



Newsletter: April 2025

Maypole Festival, Friday 23 May, 1:40pm start

All parents, relatives and friends are welcome to join us on the playground from 1:40pm on Friday 23 May (gate opens at 1:20pm). FOSS will be serving refreshments, including cream teas which must be ordered in advance.



We would like children to come to school that day in smart, colourful clothing, e.g. party clothes, summer dresses etc. Also, we are asking children to make a May Stick at home to bring into school. They will need to decorate a stick, between 30-40cm long. Flowing ribbons work particularly well as the children will be skipping round the playground waving their sticks.



Doughnut Day!

FOSS are organising a Doughnut Day on Friday 16 May when Krispy Kreme doughnuts will be available to purchase (pre-orders only – details to follow soon). All Year 6 children will get a FREE doughnut to celebrate the end of SATs week!



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. We are so proud of you all!



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

Community Litter-Picking

What a fabulous effort from all our classes who took part in the Great British Spring Clean event recently, helping to make Snarestone a clean and tidy village!



Snarestone Community Champion Award

Well done to our fabulous Snarestone Community Champion in recognition of his incredible work in the wider community, particularly in raising money for Air Ambulance! Such a wonderful role model to others!



Easter Egg Competition!

What incredible entries we had for this year's decorate-an-egg competition – they were all cracking! The theme was 'Film and TV', and we were impressed by the originality and creativity shown by our talented children. It really was a tough decision for our judges to choose our winners.

Well done to everyone who took part!



PSHE

In Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE), our whole-school theme for the first half of the summer term will be 'Being My Best':

- Swans will learn about healthy eating, 'Catch it! Bin it! Kill it!', passing on praise and dealing with bad days.
- Herons will learn about healthy choices, 'For or against', dealing with nerves, and recognising our talents.
- Kingfishers will learn about getting fit, different skills, our school community, independence and responsibility, and our star qualities.

For the second half of the summer term, our PSHE theme will be 'Growing and Changing', including Relationships Education. Further information will be sent out about this before half term.

Collective Worship

Last term's collective worship themes were:

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

Our themes for the Summer Term will be:

- WISDOM: 'The Parable of the Wise and Foolish Builders'
- Truthfulness
- Community
- Pentecost
- Spirituality
- Diversity
- Keeping Safe
- Moving On



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.

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.



LOROS Stomp Round Leicester

We are proud to be taking part in the LOROS 'Stomp Round Leicester'. We have been busy designing and painting our baby elephant sculpture which will be positioned in a location in Leicester, forming part of the trail which aims to raise funds for the LOROS Hospice. Further information can be found at [Stomp Round Leicester art trail](#).

Watch this space throughout the summer term for lots of ele-fantastic events as we are targeting a fundraising goal of £1000 for this amazing local cause. Huge thanks to Miss King for dedicating hours of her time in preparing our elephant, using our children's designs as a stimulus. Our children have decided to call our elephant 'Hope'.



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. WhatsApp is one of the most popular messaging apps available. Unfortunately, the service poses several risks to its younger users – from misinformation and bullying to potential criminal exploitation – and it's vital that parents and educators understand these concerns and how to address them.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about WHATSAPP

WhatsApp is a free messaging service owned by Meta which allows users to send text and voice messages, make video calls, share multimedia – such as images, videos, documents and polls – and have group chats. WhatsApp messages are encrypted, meaning only the sender and the recipient can view what is sent. While this privacy may sound attractive on paper, this app comes with several associated risks that must be considered – especially for younger users.

AGE RESTRICTION

13+

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

GROUP CHATS

Group chats let friends talk together but can pose problems for young users. They might feel excluded – like discovering events they weren't invited to. Hurtful comments can also escalate quickly, as more people join in, amplifying the impact through a wider audience.

EVOLVING SCAMS

WhatsApp's popularity makes it attractive to scammers. Tactics include impersonating a child in an 'emergency' to request money, or triggering a login code, then pretending to be WhatsApp and asking for it – giving them access to private messages and personal data.

CHANNELS

'Channels' let users follow topics anonymously, interacting only through polls or emoji reactions. However, fake channels can mimic real ones, spreading misinformation, hate speech, or phishing for personal data. WhatsApp may also collect and share channel-following info with third parties, raising privacy issues.

DISAPPEARING MESSAGES

Disappearing messages help share sensitive info, but young people may wrongly assume they're fully private. Senders can opt for their message to vanish after 24 hours, 7 days, or 90 days – or for media, after one view. However, recipients can still save them by bookmarking or taking screenshots, reducing their privacy.

FAKE NEWS

WhatsApp's simplicity makes sharing news quick – accurate or not. To help curb misinformation, messages forwarded over five times now show a 'Forwarded many times' label with a double arrow. This alerts users that the message isn't original and may be unreliable.

CHAT LOCK

The new 'Chat lock' feature lets users store specific messages in a separate passcode- or biometrically-protected folder. While useful for privacy, it could be misused by younger users to hide conversations or content they know parents and educators might find inappropriate, including age-restricted material.

VISIBLE LOCATION

WhatsApp's 'live location' feature helps friends meet up or parents check a child's route home. However, anyone in a child's group chats can track their location, potentially revealing their home address or regular travel patterns to strangers.

AI INTEGRATION

Meta AI on WhatsApp poses risks to children, including exposure to misinformation, inappropriate content, and data privacy issues. AI responses may be inaccurate, and kids might share personal information unknowingly. It can also hinder critical thinking by offering ready-made answers.

Advice for Parents & Educators

EMPHASISE CAUTION

Encourage children to treat unexpected messages with caution. Get them to consider, for example, whether it sounds like something a friend or relative would really send them. Make sure they know never to share personal details over WhatsApp, and to be wary of clicking on any links in messages. Setting up two-step verification adds a further layer of protection to their WhatsApp account.

THINK BEFORE SHARING

Help children understand why it's important to stop and think before posting or forwarding something on WhatsApp. It's easy – and all too common – for content sent to one user to then be shared more widely, and even publicly on social media. Encourage them to consider how an ill-judged message might damage their reputation or upset a friend who sent something to them in confidence.

ADJUST THE SETTINGS

It's wise to change a child's WhatsApp settings to specify which of their contacts can add them to group chats without needing approval. To do this, go to 'Privacy', then 'Groups'. You can give permission to 'My Contacts' or 'My Contacts Except...'. Additionally, if the child needs to use 'live location', emphasise that they should enable this function for only as long as they need – and then turn it off.

CHAT ABOUT PRIVACY

Have a conversation with youngsters about how they're using WhatsApp, emphasising that it's for their own safety. If you spot a 'Locked Chats' folder, you might want to talk about the sort of messages that are in there, who they're with and why they have been hidden. Also, if a young user has sent any 'view once' content, discuss their reasons for using this feature.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian Government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

Sources: See full reference list on guide page at <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/whatsapp=2025>

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Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 16.04.2025

Diary Dates: Summer Term

Please find below diary dates that we currently have for the Summer Term.

MAY			
Friday 2 nd	Maypole dancing competition at Newbold Coleorton Primary School – parents welcome to come along and watch	9:30am	Hérons
	Celebration Assembly – children may celebrate something they have achieved out of school (sign-up sheet on Mr. Jewitt’s door)	2:55pm	whole school
Monday 5 th	MAY DAY BANK HOLIDAY		
Tuesday 6 th	U9 football tournament at Twycross House School	from 2pm	Hérons
Wednesday 7 th	Rise Voices – <i>see separate information for details</i>		Year 4
Friday 9 th	VIP Assembly – all parents invited.	2:55pm	whole school
12 th – 15 th	Year 6 SATs Week		Year 6
Friday 16 th	Doughnut Day! – <i>Krispy Kreme pre-orders available soon</i>		whole school
Tuesday 20 th	Rise Year 3 sports event – we will be hosting a sports event for Year 3 children from three local Rise schools.	am	Year 3
Thursday 22 nd	Yr 5/6 Unity Netball Competition – <i>details to follow</i>	after school	Year 5/6
	Deadline for the Year 5/6 Unity Art Competition		Year 5/6
Friday 23 rd	Snarestone Annual Maypole Festival – all are welcome to join us. Cream teas and refreshments will be served by FOSS.	1:40pm start (gate opens 1:20)	whole school
26 th – 30 th May	HALF TERM		
JUNE			
2 nd – 13 th June	Year 4 Multiplication Check		Year 4
Tuesday 3 rd	Unity Swimming Gala – <i>details to follow</i>	am	KS2
Friday 6 th	Colour Day – children may wear their house colours from top to toe, in return for a raffle prize donation of the same colour.	all day	whole school
	VIP Assembly – all parents invited.	2:55pm	whole school
9 th – 13 th June	Year 1 Phonics Screening Check		Year 1
Wednesday 11 th	Area Sports at Saffron Lane – <i>details to follow</i>	tbc	KS2
Friday 13 th	Celebration Assembly – children may celebrate something they have achieved out of school (sign-up sheet on Mr. Jewitt’s door)	2:55pm	whole school
Wednesday 18 th	Sports Day – all are welcome to join us for our traditional school sports day. Refreshments will be available.	9:30am start	whole school
Friday 20 th	Reception sports afternoon with Evergreen Nursery.	1:30-2:30	Reception
	VIP Assembly – all parents invited.	2:55pm	whole school
w/b 23 rd	Diversity Week		
Tuesday 24 th	Parent meeting for new Reception starters	4:30pm	new starters
Thursday 26 th	Unity Presentation Evening at Ivanhoe School, Ashby	6pm	invite only
Friday 27 th	Rainbow Friday – children may come to school in a rainbow of colours to support diversity.		whole school
JULY			
Tuesday 1 st & Wednesday 2 nd	Year 5/6 production to parents – full details including ticket arrangements to be distributed nearer the time.	6pm start	Year 5/6
Thursday 3 rd	Transition day – children to spend the day in new classes		whole school
Friday 4 th	Snarestone summer ‘Festival on the Field’ – <i>full details to follow</i>	4:30-6:30	whole school
	End of year pupil reports sent to parents		whole school
Monday 7 th	Year 6 visit to Hunstanton – NB: children will return late	all day	Year 6
Tuesday 8 th	Year 6 SATs results day		Year 6
Wednesday 9 th	Year 6 Leavers’ Evening – parents invited to join us for a celebration of our Year 6 pupils	evening – time TBC	Year 6
Thursday 10 th	Year 6 Leavers’ Service – all are invited to join us at St. Bartholomew’s Church. Full school uniform please.	9:30am start	whole school
	SCHOOL CLOSURES FOR SUMMER BREAK		

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

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

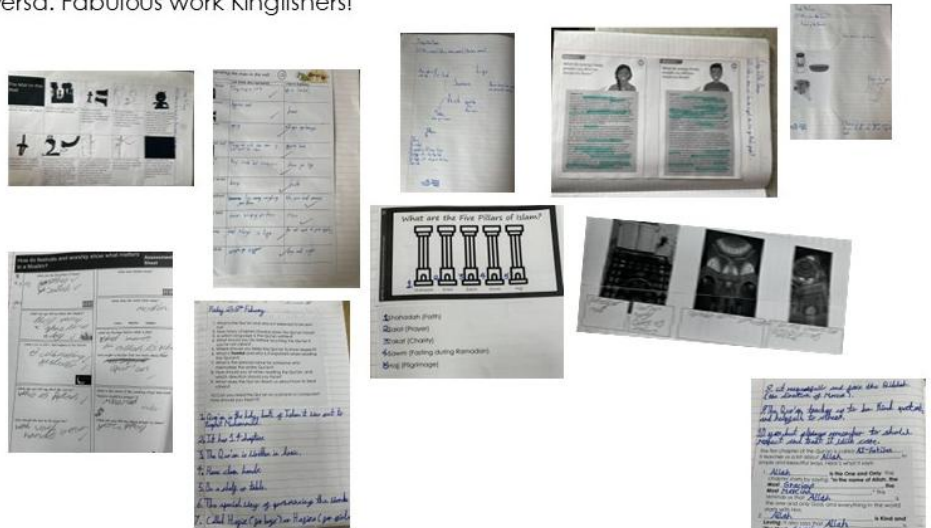


Remember to follow us on Facebook and X @SnarestoneP

SnaREstone News

In RE last term, Kingfishers were looking at the unit 'why do Hindus want to be good?' They learnt a lot about the Hindu Dharma and that all believers have a spark of Brahman inside called Atman, and that Brahman can take many forms. The Hindu belief is that through reincarnation their Atman can move from one living creature to the next in a cycle known as Samsara. They understand karma is the law of cause and effect—someone's good karma leads to positive effects and vice versa. Fabulous work Kingfishers!

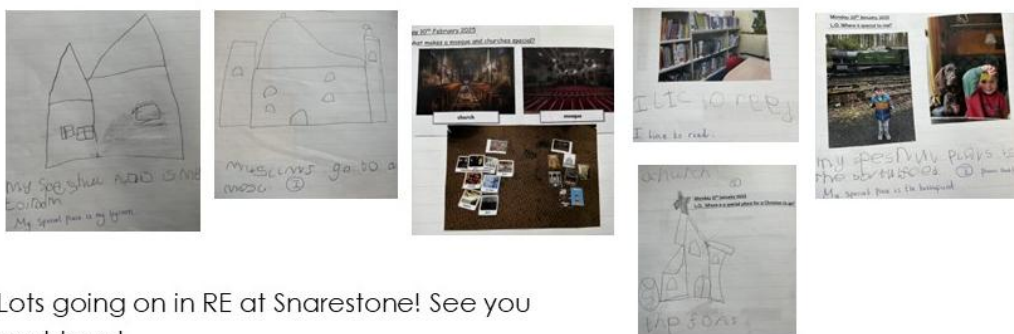
Hérons have been studying 'how festivals and worship show what matters to a Muslim' and have produced some great work. The children showed a very mature understanding and respect towards this unit and could use the vocabulary very well. They have been delving into The Five Pillars of Islam—Shahadah, Salah, Sawm, Zakah and the very important Hajj to Mecca.



Swans class learnt about who Christians believe created the world and that some people believe the world was created in a different way. We discussed that Christians believe that God created the light, sky and sea, sun and moon, plants and trees, animals and humans and after all that He rested. Some gorgeous art work has been produced to depict the story of creation!



And of course our fabulous Reception class were discussing all things special to them and Christians. The children were set a task of thinking about their most special place and why it is so special to them. They confidently discussed their chosen place with Mrs Horler and Mrs Phillips and then wrote about it in their books. The children also looked at special places to Christian followers and Muslim believers. They spoke in detail to me about what makes the church and the Mosque special. Have a look at their wonderful writing and drawings.



Lots going on in RE at SnaREstone! See you next term!

Mrs Turner



ATTENDANCE

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?



EVERY SCHOOL DAY COUNTS!

Children are required by law to attend 190 school days per year. The Government states that every pupil's attendance should be at least 95%.

HOW DO YOU MEASURE UP?

Attendance	Days Absent	Weeks Absent	Lessons Missed
95%	9 Days	2 Weeks	50 Lessons
90%	19 Days	4 Weeks	100 lessons
85%	29 Days	6 Weeks	150 lessons
80%	38 Days	8 Weeks	200 lessons
75%	48 Days	10 Weeks	250 lessons
70%	57 Days	11.5 Weeks	290 lessons
65%	67 Days	13.5 Weeks	340 lessons

89% and below
Drastic effect on academic achievement



95% - 90%
Cause for concern

100% - 96%
Excellent

Snarestone Primary School is continuing to focus on attendance and punctuality. Please take a look at the current attendance data below – as you will see, **we are significantly below our 96% target**. A big thank you to those families who have been working hard to ensure their children's punctuality and attendance continues to be a priority. Please note that all Leicestershire schools are now expected to issue penalty notices for term time holidays. Information regarding this has been included in this newsletter.

Year Group	Attendance to Date	Year Group	Attendance to Date
Reception	96.9%	Year 4	96.0%
Year 1	90.6%	Year 5	93.0%
Year 2	97.1%	Year 6	95.0%
Year 3	92.8%	Whole School	94.3%

Reporting an Absence

It is the parent/carer's responsibility to notify school if their child is absent. A reason MUST be provided and we have a safeguarding duty to follow up should an absence not be reported. This may include a home-visit.

Please ensure you contact the school to advise of your child's absence by 9.00am on the day of absence. This can be done either via telephone on 01530 270598 or email:

office@snarestone.risemat.co.uk

Medical Appointments

Please ensure that, where possible, medical appointments are made outside of school hours. Where this is not possible, the amount of school time missed must be kept to a minimum and medical evidence may be required.

Persistent Absences

Any child with attendance below 90%, regardless of the reason of the absence, is considered to be a persistent absentee. This equates to just 2 days each month. Statistics show that persistent absentees are less likely to achieve their full potential.

Too ill to attend school?

Children can attend school with minor ailments such as toothache, headache, stomach-ache, cold, sore throat etc. Over the counter medicines can be given before school. School will contact you if they become too ill to remain in school.

A reminder that children should be off school for 48 hours if they have diarrhoea or a sickness bug.

Thank you.

Unauthorised Learning Leave in Term Time (Holidays)

Children are **not** entitled to holidays during term time. Family holidays should be taken during school holiday periods.

To request learning leave during term time due to exceptional circumstances, ask the school office for a Learning Leave of Absence Form (with as much notice as possible).

Fines may be issued where unauthorised learning leave has been taken during term time.

YOUR LEGAL RESPONSIBILITY

If your child does not attend school regularly (over 90%), the local authority can take action against you. This can be through a Fixed Penalty Notice (fine) or a summons to appear at court.

What is a Fixed Penalty Notice?

The Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003 introduced legislation for local authorities to issue Fixed Penalty Notices to parents/carers of pupils who have unauthorised absences from school.

A Penalty Notice can be issued for two reasons:

- If a holiday is taken during term time without the permission of the headteacher
- If a pupil has unauthorised absence from school and their parent/carer fails to co-operate with school staff and/or other professionals to improve the situation

What are the fines?

£160 per parent/carer (reduced to £80 if paid within a timely manner). If the £160 is not paid within the time frame given, a summons can be issued to appear in court. The local authority can decide whether to issue a summons to court instead of a Penalty Notice.

There are **190** days in a school year which leaves **175** days to spend on family time, shopping, appointments and other things.



For all your Attendance enquiries

Please call the school office who will be happy to help or connect you to the Rise Multi Academy Attendance Lead.