

The Stretham Scoop

Friday 11th October 2024



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

Mr Sweeney's shout out:



Dear Parents/Carers,

It has been a lovely two weeks at Stretham which have been busy, jam-packed and full of positivity from our children. As a staff team, we are constantly re-evaluating and looking at how we can improve to ensure that everything we do has a positive impact on all of our children. As a staff team, we welcome feedback and our doors are always open. With this in mind, we are holding two sessions where we will share the journey we've been on so far and our plans for the year ahead too. There is no need to book and we hope to see as many of you as possible. These will both take place on Monday 14th October at 2.30pm in school and at 7.30pm via zoom for any parents who are unable to attend during the school day. We also wanted to thank all of those parents who joined us for both our EYFS and Year 1 and Year 2 phonics briefing sessions and have appreciated your feedback on these too. The Key Stage 1 briefing slides have been added to website if you were unable to attend.

We have been carefully exploring our approach to behaviour and how to ensure that we are consistently applying our key agreements of 'Be safe, be ready, be respectful.' From Monday 14th October, we will be using a house points system throughout the school. Children will be awarded points for demonstrating these behaviours and for their effort and enthusiasm across the school. These house points will then contribute to their house's total points. The house with the greatest amount of points at the end of this term will then be able to select a reward that will take place in school time. In addition to this, Year 6 pupils will become house captains and over the course of this year, will lead on other house events. We are really excited for this to start and have shared this with our children already. House points will be shared in newsletters to keep you all updated too.

This week, we had a paralympic athlete - Sean Rose - attend school for our a fundraising event - running circuits in our school hall. After this, he shared an inspirational assembly where he shared his journey to the Paralympics and how we can apply the key values of this to every day life. It was wonderful to see how engaged all of our children were in both the circuits and the assembly. It has been wonderful talking to children about their aspirations following on from the event.

In assembly this week, we have been exploring 'being inclusive' and 'being compassionate', two of our core school values. We have read the book 'Terrible Horses' by Raymond Anrobus, which focusses on how words and actions can make others feel and how, sometimes, we need to be told how our actions can impact the people around us.

Our school council have met with classes this week and have collected thoughts on how we can improve our play time and lunchtime offer with a wishlist of equipment and activities the children would like at school. We will look at these ideas and hopefully will begin to action some of these too. I'm also very aware of the knock on effect that our reduced lunch menu has had due to our hot cupboard not working effectively.

Unfortunately, we cannot hold hot food for a prolonged period of time without it and have been awaiting a repair on this for a while. Thankfully, we should have this fixed over the next week and we are awaiting confirmation of a date. I can only apologise for the impact this has had.

When I started, almost exactly a year ago, I spoke about the importance of working together and how special our community is. I still very much feel the same and feel very blessed to be working as part of a very special school family. On Tuesday afternoons, from 2.45pm each week, Headteacher check-ins will take place. This may be just to have a chat about your child or any worries/concerns, it may be to ask a question about something that is happening in school. There is no need to make an appointment and I hope to meet with many of you then. If this isn't convenient, please let me know and we can arrange a different time!

Many thanks for your support, as always. Mr Sweeney and the Stretham team.

Superb Stretham Snippets:

- Sean Rose, a GB Paralympic Athlete, joined us on Monday 7th October. He commented on the children's engagement, behaviour and enthusiasm
- Our Year 6 children gave presentations to be selected as house captains; they spoke with maturity, empathy and were a credit to us all as a school.
- Our School Improvement Advisor, Belinda Harvey, has spent two days in school this week. She has commented on the wonderful feel in school, children's politeness and the commitment of teachers and families.
- Governors and other visitors have commented on the improvement seen in presentation/handwriting in books. We know we need to keep going with this!

'Achieving Potential Together As a School Family.'

- Compassionate - Curious - Courageous - Resilient - Inclusive



Safeguarding @ Stretham:

Each school must have an appropriate senior member of staff to take lead responsibility for child protection.

Key aspects of the 'Designated Safeguarding Lead' role include:

- Ensuring that all staff are aware of the processes for raising safeguarding concerns
 - Ensuring all staff understand the signs of child abuse and neglect
 - Referring any significant concerns to Social Care
- Monitoring children who are the subject of Child Protection and CiN (Child in Need) Plans
 - Maintaining accurate and secure child protection records
- Raising awareness of the school's safeguarding policies and procedures, and ensuring these are implemented and reviewed regularly

Our Designated Safeguarding team at Stretham consists of:

Mr Sweeney, Mrs Yeoman, Mrs Everest & Mrs Woodman.

If you have any concerns or questions relating to our safeguarding practice, please contact one of us via the school office.

Attendance update:

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

Wren Class - 100%

Rabbit Class 97%

Kestrels - 95.5%

Key Diary Dates:

After school clubs starting Tuesday 15 October 2024

Parent Information session Monday 14 October 2024 @ 2.30pm and

Zoom session @ 7.30pm

Wear it pink day - 18th October

Bag2School collection 18 October @ 9.00am

Parents evening - 22 October 2024 and 24 October 2024

PSA Christmas Craft Afternoon 16 November 2024

PSA Christmas Fair 30 November 2024



A very happy birthday to...

Makayla, Sebastian, Susannah, Finn F, Rafi, Faye

We hope you have a wonderful day!



Pupil Voice:

This week, we have spoken to children from each class about behaviour in school and their hopes for the future. Children have told us that:

- 'We feel safe at school, the adults help and support us. They take children out when not behaving and they speak to them to support behaviour, this mostly helps.'
- 'There are consequences which are fair.'
- 'Adults help when things happen and look after us, the library is a where children sometimes come to calm down.'

Children also spoke about how playtime behaviour could be improved with more activities - we are working on this!

Letters sent home:

Knitting Club - Wednesday 16 October 2024

Football Club - Thursday 17 October 2024

Parent Information session - Monday 14 October 2024

New SMS number for Schoolcomms

Year 6 letter of interest

Open Days - Reception year 2025-2026

Ely Mental Health Support Team newsletter

Amended Menu for week ahead

Staff update:

Mrs Marsh has made the difficult decision to step down from her role as site manager. She has played a key, transformative role in the school and has been tenacious in ensuring works on site are completed. We're pleased though that she will be continuing in her role as catering manager. The site manager vacancy can be found on our website if you are, or know anyone who may be interested. <https://www.strethamschool.co.uk/vacancies/>

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