



**SNARESTONE CofE  
PRIMARY SCHOOL**



## Newsletter: April 2026

### Mrs Kerry Worsdale

As you may have read in the recent Class Dojo message, our former colleague and friend, Kerry Worsdale (known as Mrs W to many of you) died recently following an illness. She will be remembered for her warm smile, friendly nature and genuine kindness, as well as her wonderful sense of humour that so often lifted those around her. Above all, Kerry was an amazing teacher who cared deeply about the children she worked with and made a lasting difference through her dedication and compassion. Our thoughts and heartfelt condolences are with Kerry's family and friends at this very difficult time. She will be remembered with much love and affection by all who knew her.



### Attendance

Thank you to everyone who continues to support us in our efforts to improve our school attendance data, Currently, our attendance is 95.6%. Our target is 96%.

The winners of our new Class Attendance Award so far this year have been:

- ✓ January – Kingfishers (95.0%)
- ✓ February – Swans (96.8%)
- ✓ March – Swans (97.0%)

The winning class for April will be announced during Friday's VIP assembly.

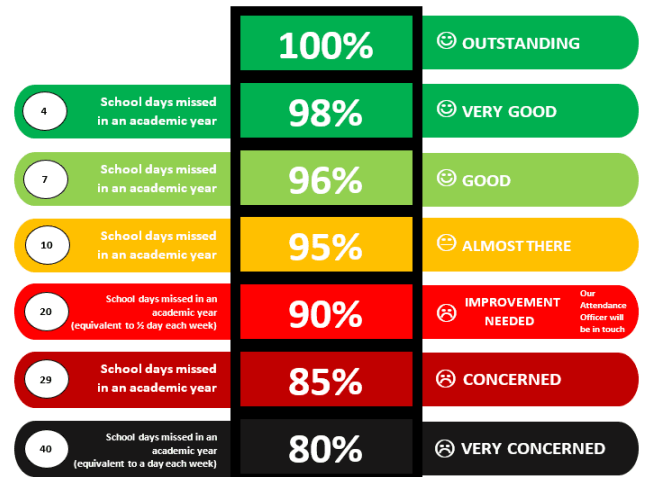
### Our attendance data for the Spring Term:

Swans	96.6%
Hérons	94.6%
Kingfishers	96.0%
Whole School	96.0%

### Our current overall attendance for 2025-26:

Swans	96.1%
Hérons	95.5%
Kingfishers	95.2%
Whole School	95.6%

*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:

- Earth Day
- Trust
- Truthfulness
- Deaf Awareness Week
- Community

Our themes for after half-term will be:

- Pentecost
- Spirituality
- Wisdom
- Moving On



## PSHE

In Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) this term, our whole-school theme is 'Being My Best.'

- Swans are learning about the different parts of our bodies that are inside us that help to turn food into energy, and what we need to do to get energy. They are also learning how setting goals will help us to achieve what we want to be able to do.
- Herons are learning about different things that we do that help us to keep healthy. They are also learning about some of the things that we do to help look after the environment.
- Kingfishers are learning how we can overcome problems and challenges on the way to achieving our goals. They are also learning about emotional risk and a physical risk.

For the second half of the summer term, our PSHE theme will be 'Growing and Changing'.

### Litter Picking

Before Easter, our whole school took part in the Great British Spring Clean, picking litter up around Snarestone. It was great fun and so rewarding making a difference to our local community.



### 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.



### Food Policy

A reminder of our expectations for food and drink in school:

As a 'healthy school', we encourage children to:

1. Bring their own water bottle which:
  - Ideally, should be filled with water only and should not be single use plastic;
  - Should be taken home at night for washing and refilling with water;
  - Should be clearly labelled with a non-spill top.
2. Have a healthy snack such as fruit and vegetables (e.g. apple slices, carrot sticks, sugar snap peas etc.), healthy grains (e.g. crackers, rice cakes, healthy cereal bars, granola) or low-fat dairy (e.g. low-fat cheese or yogurt).

**Children should not have sweets, crisps, biscuits etc. for a break time snack.**

We may have pupils who are allergic to nuts; therefore a 'No Nut Policy' is in place. We ask that nuts or products containing nuts, including all chocolate spreads, are not brought onto the premises. The school acknowledges that, due to complex food processes, it is impractical to entirely eliminate nut products from an environment where food is present. Our school dinner provider operates a strict No Nut Policy in all their food production kitchens.



### Thank You, FOSS!

Huge thanks to the Friends of Snarestone School for their continued generosity. At a time of severe budget constraints for schools, this support continues to be vital in enabling us to fulfil a broad and balanced curriculum. Most recently, FOSS have agreed to purchase some Beebots to support programming as part of our Computing curriculum, and new books for Swans. As well as that, all children received an Easter egg from FOSS after completing the Easter egg hunt.

**FOSS needs your support!** We are always looking for new members with fresh, new ideas. If this is something you would like to be part of then speak to a current FOSS member or Miss Barbour in the school office.

### Decorate-an-Egg Competition

What incredible entries we had for this year's decorate-an-egg competition – they were all cracking! The theme was 'Books', 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, and thanks to FOSS for the prizes!



## The Hub of Hope



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/>

## Thrive and Shine Homework

This term's Thrive and Shine homework is linked to our school value of **TRUST**. Pupils should have received their Mission Passports at the start of the term. The deadline for the missions to be completed is **Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> June**.

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!



HOPE



TRUST



WISDOM



FRIENDSHIP



ENDURANCE



## Our Planet, Our Pledge: Celebrating 100 years of Attenborough – Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May



On 8th May, we will be celebrating David Attenborough's 100th birthday with a special themed day. Children will work in their house teams for the day and will take part in a rotation of 4 activities linked to nature and the environment. As they will be working in house teams, children should come to school wearing their house (coloured) t-shirt. This is part of the BBC Radio Leicester's 'Our Planet, Our Pledge' challenge. For taking part in this, we shall be receiving a free tree from The Woodland Trust to plant in a special spot in the school grounds.

One activity will be making a bird feeder - for this, we are asking for each child to bring to school an empty, clean, transparent plastic bottle. This should have the label removed and be a 500ml bottle. If you also have any extra bottles for spares then that would be great too!

## Maypole Festival, Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May, 1:30pm start

All parents, relatives and friends are welcome to join us on the playground from 1:40pm on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> 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.



## Staffing Update

It has been wonderful to welcome Mrs Gynane back to Swans following her maternity leave. Huge thanks go to Mrs Turner for her incredible work in covering the class during the last 12 months. Her boundless energy and enthusiasm has enabled Swans to continue to thrive during Mrs Gynane's absence and we are delighted that she will continue to teach Swans on Mondays.



# Snarestone CofE Primary School Parent Survey

## What our parents like most about our school:

We have a nurturing environment that focuses on children's happiness.

Staff are approachable, attentive and dedicated to the children's well-being and development.

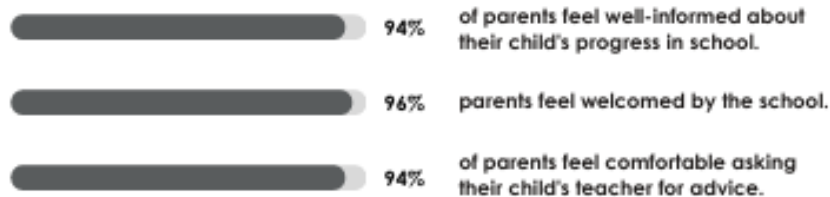
We have a strong ethos and values that have a positive impact on children's learning and development.

## What our parents think our school does really well:

We effectively support children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND).

We are friendly, welcoming and supportive.

We provide many opportunities through events and activities.



## What our parents think the school could do better:

- Consistency of communication to parents and between staff.
- Feedback from parents having a greater impact.

## What are our next steps?

- Review our communication systems between school and home.
- Review our internal communication systems to ensure greater consistency.
- Greater engagement with parents to enable more parent voice.



# Rise Multi Academy Trust

*Enabling all to 'flourish and succeed'*



## Who are Rise Multi Academy Trust?

Rise Multi Academy Trust (MAT) is a group of schools that work together as one organisation. Each school celebrates their own identity, vision, values and community, but benefits from being part of a wider family of schools that support one another. **Our shared purpose is simple:** to provide the very best education, care and opportunities for every child.

## How does Rise support schools?

Rise provides support across key areas, including:

- **Teaching & Learning** – sharing successful approaches and supporting high-quality lessons.
- **Staff Development and Wellbeing** – training, coaching and career opportunities for staff.
- **Inclusion & SEND** – ensuring all children get the support they need.
- **Safeguarding & Wellbeing** – keeping children safe and supported.
- **Finance & Operations** – making best use of funding and resources.

This means schools are not facing challenges alone.



## What are the benefits for staff?

- Access to high-quality training and professional development.
- Opportunities to work and learn across different schools.
- Clear career pathways and progression.
- Support with workload, wellbeing and leadership.

Supported staff = better outcomes for children.



## What does being part of a Trust mean?

- Schools work together rather than in isolation.
- Schools share expertise, resources and best practice.
- Schools are supported by a central team with specialist knowledge.
- Schools have strong governance and clear accountability.

The Trust supports schools so leaders and teachers can focus on what matters most – teaching, learning and children's wellbeing.

## What are the benefits for children?

- Improves the quality and consistency of teaching.
- Provides access to wider opportunities and experiences.
- Ensures strong support for additional needs.
- Creates stable, well-led schools.
- Prepares children for the next stage of their education and life.

Every decision is made with children's outcomes at the heart.



Scan the QR code to complete our survey & tell us why you chose our school!

## 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 age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and well-being. Here are two guides featuring Roblox and Minecraft:

# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

# ROBLOX

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Roblox is an online platform where users can play and create games known as 'experiences' made by other users. Roblox has a large UK audience. ITV News has reported that millions of people in Britain use the platform regularly, with children forming a significant proportion of its users. The sheer scale of it makes it extremely difficult to moderate effectively, creating risks for unsupervised children.

## A PLATFORM RATHER THAN A GAME

Roblox differs from traditional video games in that it hosts millions of user-created experiences rather than a fixed set of developer-produced content. Each experience is self-rated by its creator rather than independently age-rated in advance, as is the case with PEGI-rated games. With millions of user-created experiences, moderation is largely automated which means that inappropriate content may reach younger players and have a harmful effect.

## MATURE CONTENT

With much of Roblox's moderation automated through AI and creators self-certifying suitability, inappropriate content frequently appears on the platform. Some experiences may include content intended for older players. While Roblox has tools to restrict access based on age settings, these systems are not always perfect. Younger players are likely to encounter content you may deem unsuitable.

## IN-GAME SPENDING

Roblox is free to play, but many experiences and cosmetics include optional purchases using Robux, the platform's virtual currency, to get advantages in games. This business model is common across online games, but reporting has highlighted cases where children have spent large amounts of money unintentionally or without understanding the real-world cost.

## RISK OF ADDICTION

Roblox encourages repeated and extended play. Many experiences are made of short tasks, rewards, and progression systems that can prompt users to keep playing for longer periods of time. Some games also use reminders, daily rewards, or timed events to encourage frequent logins. These designs can make it difficult to stop playing. Spending long periods online may affect sleep, schoolwork, or other activities if boundaries are not in place.

## COMMUNICATION WITH OTHER USERS

Roblox includes text and voice features that allow players to chat in shared game spaces. While the platform uses automated filters and moderation tools, media investigations have found that inappropriate and potentially harmful messages can still get through. There are risks that children could be targeted by groomers. In response, Roblox has announced changes to how chat works. The platform plans to use facial age-estimation technology to restrict chat access between adults and children they do not know.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### USE PARENTAL CONTROLS

Roblox's parental controls provide an important starting point. Linking a child's account to an adult account allows parents to apply spending controls, limit communication features, and review recent activity. Regular supervision, use of parental controls, and conversations with children about what they see online can help reduce the risk of exposure to inappropriate content.

### CONSIDER LIMITING OR DISABLING CHAT

Although Roblox is introducing tighter age-based chat restrictions, some parents and educators may prefer to disable chat entirely for younger children. Children can still play games while communicating with friends they know through other supervised platforms.

### PLAY TOGETHER WHERE POSSIBLE

Playing Roblox with a child can help adults understand the types of experiences available, how monetisation works, and how children interact online. This shared engagement can also make it easier for children to raise concerns if something feels wrong. Parents and educators should monitor all games played on Roblox due to its self-rating nature.

### ENCOURAGE OPEN CONVERSATIONS

Many Roblox experiences are creative and age appropriate, and for many children, the platform is an important way to socialise with friends. Rather than banning it outright, parents and educators should talk openly with children about online safety, spending, and how to respond to inappropriate behaviour.

### Meet Our Expert

Alan Martin is a technology journalist who has written for publications including Wired, TechRadar, The Telegraph, The Evening Standard, The Guardian and The New Statesman.



The National College®

# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about MINECRAFT



Still the best-selling game of all time, Minecraft is a bastion of creativity and community, with hundreds of millions of players building and crafting in its almost endless world. The popularity of Minecraft among gamers of all ages means it's important to remain informed about the game, including how to play it safely and whether it's suitable for the children in your care. That's why we've created this guide explaining the risks associated with Minecraft and how to ensure a purely enjoyable gaming experience.

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

### SCARY ELEMENTS

While Minecraft can be seen as a kind of 'digital LEGO', certain game modes include creatures accompanied by eerie sound effects. These can be a bit too frightening for some younger players, potentially leading to distressing in-game combat and other encounters – although the combat is quite basic and free from any real depiction of violence.

### GRIEFING

Some players in Minecraft take pleasure in deliberately damaging or destroying another person's creations. This behaviour, known as 'griefing', is a form of bullying – it intentionally ruins someone else's experience by erasing hours of their work and forcing them to start over. Many public servers regard griefing as a serious offence and often ban those who engage in it.

### ADDICTIVENESS

Minecraft's focus on creativity means that, as with any creative endeavour, it can be easy to get carried away. If your child is finding it difficult to manage their time because they're drawn in by Minecraft's gameplay loop of resource gathering and building elaborate projects, it could have a knock-on effect on their social interactions and schoolwork.

### PUBLIC SERVERS AND COMMUNICATIONS

With public servers being so easily accessible in Minecraft, it's highly likely that children will end up chatting with strangers through the in-game text chat. Some servers even place an emphasis on social interaction, actively encouraging communication between players. While there's nothing inherently wrong with this, it does carry certain risks. In addition to the concerns around speaking with strangers online, players who host their own servers may have their IP addresses exposed, posing a further security concern.

### ADDITIONAL PURCHASES

Minecraft is available as a free trial on a variety of devices; however, the full game requires a one-off purchase. After that, players have the option to buy additional cosmetic upgrades or subscribe to Minecraft Realms. Realms is an entirely optional subscription service that allows users to run their own private server to play with friends. Without proper supervision, younger players may end up making unintended or excessive purchases.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### CHOOSE THE RIGHT MODE

Selecting Creative or Peaceful mode allows children to play Minecraft without having to contend with enemies. It's also a great way for you to get used to playing the game with them, since the difficulty level is far lower. This allows you to work together on a long-term project, creating something special without the threat of enemies and creatures attacking you or damaging your building.

### HOST A PRIVATE SERVER

The easiest way to find a safe server for children to play on is to make one yourself. Hosting a server prevents strangers from finding it, unless they've been given its address and password. A private server also lets you control who's allowed to enter and – if necessary – ban anyone who shouldn't be there. This is the closest equivalent to parental controls in Minecraft. Hosting a private server, however, will cost a monthly fee.

### TALK ABOUT STRANGERS

At some point in their lives, almost everyone will make contact with a stranger online. Talking to children about online safety, therefore, is essential – as is having a plan for dealing with any hostile or difficult people. It's important that a child knows never to tell a stranger about themselves online and that they should come to you straight away if they do encounter a problem.

### RESEARCH CONTENT CREATORS

Much of Minecraft's early stages can be an exercise in frustration for players who don't know where to start. Thankfully, there's a wealth of material online and in video format to help you learn the basics. Just be mindful that some of this content may not be appropriate for children, so you should consider watching it yourself first.

### PLAY MINECRAFT WITH YOUR CHILD

As a creative building tool, Minecraft makes it great fun for children to team up and construct vast buildings accompanied by imaginative landscapes, much like working with LEGO or model kits. Playing in a game mode that includes enemies can encourage critical thinking and teamwork; however, you should consider which game mode is appropriate for the child in your care.

### Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is Gaming Editor at the Daily Star, and has worked in games media for more than 6 years. A long-time gaming enthusiast, he is also a parent and therefore a keen advocate of online safety for children of all ages.



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

## Diary Dates: Summer Term 2025/26

Please find below diary dates that we currently have for the Summer Term: *New dates or changes are in red*

MAY			
Friday 1 <sup>st</sup>	VIP Assembly – all parents invited	2:55pm	whole school
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup>	<b>MAY DAY BANK HOLIDAY</b>		
Friday 8 <sup>th</sup>	<i>Attenborough Day – a special day themed around Sir David Attenborough to celebrate his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday – children to wear their house t-shirts</i>	all day	whole school
11 <sup>th</sup> – 14 <sup>th</sup> May	Year 6 SATs week	mornings	Year 6
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup>	Year 6 trip to Legoland, Windsor	until late - timings tbc	Year 6
Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup>	FOSS Colour Day – children may come to school dressed from head to toe in their house colour in return for a raffle prize of the same colour. Prizes will be raffled on Sports Day.	all day	whole school
	Unity netball competition at Woodstone Primary School	4pm start	Netball Club
	<i>Year 5 Debating Competition (if selected – see letter)</i>	after school	Debating Team
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Snarestone Annual Maypole Festival – all are welcome to join us. Cream teas and refreshments will be served by FOSS.	1:30pm start	whole school
25 <sup>th</sup> – 29 <sup>th</sup> May	<b>HALF TERM</b>		
JUNE			
1 <sup>st</sup> – 12 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 4 Multiplication Check		Year 4
Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Unity Swimming Gala – <i>details to follow</i>	9am-12pm	Swimming Team
Friday 5 <sup>th</sup>	VIP Assembly – all parents invited	2:55pm	whole school
	<i>Family Bingo Night for Air Ambulance – details to follow</i>	7pm start	families
8 <sup>th</sup> – 12 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 1 Phonics Screening Check		Year 1
Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup>	Sports Day – all are welcome to join us for our traditional school sports day. Refreshments will be available.	9:30am start	whole school
Friday 12 <sup>th</sup>	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 17 <sup>th</sup>	Area Sports Athletics at Saffron Lane – <i>details to follow</i>	tbc	KS2
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup>	Possible date for the Unity Presentation Evening – <i>venue and time to be confirmed</i>	evening, tbc	invite only
Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Deadline to hand in Thrive and Shine booklets, signed by parent/carer		whole school
Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Parent meeting for new Reception starters	4:30pm	new starters
Friday 26 <sup>th</sup>	Rainbow Friday – children may come to school in a rainbow of colours to support diversity.		whole school
	VIP Assembly – all parents invited	2:55pm	whole school
<b>Mon 29<sup>th</sup> &amp; Tues 30<sup>th</sup></b>	<i>Year 5/6 production to parents</i>	6pm start	Year 5/6
JULY			
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Transition day – children to spend the day in new classes. New reception children attend 8:45-11:45		whole school & new intake
Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	New Reception children attend 11:45-3:30		new intake
	Snarestone summer 'Festival on the Field' – <i>details to follow</i>	4:30-6:30	whole school
	End of year pupil reports sent to parents		whole school
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup>	Year 6 visit to Hunstanton – NB: children will return late	all day	Year 6
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup>	Year 6 SATs results day		Year 6
Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup>	Year 6 Leavers' Evening – parents invited to join us for a celebration of our Year 6 pupils	evening – time TBC	Year 6
Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup>	Year 6 Leavers' Service – all are invited to join us at St. Bartholomew's Church. Full school uniform please. <b>END OF TERM – SCHOOL CLOSSES FOR SUMMER BREAK</b>	9:30am start	whole school

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