feel incredibly lucky to be part of such a wonderful school community. From a change to our phonics approach, to a number of well-attended PSA events, there has been a lot happening in school and our children (and the rest of the community) continue to step up to each challenge with enthusiasm and real resilience. The Autumn term is notoriously busy and challenging and everyone is certainly feeling tired now, but we have achieved so much!

A perfect example of this was this week's Early Years and Key Stage One nativity. It was so wonderful to see the children come together, full of enthusiasm and excitement and to see this pour out of them as they performed. Every single child did themselves and all of us so proud and gave two wonderful performances. Thank you to everybody who attended and also to the PSA for the refreshments provided too!

Key Stage 2 were visited by Mrs Spencer this week, as she prepares to return from maternity leave, and worked hard on creating their own self portraits with the theme of 'family.' It was fantastic seeing everybody so engaged and focused on creating their own portraits and these will be forming a new display in our school hall once Key Stage One and Ladybirds complete theirs next week.

As you all know, I love a good Christmas jumper! It was fantastic seeing so many children in festive attire today! Our Christmas Fair and Christmas disco were incredibly well-attended; thank you to the PSA for all of their efforts and to every single person who donated, purchased a raffle ticket or attended, by doing so, you're making a huge difference to our school!

A huge congratulations to Grace G in Wren class whose story has made it through to the second round of the BBC 500 word story competition. Here is an extract from her writing: *'Touching my mirror I was rocketed through a kaleidoscope like mist, I splatted to spongy ground that looked like holy-moly cheese. Each hole had a humongous broccoli tree coming out of it. I picked myself up and started walking...Suki descended, kneeled on my shoulder, and invited me to her home. We walked through the broccoli forest until we came to some vines made out of spaghetti, pulling them back a sparkling mushroom cottage appeared. Suki gave me a frog green potion, as I drank it, I felt a tingling in my shoulders. I looked behind and I had grown purple butterfly wings and had shrunk to her size. Once inside, Suki explained that the jewels on my mirror powered the portal and they had lost their magic and had fallen across the realm, they drew me in too!'*

Of course, this week, our Ofsted report has also been formally published and shared with you all. As I stated in my letter to you, the most important thing in this report was that the pupils were the focus of it. To read that pupils feel safe and that they believe the school has high expectations of them means the world. Every decision we make has the children sitting front and centre and whilst the report is a positive affirmation of what is happening in school, what our pupils and community feel is the most important thing to all of us. We do, however, have a good platform to continue to build upon to make Stretham the best it can possibly be for every child here. The report is a very brief overview and snapshot of a lot of work that has taken place in school and we received more feedback which did not feature in it. We are keen to share this with anyone who would be interested in hearing this feedback and so are holding two 'feedback' sessions on Wednesday 18th December, at 3.30pm in person in the hall and 6.30pm via zoom. We hope that you'll be able to join us for one of these sessions.

Next week is our last week of term but is still jam packed! The main highlight for me will be the Christmas service at the church on Friday morning. I was blown away last year by the wonderful coming together of the community and am really excited for this year's event too.

I know that I say it a lot, but I am always eternally grateful for your support and kind words. Stretham as a village and community is a wonderful place. I wish you a calm and enjoyable festive break and look forward to seeing you all on Tuesday 7th January 2025.

Mr Sweeney and the Stretham team.

Superb Stretham Snippets:

- As mentioned earlier on, a huge well done to Ladybirds, Hedgehogs and Rabbits who were absolutely wonderful in their nativity performances this week; you made all of us really, really proud!
- Well done to each class for their efforts in this year's Santa Dash.
- A huge thank you for your support with our charity fundraisers, we have raised £147 for the Royal British Legion and £218 for Wear it Pink Day.

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Safeguarding @ Stretham:

Many children will be receiving devices over the Christmas period. We strongly advise that parent controls are set up on their devices before the children are allowed to use them. Safer Internet have lots of information for parents about setting up parental controls. They also recommend having open and honest conversations with children about their online use. <https://saferinternet.org.uk/online-issue/parental-controls>

Please be mindful that social media apps are not appropriate for pupils under the age of 13.

Age restrictions for some of the most popular apps:

Whatsapp—16 years +; Instagram—13 years +; Facebook—13 years +; Snapchat—13 years +; TikTok—13 Years +

Attendance update:

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

Hedgehogs 98.5%
Wrens: 96.5%
Kestrels: 96.5%

Letters Sent Home:

Notice of Changes - New Parent Portal and Parent App - Effective 6 January 2025

Getting started - Log into the Parent Portal and the Parent App

Arbor also offers access to many training resources which are completely free to you to make the most of! These can all be found [here](#).

Ofsted report

Year 6 - Message from Ms Barnes
Message from Mr Sweeney
Message from the PSA

Key Diary Dates:

18th December - Ofsted feedback for parents at 3.30pm (in person) and 6.30pm (via zoom - link to follow)
20/12/24 - Christmas Carol Church Service at 10am
20/12/24 - Last day of term
07/01/25 - First day of term



A very happy birthday to...

Tillie H, Ernie, Anastacia, Rajesh, Mila H, Rohan,
Jessie H, Evie Y, Olivia A, Harriet B



We hope you have a wonderful day!

A Message from the PSA:

The PSA are looking for a new Chairperson to take over from January 2025.

-Do you want to ensure that the children at Stretham School have all the equipment and resources they need?

-Would you be happy to chair meetings, help plan events and be involved in decision making on fundraising and spending?

If the answer to both is 'yes', we would love to hear from you!

The new Chair would be working with an experienced and committed PSA team, which includes a Vice Chair, Treasurer and Secretary.

A key focus for an incoming Chair, in 2025, will be progressing the development of the school swimming pool- joining a Swimming Pool Working Party alongside school leadership and governors (So if the Pool is something you are particularly passionate about, we would ask you to seriously consider finding out more about the role of PSA Chair)

The previous chair, Rachael Partridge, has had to step down due to work commitments. Rachael has provided inspirational leadership since setting up the current PSA in Autumn 2022 and since then over £34000 has been raised for the school- an incredible amount! A huge thank you to Rachael for all she has done.

Could you be the one to take over this vital role of PSA Chair and help provide the best for the children at Stretham School? For further information or if you have any questions, please speak to a member of the PSA or email strethamrsa@gmail.com

New PSA members and volunteers are always welcome too- many hands make light work! If you're interested in finding out more, email strethamrsa@gmail.com

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