



Dear Parents/Carers,

Wow, welcome back! Where did the six week summer holiday go? It feels like we've blinked and the days have flown by! We all hope that you've had a restful, enjoyable and fulfilling break (if you were able to have one) and are excited for the year ahead, just like we are! It has been wonderful walking round the school, seeing the children settled in their new classrooms and feeling the positive and calm nature rippling across the school. To our new Ladybird parents, a huge welcome to our school family I am hearing wonderful stories of how the children are settling in and already immersing themselves in their learning; a great start! To our new starters, we're so pleased that you have chosen to join us!

School building work:

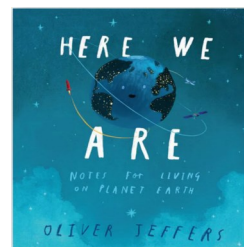
As you may recall, back in January, I wrote to you all to notify you of a school closure due to our heating system cutting out. This was incredibly frustrating and a huge inconvenience. We continued discussions with the Local Authority and managed to secure some funding and a grant to install a new heating and lighting system. It has been a huge piece of work with new pipework, radiators and a new air source heat pump, alongside LED lights, being installed across the school. Nearly all of the internal work has been completed with just the external installation of the air source heat pump and cable installation left. This should all be completed by the end of October and we are grateful for your patience; a letter from the Local Authority explaining the project has been sent to you today as well. Please note that next Monday/Tuesday, there will be some cable installation work taking place at the front of the school and this may cause slight traffic delays.

Assembly Update:

In assembly this week we have been thinking about our vision statement 'Achieving Potential Together As a School Family'. We particularly focused on the word family and what this means at Stretham school. We discussed that family is inclusive and supportive to all members and this is something we are really good at as a school. We read the poem People Need People and talked about how life would be very dull without each other and how much we do together, linking this to working as a family.

Learning in school:

Across the school the children have settled really well into their new classes and are rising to their new challenges. As a school we have been looking at the book Here We are, this is a text that reflects on our world and all the different elements. The children have really enjoyed looking at this beautiful book and the work displayed in the classroom shows the creativity and interest the children have developed.



Also, this week, learning across all the other areas of the curriculum has begun. There has been much enthusiasm around the school about the new topics and areas children are learning about, including The Great Fire of London in Key Stage One, Egyptians in Year 3, Romans in Year 4, The Round City of Baghdad in Year 5 and Climate change in Year 6. Please do ask your children about their learning and find out what they have been enjoying. We will be sending out curriculum maps in the next couple of weeks, which will have all the areas of learning for the Autumn term, so you know what the children are covering.

I can only apologise that I have not seen you all more frequently since the start of term, but it's been a bit crazy in the Sweeney household recently! Our second son, Reuben, arrived into the world on Sunday evening. Both mum and baby are doing really well and Oscar is starting to become more interested in 'the baby.' Sleep, however, feels like a distant memory! A huge thank you to Mrs Yeoman and Mrs Everest who have stepped in, in my absence.

Take care of yourselves and I look forward to catching up with you all soon.

Mr Sweeney and the Stretham CP Team

'Achieving Potential Together As a School Family.'

- Compassionate - Curious - Courageous - Resilient - Inclusive



WE NEED YOU!! REPEATING AS WE ARE STILL IN NEED!



Midday Supervisor Vacancy - a plea for help!

Catering Assistant

We are still actively looking for members of the community who would be willing to join our school family as a midday supervisor or catering assistant. If you are able to offer any time at all, please let Mrs Kirsten know in the office. There is an advert on the school website too so if you're keen to be a part of our school family and work with us, please do have a look! www.strethamschool.co.uk/vacancies

Ofsted Parent View

Don't forget... you can add your views of the school to the Ofsted Parent view page here... <https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/login?destination=/give-your-views>

We would really appreciate your support and views on this!

Keeping Safe:

Our DSL (Designated Safeguarding Lead) team in school consist of:

- Mr Sweeney
- Mrs Yeoman
- Mrs Everest
- Mrs Woodman

If you have any concerns about the safety and wellbeing of any children in our school, please do not hesitate to contact one of us. We will do everything in our power in order to support you. We may, at times, need to contact you to clarify some thoughts, ask some questions or gauge your opinion; we all want what's best for the children at Stretham and can offer a range of support in order to help them be the best they can be.

A very happy birthday to...



**Lenny B, Lewis B, Tommy B, Joseph W, Remi N,
Florence F, Archie G, Eva T, Adelaide R,
Emily H-E**

**Dates for
your diary...**



* **19/09/2024—NHS Vaccinations at school**

The School Day:

Please don't forget that school day begins at 8.45am and school finishes at 3.15pm..

Staff Update:

A huge welcome to Miss Barnes and Mrs Rayment who have joined our teaching team. Miss Barnes is now teaching Kite Class and Mrs Rayment is working alongside Mrs O'Briain in Wren Class. It is an absolute pleasure to have them as part of our team and I know they are going to have a hugely positive impact on the children and fit right in to the Stretham family! A he thank you to Mrs Yeoman, too, who has started this term as Deputy Head and it's been quite a busy start for her!

School Development—Phonics:

This year we are continuing to use Twinkl phonics as our phonics scheme. The children in Key Stage One have already started their phonics sessions and reading assessments have been taking place. At the end of the last academic year we spent money on buying in more resources to support the teaching of phonics and also for interventions for those who need additional support with Early Reading.

One of the changes for this year is the reading books. We have invested in buying more reading books and relabelling all our existing books to match our phonics scheme. Some books from purple colour band onwards will be still be using colour banding but any before that will have a different label on them. All children in Year 1 and Year 2 have been assessed against our new reading scheme and will be having books come home on the level they have matched with.

Attendance Update:

Please make sure that you let us know by 9.30am if your child is not in. You can do this via the phone or the Studybugs app. If we have not heard from you, we will make contact to ensure that everything is okay.

Letters sent home

- Update on building works/school day
- Attendance updates
- Stretham FC Academy letter
- Term dates
- Letter to parents regarding medical notification
- Class Autumn term letters
- Message from Mr Sweeney
- PE Timetable
- PE Kit letter
- Y6—Witchford Village College Open Evening
- Vaccination UK—E-consent letters

Please find below a photo of each new class below.

LADYBIRD CLASS



HEDGEHOG CLASS



RABBIT CLASS



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Please find below a photo of each new class below.



WREN CLASS

ROBIN CLASS



KESTREL CLASS

KITE CLASS



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