



**SNARESTONE CofE
PRIMARY SCHOOL**



Newsletter: February 2026

Staffing Update

We are expecting that Mrs Gynane will be returning from her maternity leave straight after the Easter break. In the meantime, Mrs Turner will continue to teach Swans on Mondays to Wednesdays, and Mr Jewitt on Thursdays and Fridays. After Easter, we anticipate that Mrs Turner will teach Swans on Mondays, with Mrs Gynane teaching on Tuesdays to Fridays.

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

Attendance

Thank you to everyone who has supported us in our bid to improve our school attendance data, Currently, our attendance is 95.2%. Our target is 96%. We have introduced a new Class Attendance Award, a trophy that will be awarded at each VIP assembly to the class with the highest attendance that month. The winners for January are Kingfishers, with an attendance of 95.5%.

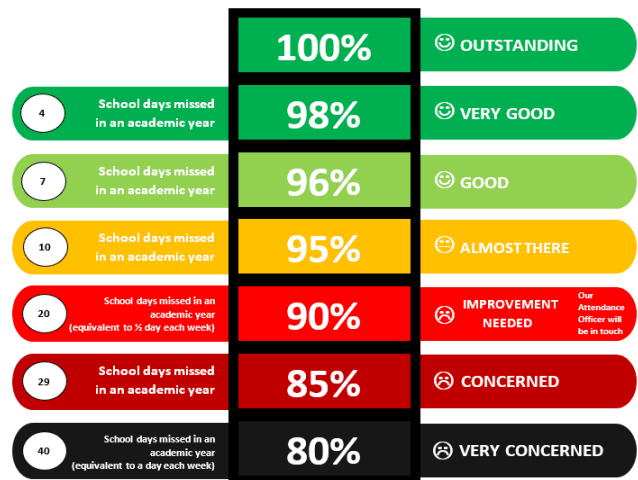
Our attendance data for January:

Swans	94.8%
Hérons	91.0%
Kingfishers	95.5%
Whole School	94.4%

Our current overall attendance for 2025-26:

Swans	95.6%
Hérons	95.0%
Kingfishers	94.9%
Whole School	95.2%

Working together to improve 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**.

Collective Worship

This half-term's collective worship themes are:

- New beginnings
- Respect
- Spirituality
- Endurance: 'Noah's Ark'
- Perseverance
- Internet Safety Day

Our themes for after half-term will be:

- Trust
- 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. Thank you.

PSHE

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

- Swans are learning about what sort of secrets it's OK to keep, whether it's ever OK for a person to keep an adult's secret that they feel uncomfortable about, who we can talk to if there's something bothering us that we want to talk about, and how to get help from an adult.
- Herons are learning about deciding if something is risky or not, who or what might influence us to join in something that's risky, and if there is anything we can do to reduce or remove a risk.
- Kingfishers are learning about why emotional needs are as important as physical needs and what might happen if a person doesn't get their emotional needs met, some ways of making sure that we keep ourselves safe when using a mobile phone, including safety around sharing personal information or images, and that there are laws relating to this, and why some people believe that more young people drink alcohol than actually do.

Our PSHE will include special lessons and assemblies on and around Safer Internet Day on 10th February: the theme is '**Smart tech, safe choices – Exploring the safe and responsible use of AI**'. As part of this, Herons and Kingfishers will take part in a BBC AI technology themed Live Lesson exploring how to stay safe online.

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

Safer
Internet
Day 2026 | Tuesday
10 February

Coordinated by the UK Safer Internet Centre

saferinternetday.org.uk

Children's Mental Health Week

This week it is Children's Mental Health Week: the theme for 2026 is 'This is My Place'. The aim is to support the systems around children and young people to help them feel they belong. Further information, links and support can be found at <https://www.healthforkids.co.uk/leicestershire/col/lections/looking-after-childrens-mental-health/> and also <https://www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/>

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.



School Uniform

A reminder of our school uniform expectations: All children (Reception to Year 6) need -

- Navy Snarestone sweatshirt, cardigan or fleece
- Light blue polo t-shirt (logo optional)
- Grey/black school trousers/skirt/pinafore dress
- Black, grey or white socks/tights with flat, black sensible school shoes
- During summer months, pupils may wear a blue gingham dress or black/grey shorts
- During winter months, pupils may wear wellington boots to school, but these MUST be stored in a bag and indoor shoes be worn whilst inside the building.
- Optional navy Snarestone zip fleece and shower-proof jacket

For PE all children (Reception to Year 6) need:

- T-shirt in the colour of their house team
- Navy/black PE shorts or navy/black tracksuit bottoms
- Plimsolls/trainers
- Navy sweatshirt
- Gym bag to keep PE kit in
- All PE kits should be free from any logo or brand name, apart from school logo.

It would be helpful if PE bags were not too big and bulky as large rucksacks take up a lot of cloakroom/locker space.

Please see our school website for further information on school uniform, including how to order.

Jewellery and Hair Accessories

On health and safety grounds, we do not allow children to wear jewellery in our school (in line with county policy we allow watches in KS2, and earrings that are simple studs or hoops). The exception to this is for religious/cultural reasons, in which case parents will need to contact the school.

Earrings need to be taken out for PE or covered up with tape, which needs to be provided. Nail varnish is not permitted. All headwear needs to be appropriate to school, i.e. hair bands / Alice bands and hair slides are only to be worn where hair needs to be tied back. These items should be in line with school colours.

Thank you for your support with this.

Break the Rules Day for Red Nose Day

Friday 20th March

Our School Parliament have decided that they would like us to have a Break the Rules Day on Red Nose Day 2026, to raise money for Comic Relief. Here are the details of the rules that they have decided they'd like to break!

Donate at https://www.justgiving.com/page/snarestone-primary-school-9?utm_medium=FR&utm_source=CL



BREAK the RULES DAY

Rules to be broken include:

1. Wear school uniform
2. No pyjamas, oodles, blankets or teddies
3. No unhealthy breaktime snacks only (please still remember we are a nut-free school!)
4. No jewellery
5. No make-up or face paint
6. No crazy hair or hair dye
7. No painted nails
8. No extra break time

Here's how it works:

When?

Friday 20th March

RED NOSE DAY

50p fine for each rule broken (or a donation of your choice). All money raised will go to Comic relief.

Spirituality

This term, we have been learning a lot about 'spirituality' in assemblies.

What is spirituality?

We define spirituality as an ongoing, reflective journey. It is something that teaches us about questioning, understanding and relationships: relationships with ourselves, others, the world and beyond.

Our pupils understand spirituality as, '**looking up, looking out, looking in**'.

Why is spirituality important?

Spirituality is important because it fosters a sense of belonging, encourages personal growth, and promotes a sense of community. It helps pupils to develop their own identity and understand their place in the world. Spirituality also supports emotional well-being, resilience, and the ability to make sense of life's challenges. By nurturing spirituality, schools can create an environment where students feel valued, supported, and inspired to reach their full potential.

<p>Looking up <i>How we fit into the bigger picture</i></p> <p style="text-align: center; color: purple;">Love God</p>	<p>Looking out <i>Thinking about or helping others</i></p> <p style="text-align: center; color: purple;">Love your neighbour</p>	<p>Looking in <i>Ourselves – mind and body</i></p> <p style="text-align: center; color: purple;">Love yourself</p>
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Thrive and Shine Homework

This term's Thrive and Shine homework is linked to our school value of **ENDURANCE**.

Pupils should have received their Mission Passports at the start of the term. The deadline for the missions to be completed is Friday 20th March.

Thrive & Shine is a homework challenge based on the school values that shape who we are: **hope, trust, wisdom, friendship and endurance**.

Once a challenge has been completed, an adult needs to sign it off. You may like to share some photos on Class Dojo or children may bring something in to show their teacher or class. At the end of term, Children will receive either a bronze, silver, gold or platinum certificate depending on the number of challenges they have completed.

Good luck on your mission!



MISSION: ENDURANCE



HOPE



TRUST



WISDOM



FRIENDSHIP



ENDURANCE

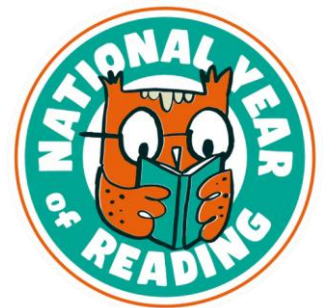
National Year of Reading

The National Year of Reading 2026 is a UK-wide campaign encouraging everyone to rediscover the joy of reading and make it part of everyday life. It is the largest reading campaign in a generation, led by the Department for Education in collaboration with the National Literacy Trust. Its goal is to reverse the decline in reading for pleasure, particularly among young people, and to reconnect people of all ages with reading in ways that are relevant, flexible, and rewarding. The campaign encourages individuals to "Go All In" on their passions, whether music, football, baking, family time, or sci-fi, and discover how reading can enhance these interests.

The campaign aims to grow a generation of readers, improve literacy skills, and support wellbeing at every age. By encouraging families to read together for even 10 minutes a day, the initiative seeks to lay the foundation for strong literacy, confidence, and lifelong learning.

The National Year of Reading 2026 is a flexible, year-long celebration designed to make reading enjoyable, accessible, and culturally relevant, ensuring that everyone can find a way to connect with reading in their everyday lives.

To find out how you can get involved, visit [National Year of Reading 2026 | Go All In](https://literacytrust.org.uk/about-us/national-year-of-reading-2026/) or <https://literacytrust.org.uk/about-us/national-year-of-reading-2026/>



World Book Day

At Snarestone, we have a number of fun ideas coming up to support the National Year of Reading, beginning with World Book Day which takes place on 5th March 2026. On this day, children may come to school dressed as a character from a book of their choice. Children will also receive a £1 book voucher, which they can use to get a free book! Details about this year's £1 books can be found here: [Books Archive - World Book Day](#)



Diary Dates: Spring Term 2025/26

Please find below diary dates that we currently have for the Spring Term:

FEBRUARY			
w/b 9 th	Children's Mental Health Week		
Tuesday 10 th	Internet Safety Day – this year's theme is 'Smart tech, safe choices – Exploring the safe and responsible use of AI'.	all day	whole school
Thursday 12 th	Oral Hygiene Assembly for pupils	pm	whole school
Friday 13 th	TEACHER TRAINING DAY – SCHOOL CLOSED TO PUPILS		
16 th – 20 th	HALF TERM		
Tuesday 24 th	Year 2 Beaumanor Hall residential parent meeting in Swans classroom straight after school	3:40pm	Year 2 parents
Thursday 26 th	Young Voices at the BP Pulse Arena (NEC, Birmingham) – <i>rearranged from January postponement</i>	midday until late	KS2
Friday 27 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
Saturday 28 th	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
MARCH			
Tuesday 3 rd	Parents' Evening – <i>full details to follow. You will be able to sign up for a 10-minute timeslot</i>	3:45-5:45pm	all classes
Wednesday 4 th	Parents' Evening – <i>full details to follow. You will be able to sign up for a 10-minute timeslot</i>	3:45-7:00pm	all classes
Thursday 5 th	World Book Day – children may come to school dressed as their favourite book character	all day	whole school
Friday 6 th	FOSS Dress Down Friday in return for an Easter-themed gift for the Easter raffle.	all day	whole school
	VIP Assembly – all parents invited	2:55pm	whole school
Monday 9 th to Tuesday 10 th	Year 2 Beaumanor Hall residential – pirate themed attire required for the first day!		Year 2
Saturday 14 th	Unity cross country races at Packington Primary School – all welcome	10:30am first race	Rec to Yr6
w/b 16 th March	Snarestone village litter-picking for The Great British Spring Clean		whole school
Wednesday 18 th	Year 6 visit to The Warning Zone	all day	Year 6
Friday 20 th	Final date to hand in Thrive & Shine Homework		whole school
	Red Nose Day – <i>Break the Rules Day!</i>		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
Tuesday 24 th	U9 football tournament at Twycross House School	from 2pm	Hérons
Wednesday 25 th	Last date for Easter egg competition entries – <i>details of the competition to be announced nearer the time</i>		whole school
Thursday 26 th TBC	Easter Service at St. Bartholomew's Church – all welcome to attend	2pm start	whole school
Friday 27 th	Last day of term – Easter bunny hunt and FOSS Easter raffle. Easter egg competition winners announced.		whole school
	VIP Assembly – all parents invited	2:40pm	whole school
30 th Mar – 3 rd Apr	EASTER BREAK – RETURN ON MONDAY 10th APRIL		

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.

Saturday 28 th February	Snarestone Primary School	10:30am start
Saturday 14 th March	Packington Primary School	10:30am start
Saturday 18 th April	Griffydham Primary School	10am start

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. Linked to this year's Safer Internet Day theme on AI, here is a useful parent guide:

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI) SOLUTIONS

AI solutions are becoming increasingly popular. Trained on vast datasets of text (such as books, articles and websites) in order to learn patterns and relationships, AI solutions can generate text, images, audio, video, code or synthetic data, and can be used for things such as crafting poems or books, creating digital imagery or delivering video content. Recently there's been significant discussion in relation to the benefits and risks of AI solutions, with many undecided on whether it will be a force for good or potentially reduce the need for some job roles.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

ROOM FOR INACCURACY

AI solutions, such as language models, generate their responses purely based on the data they've been trained on, which often comes from sources on the internet. Whilst questions will often illicit relevant responses, if some of the information they've been 'fed' is incorrect, it follows that the answers too may contain factual errors or inaccuracies.

REINFORCING BIAS

AI solutions, such as those generating content or images, can perpetuate existing biases present in the data they were trained, whether through the algorithms written by humans or the content taken from the web. This could easily lead to biased responses and potentially reinforce existing stereotypes, such as those around gender, race or disability.

IRRELEVANT INFORMATION

AI solutions don't have the ability to understand the context or meaning behind a question or a user request. Although highly advanced, the AI relies entirely on the data it's been exposed to and is devoid of independent thought or reasoning, which could lead to irrelevant or even nonsensical responses to queries.

LACK OF ACCOUNTABILITY

Fundamentally, AI solutions are machines or technology programmes that don't have the ability to take responsibility for the responses they generate. This could lead to confusion or misunderstandings in certain cases if the answers are taken as given. For instance, image-generative AIs can lead to output clearly derived from other peoples' content but without any attribution to the original source artist's work.

STIFLING CREATIVITY

One of the potential risks of children and young people continually using AI solutions for things (such as their homework) is that eventually, they might become reliant on it. In the long term, this could potentially impact their development and hamper their ability to think creatively or solve problems independently without the aid of an AI tool.

Advice for Parents & Carers

CREATE A SAFE ENVIRONMENT

If possible, try to be around when your child uses any type of AI solution and employ content filters to try and reduce the chance of profanity or age-inappropriate subjects appearing in responses. As with any kind of technology, it's important to ensure that children are using AI solutions responsibly and to be there to enable opportunities to discuss their use as part of a safe environment.

PROMOTE CRITICAL THINKING

Explain to your child that AI solutions can be used as one of many tools to help them research and learn, but that they shouldn't simply accept the responses they receive as the truth. Encourage them to question, verify and think critically about the information they get back – all of which apply equally to any website or platform they use.

DISCUSS BIAS

Talk to your child about the potential biases that may be present in the data that AI solutions are trained on, and how these viewpoints might find their way into the responses that AI generates. Again, with many things children might read online, it's healthy for them to consider whether the information is factual and presented fairly.

ENCOURAGE HUMAN INTERACTION

Not only should children supplement any use of software like AI with additional resources such as books and reputable internet sites, but they also should remember what they can learn from interaction with other people. Discussing things with teachers, relatives and friends isn't just an important and often invaluable aspect of learning – it's an essential part of life, too.

CHECK SCHOOL RULES

Make yourself aware of any rules or guidance your child's school might have about the use of AI solutions. Most software is still extremely new, so many schools may not yet have a policy, however, it's important to make sure your child is aware of how to use it appropriately and will be using it for the right reasons.

Meet Our Expert

Gary Henderson is the Director of IT at a large boarding school in the UK, having previously taught in schools and colleges in Britain and the Middle East. With a particular interest in digital citizenship and cyber security, he believes it is essential that adults and children alike become more aware of the risks associated with technology, as well as the many benefits.

NOS National Online Safety®
#WakeUpWednesday

Source: <https://openai.com/blog/chatgpt/> | <https://generativeai.net/> | <https://www.mckinsey.com/featured-insights/mckinsey-explainers/what-is-generative-ai>

For further advice on AI, and online safety generally, visit the UK Safer Internet Centre at <https://saferinternet.org.uk/>