

The Stretham Scoop



Friday 25th October 2024

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

Mr Sweeney's shout out:



Dear Parents/Carers,

I cannot believe that the first Autumn half term is complete! It's been busy and everybody has worked so incredibly hard throughout the half term and I wanted to take a moment to thank each and every pupil, staff member and member of the school community for their support, hard work and challenge that they have provided across the last 8 weeks. The school is always a hive of energy and enthusiasm but spending time in classrooms and seeing learning evolve since the start of the year has been a real pleasure and I am excited for what the rest of the year will bring. This week has been our 'run for fun' week in school. Each lunchtime, it has been a real joy to see so many of our pupils attempting to beat their number of laps from a previous running session. The resilience that has been demonstrated by so many of the children has been an absolute joy to behold! With this in mind, I will be looking to start a Key Stage 2 running club on a morning before school after half term, more information will follow, but it certainly has reignited my passion for running too!

In our assemblies over the last two weeks, we have been sharing texts by Oliver Jeffers. The books entitled, 'How to Catch a Star', 'Where to Hide a Star' and 'Lost and Found' focus on the themes of compassion, resilience and being inclusive and tie in beautifully with our whole school values. It has been a joy to share these books with the children and how we can apply these values and characteristics in our every day school lives. Please do chat about these books further with the children as their empathy and engagement with each text has been outstanding.

It's been a busy few weeks in school but I thought it would be lovely to share some snippets of learning from across the school as we reach the end of this half term. In Ladybirds, the children have been honing their fine motor skills by creating their own pine cone trees, exploring the theme of autumn. Continuing that theme, Hedgehogs enjoyed their 'welly walk' this week around Stretham, looking for signs of Autumn and then creating their own leaf creatures. In Rabbit class, the children have been sharing with great enthusiasm their knowledge of the Great Fire of London; the children have created some beautiful art pieces using chalk and pastel to recreate the fire in the London sky. In Year 3, Wren class have been creating their own mysterious pieces of writing inspired by the book 'Tuesday' the vocabulary and creativity on show has been astounding! Robin class have also been developing their writing skills using the video clip 'The Lighthouse' to write their own fictional narrative - Year 4's use of similes is really quite impressive!! In Year 5, the children have been sharing all of their historical knowledge around the city of Baghdad and how the round city has influenced our knowledge today; a very tricky subject matter but the depth of knowledge in Kestrel class is very impressive! Finally, in Year 6, Kite class have been writing in role as August from the book 'Wonder.' The children's empathy, understanding of character and developing humour is really evident in each piece and they should be very proud of how far they've come as authors this term already. I'm very proud of every single pupil at Stretham and how they continue to push themselves! A very successful half term!

Please don't forget that you can share your thoughts on how we are doing as a school at: <https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/parent-view-results/survey/result/7639/15> and we would ask that if you have a moment, you could do so!



Many thanks for your support, as always - have a wonderful half term and we will see you all on Monday 4th November

Mr Sweeney and the Stretham team.

Superb Stretham Snippets:

- Our governors have been in school this week to assess the impact of our approach to early reading and phonics. Throughout the visit, they asked challenging questions, dived deep into teaching and spoke with pupils. They found that children are reading together across the curriculum, are being challenged and are having a range of opportunities to read. It is clear that phonics and reading sessions are well planned. We are delighted that after this comprehensive look, they agree with the information we have been sharing with you all.
- A group of Year 5 and 6 girls attended a girls' football tournament at Witchford Village College and I have received a huge amount of positive feedback on their effort, enthusiasm and engagement. Well done everyone!

'Achieving Potential Together As a School Family.'

- Compassionate - Curious - Courageous - Resilient - Inclusive



Safeguarding @ Stretham:

It's wonderful to see that a lot of our children are feeling confident to discuss with trusted adults in school those things that are worrying them, concerning them or making them feel unsafe both inside and outside of school. By doing this and sharing their worries with their network of support, the children are ensuring that any support that they may need can be given immediately or when necessary. Please do continue to encourage your children to 'speak up' and discuss with them who may be in their network of support. This certainly isn't considered as 'telling' on someone.

The NSPCC will be visiting our school in November to share their 'Speak Out, Stay Safe' programme but in the meantime, we would encourage you to visit their website for lots of handy tips and thoughts on how to support our children if things are getting tricky. This information is invaluable:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/support-for-parents/>



Attendance update:

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

Rabbits: 98.6%
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Hedgehogs: 97.3%

Key Diary Dates:

School Photos - 6 November 2024

Social Anxiety Parent Workshop - Tuesday, 12 November 2024 - 9am - 10am

Robin Class - Ely Museum Trip - Tuesday, 12 November 2024

EYFS Open Day - Thursday, 14 November 2024 - 9.30am



Letters sent home:

- Social Anxiety Parent Workshop
- Robin Class - Ely Museum Trip - Tuesday, 12 November 2024
- Cambridgeshire County Council - October Half Term Voucher Scheme
- Bikeability level 1 Cycle Training
- Secondary school applications - reminder
- Year 6 Residential trip 2025 - payment update
- School Photos
- Parent Governor Vacancy

Staff Update:

Following on from last week's update, I'm sad to share that Mrs Marsh will be leaving Stretham as our catering manager as of the end of November to pursue a completely new career path. I wanted to take a moment to thank Mrs Marsh for her tireless dedication, commitment and passion in both of her roles as site and catering manager. She has had a significant impact on hundreds of children in her time here and will be greatly missed by us all. Mrs Marsh, the door is always open to you and please keep in touch; you have been a credit to Stretham and we will really miss you.

Mrs Jones in the kitchen is also choosing to leave Stretham. Together, her and Mrs Marsh have worked tirelessly to provide meals for our children and she will be missed.

I will write to you separately after half term with our plans for lunches as of December; there is a clear plan in place and we are just awaiting confirmation but we will have a meal service ready for then.

A very happy birthday to...

Mary A, Raman M, Felix W-K, Noah B

We hope you have a wonderful day!



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