SNARESTONE CofE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Newsletter: October 2025

What a fantastic first half term it has been at Snarestone! We are all so thrilled at how well our wonderful new Reception children have settled into school-life – it's like they have always been here!

What a busy term it has been. Highlights include featuring on BBC Radio Leicester, The Jungle Book play, our Macmillan Coffee Morning and, of course, welcoming back home Hope, our baby elephant, having smashed our £1000 target for LOROS! In the run-up to Christmas, we are looking forwards to another fun-packed and busy few months.

We are also delighted to announce that Nick Hare-Churchill has been appointed our new Chair of Governors following the departure of Mark Haggan. Congratulations, Nick!

Attendance

Why is good attendance and punctuality important?
Education lays the vital foundations of a child's life. Regular and punctual attendance at school is key to both academic and social development, which in turn will improve the life chances of children and young people.

What does 90% attendance mean?

- ✓ **90% attendance** = ½ school day missed every week!
- ✓ **One school year at 90% attendance** = 4 weeks of learning missed!
- ✓ **Over 5 school years of school** = ½ school year missed!
- ✓ All children and young people nationally whose school attendance is **90%** or below are considered to be **persistent absentees.**

	100%	OUTSTANDING
4 School days missed in an academic year	98%	VERY GOOD
7 School days missed in an academic year	96%	GOOD
10 School days missed in an academic year	95%	ALMOST THERE
20 School days missed in an academic year (equivalent to ½ day each week)	90%	IMPROVEMENT NEEDED – Our Attendance Officer will be in touch
29 School days missed in an academic year	85%	CONCERNED
40 School days missed in an academic year (equivalent to a day each week)	80%	VERY CONCERNED

Family holidays and term time leave

Parents/carers should ensure that family holidays are arranged outside of school term time. Parents/carers should not remove their child from school during term time without having first completed an absence request form. All requests for absence will be responded to in writing and will only be authorised in exceptional circumstances. If permission is not granted, but the child is still absent, the absence is classed as unauthorised and parents/carers may be issued with a penalty notice.

Please remember to contact the school office for all your attendance queries. It is important to speak to Miss Barbour in the office if you are thinking of taking your child out of school for the purpose of a holiday. We would like to avoid issuing penalty notices as much as possible and together we may be able to work together to prevent penalty notices being served.

PLEASE REMEMBER…… to call the school office if your child is absent from school – 01530 270598 – or email office@snarestone.risemat.co.uk. If the school do not receive a call stating why your child is absent from school, Miss Barbour will call home. Where there is no answer, we will continue to call other contacts that have been provided by parents. Should there be no reply to the above endeavours to contact a parent/carer, a member of the school staff may visit your home to do a safe and well check.

Macmillan Coffee Morning and Harvest

Thank you so much to everyone who helped make our Macmillan Coffee Morning such a success this year – we raised about £220!

Thanks also for all the harvest donations, which have been gratefully delivered to the Ashby Food Bank.

What is Bullying?

We are proud to have received the Beyond Bullying Gold Award for our anti-bullying teaching and ethos. So, how do we define bullying to our children?

Our children know that we use the **STOP** acronym:

What is bullying? Bullying is **S**everal **T**imes **O**n **P**urpose

What should we do? We should **S**tart **T**elling **O**ther **P**eople

Further information, advice and support can be found on the Beyond Bullying website, at https://www.beyondbullying.com/

Monday 10th November is the start of Anti-Bullying Week; the theme this year is 'Power for Good.' Children are invited to wear their odd socks on Monday 10th November for Odd Socks Day, to celebrate diversity and uniqueness! Information for parents is available here: https://anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk/anti-bullying-week-2025/parents-and-carers

PSHE

In Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) this term, our whole-school theme has been 'Me and My Relationships.'

- Swans have been learning about our feelings and the feelings of others, being a good friend and types of bullying.
- Herons have been learning about different sorts of feelings, coping under pressure and 'ok or not ok?' scenarios.
- Kingfishers have been learning about working together, assertiveness and acting appropriately.

However, the highlight of the term was our Life Education Workshops where we learned about ourselves, growing up and about our feelings and emotions. It was great to meet Harold the giraffe, Life Education's mascot!

For the second half of the autumn term, our PSHE theme will be 'Valuing Difference' and Anti-Bullying Week.

Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal

From this Tuesday until Remembrance Day, poppies will be available for children to have in return for a donation to the Royal British Legion. If children would like other poppy merchandise (see below), we are asking for a donation of 50p or more. Thank you for your support.

Pudsey Bear Shop for Children in Need

From 3rd November, we will be opening a Pudsey Bear Shop during lunchtimes and after school. Prices range from £1 for badges, and wristbands, to £2.50 for Pudsey ears. Please be aware that we only have a limited stock of items!

Collective Worship

This term's collective worship themes so far have been:

- Our vision and values
- Generosity
- Compassion
- Thankfulness
- Harvest
- Friendship

Our themes for the rest of the term will be:

- Peace and Remembrance
- Anti-Bullying
- Courage
- Advent
- Hanukkah
- The Christmas Story

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.

Young Voices

A reminder for those of you who are attending Young Voices 2026, the concert will take place on Thursday 8th January at the BP Pulse Arena, NEC. Once you have expressed your interest, you will be sent a link to the online YV Music Room which will allow you to order tickets and T-shirts. ***The school will now not be involved at all in the ticket and t-shirt ordering process.*** The deadline for orders has been extended to 5pm on 7th November. Should you require any further information or a new letter, please contact Miss Barbour.

THANK YOU, FOSS!

Huge thanks to the Friends of Snarestone School for their incredible generosity and support this term! Already, they have funded new books, a class set of glockenspiels, house point prizes, pupil responsibility badges and £50 for each class per term!

Please continue to support FOSS events as your contributions really do make a big difference. FOSS are always on the look out for new recruits- please get in touch through the FOSS Facebook page or via the school office if you are interested.

It was so lovely to see such a packed church for our Harvest Service recently. Our children sang beautifully and they shared thoughtful poetry and prayers of thankfulness.

LOROS

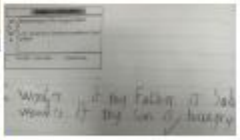
Huge thanks to everyone who has contributed over the last few months in helping us to smash our £1000 target for LOROS. Our final fundraising event was our 'Elephant Drive' and quiz which was enjoyed by all.

Hope, our baby elephant, is now proudly on display in the school hall, and we hope to be able to let you know a final fundraising total soon.

October 2025

SnaREstone News

A great start to our learning in RE at Snarestone this Autumn term. In Reception the children have been learning about what makes us special and what makes Christians feel they are special to God? They have used dough to observe themselves and create their own portrait and looked at what makes them special. Great work Recep-



In Swans we have been learning about what Christians believe God is like. The children have been learning about the importance of parables and how Christian people believe Jesus brought these stories to them to teach them about God. They have written their own prayers about being thankful and being sorry. A great unit for children to really understand the importance of forgiveness.

Herons have been learning about the Hindu religion and what they believe God is like. To a Hindu, the ultimate reality is known as Brahman which s the source of everything in the universe. The Atman, the spark of Brahman, is in every living creature and Brahman can live in many different forms. An interesting unit teaching children about this diverse and ever changing tradition.

What does it mean if Christians believe God is loving and holy is the unit Kingfishers have been discussing. The children have been using Bibles to explore what God is like, reading many different books in the Old Testament and the New Testament to understand better the nature of God. God told his disciples to write stories about Him and read them to His followers and also express their stories through art. These help Christians live a fulfilled life.

A whole school visit to St Bartholomew's Church for Harvest this year took place on Friday 10th October. A complete sell out as the church was packed! We heard a beautiful service of readings, songs and poems that were performed by our fabulous children.

A fabulous first term of Religious Education at Snarestone and so much more to learn this academic year! Happy half term everyone!

Until next term, Mrs Turner.

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. This online safety guide focuses on age-inappropriate content. It highlights a number of risks such as social media, gaming and adverts. You'll find tips on helping children to avoid potential risks involving social media, gaming and adverts.

For further guidance, tips and resources, visit the UK Safer Internet Centre at **https://saferinternet.org.uk/guide-and-resource/parents-and-carers**

Diary Dates: to February Half-Term

Please find below diary dates that we currently have for the autumn and early spring terms: ***New or revised dates are in red***

OCTOBER			
Tuesday 28th	Parents' Evening	Until 7pm	all classes
Wednesday 29th	Parents' Evening	Until 5:45	all classes
Thursday 30th	FOSS Fright Night – *please see separate flyer*	KS1 3:30 – 5:15pm KS2 5:30 – 7pm	
Friday 31st	Swimming begins for Kingfishers class Group 2	am	Kingfishers
	VIP Assembly – all parents invited	2:55pm	whole school
NOVEMBER			
Saturday 1st	**NWL cross country races at Sir John Moore – all welcome**	**10am first race**	**Rec to Yr6**
Weds 5th - Fri 7th	Year 6 London residential		Year 6
w/b 10th	Anti-Bullying Week (Theme: 'Power for Good')	all week	whole school
Monday 10th	Odd Socks Day (children may wear colourful, crazy odd socks to celebrate diversity)	all day	whole school
	Flu immunisations	tbc	whole school
Tuesday 11th	Walk to Snarestone War Memorial for Remembrance	11am	whole school
Wednesday 12th	Trip to National Memorial Arboretum	all day	whole school
Friday 14th	**Children in Need – our School Parliament would like a non-uniform day (pyjamas/onesies/spots/yellow) in return for a donation to Children in Need**	**all day**	**whole school**
	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 19th	Open morning for prospective 2026 starters	9.30-10.40am	
Friday 21st	VIP Assembly – all parents invited	2:55pm	whole school
DECEMBER			
Monday 1st	School Christmas post box opens		whole school
	Year 5/6 Bikeability – *further details to follow*	**all day**	**Year 5/6**
Thursday 4th	Christingle assembly (children will need a large orange at the beginning of this week to make their Christingle)	am	whole school
Friday 5th	Santa Fun Run for Rainbows	am	whole school
	FOSS Pyjamas Day in return for a prize for our Christmas raffle hampers – *details to follow*	**all day**	**whole school**
	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 8th	**Year 5/6 Bikeability – *further details to follow***	**all day**	**Year 5/6**
Tuesday 9th	Swans Christmas Nativity performance	2:00pm	Swans
Wednesday 10th	Swans Christmas Nativity performance	5:30pm	Swans
	NEW DATE: Christmas Jumper Day for Save the Children	**all day**	**whole school**
	NEW DATE: Decorations Day & Elfridges	**am**	**whole school**
Friday 12th	VIP Assembly – all parents invited	2:55pm	whole school
Saturday 13th	**NWL cross country races at Moira Furnace – all welcome**	**10am first race**	**Rec to Yr6**
Tuesday 16th	Panto at Derby Arena – Dick Whittington ***children will return late to school on this date***	return approx. 5pm	whole school
Thursday 18th	Christmas dinner TBC Children may dress in their Christmas jumpers/hats/tinsel etc.		whole school
	Carols in the woods – join us in our forest school after school to sing carols among the fairy lights.	3:45-5pm approx.	all welcome
Friday 19th	Christmas service at St. Bartholomew's Church tbc	10am start	all welcome
	Last day of term – children may wear their Christmas jumpers		whole school
22nd Dec – 2nd Jan	**SCHOOL CLOSED**		
JANUARY			
Monday 5th	School re-opens to pupils		whole school
Thursday 8th	**Young Voices at the BP Pulse Arena (NEC, Birmingham) –**	**all day until**	**KS2**

	further updates will be distributed nearer the time	**late**	
Friday 16th	VIP Assembly – all parents invited	2:55pm	whole school
Saturday 17th	**Unity cross country races at Woodstone Primary School, Ravenstone – all welcome**	**10:30am first race**	**Rec to Yr6**
Friday 23rd	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 31st	**NWL cross country races at Sir John Moore – all welcome**	**10am first race**	**Rec to Yr6**
FEBRUARY			
Friday 6th	VIP Assembly – all parents invited	2:55pm	whole school
w/b 9th	Children's Mental Health Week		
Tuesday 10th	Internet Safety Day	all day	whole school
Friday 13th	**TEACHER TRAINING DAY – SCHOOL CLOSED TO PUPILS**		
16th – 20th	**HALF TERM**		

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 1st November	Sir John Moore Primary School, Appleby	10am start
Saturday 13th December	Moira Furnace (organised by Moira School)	10am start
Saturday 17th January	Woodstone Primary School	10:30am start
Saturday 31st January	Sir John Moore Primary School, Appleby	10am start
Saturday 28th February	Snarestone Primary School	10:30am start
Saturday 14th March	Packington Primary School	10:30am start
Saturday 18th April	Griffydam Primary School	10am start

Term Dates 2025-26

Autumn Term

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

Spring Term

School Opens to Pupils	Monday 5th January 2026
Teacher Training Day	Friday 13th February 2026 (school closed to pupils)
Mid-Term Break	Monday 16th to Friday 20th February 2026
Schools Close	Friday 27th March 2026

Summer Term

School Opens	Monday 13th April 2026
May Day	Monday 4th May 2026
Mid-Term Break	Monday 25th to Friday 29th May 2026
Schools Close	Thursday 9th July 2026

Term Dates 2026-27

Autumn Term

Teacher Training Days	Thursday 20th August / Friday 21st August 2026
School Opens to Pupils	Monday 24th August 2026
August Bank Holiday	Monday 31st August 2026
Teacher Training Day	Friday 16th October
Mid-Term Break	Monday 19th to Friday 23rd October 2026
Schools Close	Friday 18th December 2026

Spring Term

School Opens to Pupils	Monday 4th January 2027
Teacher Training Day	Friday 12th February
Mid-Term Break	Monday 15th to Friday 19th February 2027
Schools Close	Friday 19th March 2027

Summer Term

School Opens	Monday 5th April 2027
May Day	Monday 3rd May 2027
Mid-Term Break	Monday 31st May to Friday 4th June 2027
Schools Close	Thursday 8th July 2027