

# The Stretham Scoop

Friday 26th September 2024 - Issue 2

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



## Mr Sweeney's shout out:



Dear Parents/Carers,

Well, it most certainly feels like Autumn now! The rain has been heavy but it has not dampened spirits in school. It's lovely to be back after Paternity leave and a huge thank you for all of your well wishes and kind thoughts; we are slowly finding our way into a routine as a family of 4 and Oscar has taken brilliantly to being a big brother! The children have continued to work at great pace and have settled brilliantly into their new classes.

This week, a key focus for myself and any visitors has been on behaviour. I have been incredibly impressed with the children's focus, determination and respectful nature that they have demonstrated in classrooms and assemblies. Children are demonstrating themselves to be safe, respectful and ready at all times in their learning. Mr Kirby from Premier Sports has been working hard to introduce a range of activities at lunchtimes instead of just football and this has been really well received. We know that the absence of our play equipment has led to some children looking for other things to do at playtime and are working hard behind the scenes to revamp our lunchtime offer. It's a key focus for us on our school development journey this year and we will update you with further information soon.

Thank you to everyone who joined us for our Harvest Assembly this morning; the focus was on being grateful and it's been wonderful to discuss what the children are grateful for. I, personally, feel very grateful to work in such a wonderful community and cannot thank you enough for your generosity with your donations. These will be delivered to Ely Foodbank and will have a hugely positive impact on those who need it. The children's creativity and harvest activities they shared was a real 'feel good' moment and it was a joy to be a part of!

The building work in school is progressing well and we are hopeful that by October half term will be fully complete. The builders have begun to process of snagging and testing and we should have a fully functioning heating system soon (thankfully!)

Phonics and reading has been a huge focus for us at school recently and all children in Reception and KS1 will now have a reading book that they will be bringing home. Please do join Mrs Yeoman and myself on the 3rd October at 3.15pm for our phonics information session, we would love to see as many of you as possible there. The school has been a flurry of activity from apple crumble making in Year 4 to leaf printing in Ladybirds, but one thing that has really stood out to me on my visits to classrooms this week is the amount of children who are beginning to challenge themselves mathematically; some very tricky mastery challenges are being shared with children and they are really pushing themselves to try them in every year group - it's incredibly impressive!

We wish you a wonderful weekend, Autumn is finally here and the return of the Pumpkin Spiced Latte has me feeling very excited! Whatever you are doing, I hope that you have time to rest too. I am taking Oscar to his first football session after the summer and have high hopes he's going to be England's next big thing!

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

### Superb Stretham Snippets

Over the last fortnight, some of our key highlights in school have been:

- Flu vaccinations took place in school - the visiting health team commented on how fantastic the uptake of children was but also how well behaved, polite and respectful our children were.
- Each class has nominated their school council representatives - they will be meeting very soon; the persuasive speeches and campaigns in each classroom have been very impressive!
- On a visit to school, our governors noted that behaviour of children was superb - they were particularly impressed with how mature the new Ladybirds were. Well done!

'Achieving Potential Together As a School Family.'

- Compassionate - Curious - Courageous - Resilient - Inclusive



# Safeguarding @ Stretham:

## Online safety and Artificial Intelligence

The internet is a wonderful place and the advancement of technology has meant that whilst everything is at our fingertips, there is also the potential for this technology to be used in ways that could be very unsafe. An ever growing number of apps and programmes are providing hours of entertainment and artificial intelligence is ever evolving. Innocent back to school photos shared on social media are now being used in derogatory ways if not protected properly.

The NSPCC have created the online safety hub which has a wide range of useful advice and tips for how to safeguard your children online: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>

If you have any concerns regarding internet or technology use and would like further advice, please contact Mr Sweeney who is our online safety lead.

### Attendance update:

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

Kite Class - 96.2%  
Wrens and robins - 96.1%  
Kestrels - 96%

Please don't forget to notify the office by phone, email or via studybugs before 9.00am. If your child has a cold or is feeling a bit snuffly, we'd rather they come in and we can monitor them for the day!

### Key Diary Dates:

Bikeability - 30 September - 3rd October  
Film Night - 4th October  
Year 6 STEM Challenge - 9th October  
Visiting GB Athlete - 7th October

A very happy birthday to...

Freya, Sophia S and George P!

We hope you have a wonderful day!



### Pupil Voice:

It's been really lovely to speak to Year 5 & 6 children this week about how they've settled in since September. We've asked them what they're enjoying about school so far and also how they feel behaviour has been in school too.

'I am really enjoying English so far, it's been really great to try new ideas.' (Holly Y6)

'Everybody has done so well, everyone listens and it feels really calm!' (Sophia Y6)

'I am loving our class text, it's such a good book!' (Evelyn Y5)

'We're really enjoying football and other activities with Mr Kirby at lunchtime; we did fitness yesterday. It means we won't get bored' (Rocco and Bobby Y5)

### Letters sent home:

Year 6 STEM Challenge Day  
Amended menu  
Updates  
Bikeability  
Visiting GB Athlete  
Cambridgeshire County Council - Applying for a Secondary School placement  
Film Night  
Year 6 Residential - initial letter of interest  
Class Curriculum overviews

### Staff update:

We have a vacancy to join our catering team! If you feel that you would like to be a key part of our Stretham family, more information can be found at: <https://www.strethamschool.co.uk/vacancies/>

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