



Newsletter: January 2025

Congratulations, Mrs Ward!

A belated congratulations to Mrs Ward, who gave birth to a baby boy, Charlie, on 18th December. Our children have already had the chance to say 'hello' to Charlie when Mrs Ward popped into school recently.



The Hub of Hope

There is a wonderful website called The Hub of Hope, which is the UK's leading mental health support database. It brings local, national, peer, community, charity, private and NHS mental health support and services together in one place for the first time and is well worth a look if you, your child, or someone you know, needs support. Go to <https://hubofhope.co.uk/>



Hub of Hope



Children in Need, Royal British Legion and Rainbows

Thank you to everyone who contributed to our charity fundraising last term. For Children in Need, we raised £208 (not including merchandise sales); for the Royal British Legion we raised £88; and for Rainbows we raised £100 (contributing to £4952 raised across all Rise schools).

PSHE

In Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) this term, our whole-school theme has been 'Keeping Safe.' This will include special lessons and assemblies on Safer Internet (11th February): the theme is 'Together for a Better Internet'.

- Swans are learning about super sleep, who can help us, good and bad touches and sharing pictures.
- Herons are learning about staying safe, dangers and risk, Internet safety and the facts about alcohol and cigarettes.
- Kingfishers are learning about spotting bullying, Internet safety, making decisions, dilemmas, taking risks, and vaping.

For the second half of the autumn term, our PSHE theme will be 'Rights and Respect'.

Defibrillator Training for Parents

We now have a defibrillator in school and Mr Wilebur (John), who is a First Responder, will be providing training on how to use a defibrillator to any parents who are interested. This will be in Kingfishers classroom at 3:45 on Thursday 30th January. Just turn up on the day if you are interested.

Spirit of Snarestone

Congratulations to last term's Spirit of Snarestone award winners! This prestigious award is chosen by our governors and staff for children who have consistently demonstrated the school's Christian Values.



Remember to follow us on Facebook and X @SnarestoneP

Collective Worship

Last half-term's collective worship themes were:

- Diwali
- Peace and Remembrance
- Anti-Bullying
- Friendship
- Advent
- The Christmas Story

Our themes for the Spring Term will be:

- New Year Resolutions
- Vision and Values
- HOPE: 'The Good Shepherd'
- Perseverance
- Respect
- Chinese New Year
- Lent
- Forgiveness
- Easter



Contacting Staff

Should you wish to contact your child's teacher or another member of staff, please either use Class Dojo or email the office at office@snarestone.risemat.co.uk. Miss Barbour will then forward it to the relevant member of staff. Please be aware that there is no expectation for staff to read or reply to any messages outside normal working hours. Please also avoid speaking with Miss Barbour about any issues or concerns that you may have involving teaching and learning. Thank you.

New Writing Award

One part of our school strategic plan is to improve the quality of writing across the school. In order to achieve this, we have introduced a new writing curriculum, which is focused on developing sentence structure and punctuation, and a new handwriting system in Reception and Key Stage 1, which is focused more heavily on pencil control and letter formation in the early stages of writing. We are also introducing a brand-new Writing Award for our VIP assemblies which will be awarded to children who are making particularly impressive progress with their writing.

Smart Devices and Mobile Phones

A reminder that children should not be bringing into school any smart watches for safeguarding reasons. Children should also not have mobile phones, unless there is an exceptional reason, in which case parents should contact the office. Should there be an acceptable exceptional reason for having a phone, this will be kept securely in the school office until the end of the day.



What is our school vision and values?

The results of our Parent Survey last term indicated that there are a number of parents who are not fully aware of our school vision and values, so we thought that it would be a good idea to tell you all about them!

Our vision and values are more than words on a page. They are who we are. They are how we do things. They are our commitment to our community. We put these values at the heart of everything we do; helping to shape our actions and bringing into focus what is important to us.



Our Vision and Values

As a community, we are working together to ensure educational excellence underpinned by our Christian ethos and values, enabling all to live a rich and abundant life and to achieve their full potential. Each individual should leave us fully prepared for the next stage of their life.

(Reflecting John 10:10)

Jesus said, 'I have come to give life – life in all its fullness.'

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| FRIENDSHIP | I smile and say hello |
| TRUST | I care and have respect for everyone and everything |
| ENDURANCE | I work hard and challenge myself |
| HOPE | I have a positive attitude |
| WISDOM | I listen and I learn |



HOPE



TRUST



WISDOM



FRIENDSHIP



ENDURANCE

Rise Multi-Academy Trust



Our Parent Survey also indicated that there are a significant number of parents who are not fully aware of Rise Multi-Academy Trust, so this page is intended to provide some information about who Rise are, and who are in the Rise family of schools.

As always, if you have any questions, or if you would like any further information about Rise's involvement at Snarestone, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Rise Vision and Values

Snarestone's school vision and values compliment Rise's vision for its schools to:

'flourish and succeed'.

The Rise values are to be:

***collaborative, inclusive,
compassionate, truthful and
respectful***

Our Family of Schools



Introduction to Rise from the Interim CEO, Dave Ellison-Lee

Rise is a family of schools. We work with and for each other.

We currently comprise of 26 CofE and Community primary schools. Our family of schools are all different shapes and sizes, serving rich and varied communities and that is one of the many things we love about our Trust.

Our vision and our values show how we place great importance on what we do and how we do it. Our values underpin our interactions with each other and strengthen our sense of family. Children are placed at the heart of everything we do. Our team of staff are skilled, hardworking and committed to developing all of your child, not just their academic ability. We recognise that success for every child will be different and we celebrate this.

We are developing and maturing as a Trust. We are ambitious. We are evolving into a Trust that is led by schools for schools. Our headteachers and talented subject leaders play an active role in Trust and school improvement. Our central team, including myself, are committed to serving schools in a manner that enables them to be great schools, doing great things that enable every child in a Rise school to both 'flourish and succeed'; and ensuring that our colleagues and communities thrive in a similar way.



For further information, visit <https://www.risemat.co.uk/>



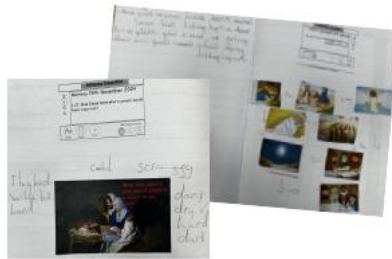
SnaREstone News

For the lead up to Christmas Reception have been learning about special stories from the Christian faith and other religions but also why nativities are performed by Christians at Christmas. They also took part in a very special performance of 'A Midwife Crisis'. For many it was their debut stage performance but you would never have known as they were all so excellent! A great job

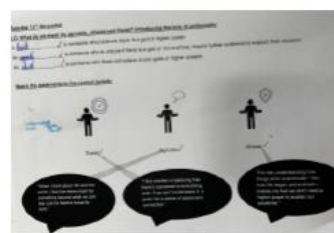
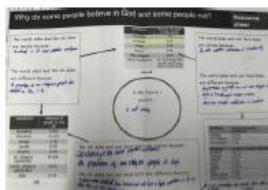


Year 1 and 2 also starred in the end of year Nativity and showed off their acting skills, reading and singing ability and of course just how fabulous they all are!

They have also been learning about why Christmas is so important to Christians and have looked deeper into the Nativity Story. Here they learnt about the importance of Advent to Christians and why Christmas is not just about presents..



Heron's learnt about what it's like for someone to follow God. They began by looking at 'The Old Testament People' and how they lived their lives. They learnt the story of Noah and considered what it was like for him to follow Christ and also the Covenant that was made between Noah and God. They have shared stories from the Bible and towards the end of the unit discussed Abram/Abraham and the Covenant he made with God. A tricky unit Heron's but you've produced some fabulous work!



Kingfishers have been discussing why some people believe in God and why some people do not! In this unit the children built on their understanding of the idea of God and others' beliefs, both locally and on a global level. They looked closely at the rise in 'non religious' people and used the terms atheist, agnostic and theist in their written work. They have been giving their opinions and offering reasonable answers to why people chose to believe or not! Phew, Kingfishers, great work!

The whole school also took part in a gorgeous 'Christingle' Assembly where beforehand they has produced their own Christingle and learnt the true meaning behind it. Another fabulous term of festive RE at SnaREstone!

National Online Safety Guides

The National College 'Wake Up Wednesday' guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and well-being. Ofcom has found that, overall, 99% of children in the UK are using social media. That's almost 14 million young people, so here is the National College's parents' guide on staying safe on social media:

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators SAFETY ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Currently, children are growing up in an immediate and throwaway culture when it comes to content that's consumed online. So much material is now deliberately created to be shorter in nature – and may often contain hidden elements such as advertising, or extreme political and cultural views. With complex algorithms built to keep people on their phones and engaging with social media content, it's becoming increasingly difficult to reduce time spent on these platforms.

1 REDUCE DOOMSCROLLING

It's concerning how common for young people to spend hours 'doomscrolling': trawling through social media and aimlessly viewing every post they see, many of which might make them feel sad or anxious. Social media can be useful for keeping in touch with friends and family, as well as staying up to date on current events. However, it's important to use it with a clear purpose, instead of endlessly scrolling through content, which could lead to young people accidentally discovering harmful material.

2 TALK ABOUT THE CONTENT

It's important to keep apprised of the kind of content that a young person is being exposed to. Discussing what they're watching online can help you understand why they're using social media in the first place. Furthermore, ensure that children are aware of hidden content, such as advertising of a product – and that they know how to spot that the creator is being paid to talk about it.

3 FIND POSITIVE ASPECTS

Despite all the concerns, there's plenty of wholesome content on social media. It's worth spending time with children to help them find something suitable and enjoyable. Perhaps you'll even discover a joint interest, and you can enjoy the content alongside the child. As part of this, you should also point out why certain things shouldn't be given attention, explaining why it isn't suitable and why it's been created in the first place.

4 REDUCE SCREENTIME

Young people can sometimes be unaware of the exact amount of time they spend looking at social media. Smart phones don't just have the capacity to monitor screentime; they also record how much time is spent on each app. Consider setting targets to reduce this and support children to meet these goals, gradually reducing the amount of time spent on different apps.

5 FILL THE VOID

Monitoring and reducing screentime can create a lot of free time to fill, and young people can even face withdrawal symptoms when made to step away from their phones. To mitigate this, consider what offline activities you could introduce the child to, and what they would enjoy. This can ensure that young users will permanently cut down on their screentime, rather than temporarily doing so while they know it's being monitored.

6 REDUCE NOTIFICATIONS

One way in which social media platforms keep people coming back is through notifications. The algorithms behind these apps track people's daily habits, including the times of the day where they're most likely to engage with the platform. This data is then used to deliver specifically timed notifications to draw them back in. To avoid young users being exposed to this tactic, simply turn off notifications for the app in their phone's settings.

7 LIVE IN THE REAL WORLD

Overexposure to social media can distort someone's perception of the real world – from body norms to social conventions. This filtered environment can make it hard for young people to distinguish reality from online content, which is now becoming even more difficult with the rise of AI. To mitigate this concern, take time to teach young people how to discern truth from fiction, both on and off social media.

8 DIGITAL DETOX

Encouraging young people to take a 'digital detox', from even just a couple of the apps that they use, can result in an overall reduction of screentime and less exposure to potentially harmful content. Alternatively, rather than avoiding the app entirely, encourage children to take a 'digital detox' from content creators and influencers, and instead, keep in touch with friends and family – which is generally a far healthier use of these platforms.

9 MODEL GOOD BEHAVIOUR

Consider the habits that you're demonstrating to your children. How much time do you spend on your phone? How much do you 'doomscroll'? Comparing your own usage with the child's could put things into perspective for them – or if it turns out that you're also overusing social media, it can turn screentime reduction into a joint mission, which you and the child can work on together.

10 BE CLEAR ON THE "WHY"

Research shows that young people can become addicted to social media. There are many schools that are moving towards being 'phone free' due to the negative impacts of using social media and phones continuously. It's important to explain to young people why managing screentime is important. Set out the benefits and ensure they have all the relevant information, so it's not just seen as a punishment.

Meet Our Expert

John Inley is a senior leader in a Birmingham secondary school and has vast experience in leading schools over the past 15 years – including the development of computing curriculums across primary and secondary schools, writing e-safety policies and supporting schools with computing and e-safety advice.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

Source: See full reference list on guide page at <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/top-tips-for-safety-on-social-media>

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Diary Dates: Spring Term

Please find below diary dates that we currently have for the Spring Terms *New or revised dates are in red*

| | | | |
|---|--|---------------------|---------------------|
| JANUARY | | | |
| Monday 27th | Year 6 Parents SATs meeting – <i>full details to follow in a separate letter</i> | 3:45 in Kingfishers | Year 6 parents |
| Tuesday 28th | Year 6 Maths SATs Club begins, then every Tuesday until SATs | 3:45-4:30 | All Year 6 |
| Thursday 30th | Year 6 Grammar & Punctuation SATs Club begins, then every Thursday until SATs | 3:45-4:30 | All Year 6 |
| | Defibrillator training for parents in Kingfishers classroom – just turn up! | 3:45-4:15 | Anyone |
| Friday 31st | VIP Assembly – all parents invited | 2:55pm | whole school |
| FEBRUARY | | | |
| Saturday 1st | NWLSSP Cross Country races at Measham CE Primary School – all abilities and experience welcome! | 10am first race | Reception to Year 6 |
| w/b 3rd | Children’s Mental Health Week | | |
| Tuesday 4th | Whitemoor Lakes Parent Meeting – meet in the classroom | 3:45pm | Herons |
| Wednesday 5th | NWLSSP archery festival – <i>details to follow</i> | 9:30am | KS2 |
| Friday 7th | Celebration Assembly – children may celebrate something they have achieved out of school (sign-up sheet on Mr. Jewitt’s door) | 2:55pm | whole school |
| Tuesday 11th | Internet Safety Day – this year’s theme is ‘Too good to be true? Keeping yourself and others safe from scams online.’ | | whole school |
| | NWLSSP Cross Country Presentation at Sir John Moore School | 4pm | invite only |
| Friday 14th | TEACHER TRAINING DAY – SCHOOL CLOSED TO PUPILS | | |
| 17th – 21st | HALF TERM | | |
| Monday 24th – Wednesday 26th | Herons Whitemoor Lakes Residential – <i>see parent information pack for full details/timings</i> | | Herons |
| MARCH | | | |
| Saturday 1st | Unity Cross Country races at Packington Primary School – all abilities and experience welcome! | 10:30am first race | Reception to Year 6 |
| Tuesday 4th | Parents’ Evening – <i>full details to follow. You will be able to sign up for a 10-minute time-slot</i> | 3:45-5:45pm | all classes |
| Wednesday 5th | Parents’ Evening – <i>full details to follow. You will be able to sign up for a 10-minute time-slot</i> | 3:45-7:00pm | all classes |
| Thursday 6th | World Book Day – children may come to school dressed as their favourite book character’ plus other book-themed activities | all day | whole school |
| Friday 7th | VIP Assembly – all parents invited | 2:55pm | whole school |
| Friday 14th | Celebration Assembly – children may celebrate something they have achieved out of school (sign-up sheet on Mr. Jewitt’s door) | 2:55pm | whole school |
| Saturday 15th | Unity cross country races at Snarestone Primary School – as we are hosting this event, it would be amazing to see as many of our pupils as possible take part! | 10:30am onwards | whole school |
| w/b 17th | Village litter-picking to support The Great British Spring Clean | | whole school |
| Thursday 20th | Red Nose Day – activities to be decided by School Parliament <i>NB: we are celebrating Red Nose Day on Thursday as Year 6 are out all day on Friday</i> | all day | whole school |
| Friday 21st | Year 6 visit to Warning Zone | all day | Year 6 |
| Tuesday 25th | U9 football tournament at Twycross House School | from 3pm | Herons |
| Friday 28th | VIP Assembly – all parents invited | 2:55pm | whole school |
| APRIL | | | |
| Friday 4th | Reception Teddy Bear’s Picnic with Evergreen Nursery | 11am | Reception |
| Saturday 5th | Unity Cross Country races at Griffydham Primary School – all abilities and experience welcome! | 10:30am first race | Reception to Year 6 |
| Tuesday 8th | NWLSSP orienteering – <i>details to follow</i> | | Kingfishers |
| Thursday 10th | Easter Service at St. Bartholomew’s Church – all are welcome to | 2pm | whole school |

| | | | |
|--|---|---------|--------------|
| | attend | | |
| | Class Photographs – children will need to wear school uniform | am | whole school |
| Friday 11th | Easter egg and bunny hunt around school! | all day | whole school |
| | VIP Assembly – all parents invited. Easter raffle draw! | 2:55pm | whole school |
| 14th – 25th April | EASTER HOLIDAY | | |
| Monday 28th | SCHOOL OPENS TO PUPILS | | |
| 29th – 30th | Year 2/3 Beaumanor Hall residential – <i>full details to follow</i> | | Year 2/3 |

Please note that all these dates are subject to change and will be added to as the year progresses

Cross Country Dates

Here are the dates for the remaining cross country races this year. All these events are fully inclusive and are open to children of all experiences and abilities. Just turn up at the venue in appropriate running gear; Snarestone t-shirts will be provided on the day.



| | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------|
| Saturday 1 st February | Measham CE Primary School | 10am start |
| Saturday 1 st March | Packington Primary School | 10:30am start |
| Saturday 15 th March | Snarestone Primary School | 10:30am start |
| Saturday 5 th April | Griffydham Primary School | 10:30am start |

Snarestone Cross Country, Saturday 15th March

We will be hosting the next Unity Partnership cross country race on Saturday 15th March, 10:30am start. As we are the hosts, it would be amazing to see a bumper turnout from Snarestone children. All children are welcome to run, regardless of their ability, with the emphasis firmly on participation and enjoyment.

We will also need a large group of volunteers to help the event run smoothly, including runners ('hares' at the front, 'scoopers' at the back), marshals and help with refreshments. There will be a letter going out with further details later this term with a reply slip. We would be extremely grateful for any support you can offer. Thank you!



Term Dates 2025-26

Autumn Term

| | |
|------------------------|--|
| Teacher Training Days | Thursday 21 st August / Friday 22 nd August 2025 |
| August Bank Holiday | Monday 25 th August 2025 |
| School Opens to Pupils | Tuesday 26 th August 2025 |
| Teacher Training Day | Friday 17 th October 2025 (school closed to pupils) |
| Mid-Term Break | Monday 20 th to Friday 24 th October 2025 |
| Schools Close | Friday 19 th December 2025 |

Spring Term

| | |
|------------------------|--|
| School Opens to Pupils | Monday 5 th January 2026 |
| Teacher Training Day | Friday 13 th February 2026 (school closed to pupils) |
| Mid-Term Break | Monday 16 th to Friday 20 th February 2026 |
| Schools Close | Friday 27 th March 2026 |
| Summer Term | |
| School Opens | Monday 13 th April 2026 |
| May Day | Monday 4 th May 2026 |
| Mid-Term Break | Monday 25 th to Friday 29 th May 2026 |
| Schools Close | Thursday 9 th July 2026 |