



**SNARESTONE CofE
PRIMARY SCHOOL**



Newsletter: October 2026

Mount Cook, Macmillan and Much More: Our Autumn Half Term Round Up!

What a fantastic first half term it has been at Snarestone! We are incredibly proud of how well our wonderful Reception children have settled into school life. They have embraced every opportunity with enthusiasm and confidence, and it already feels as though they have always been part of our school family.

It has certainly been a busy and exciting few weeks, packed with memorable experiences and achievements. Highlights have included our Kingfishers' residential visit to Mount Cook, a fabulous performance of Dr Dolittle by Image Musical Theatre, and some outstanding performances from our cross-country team. We were also delighted to welcome so many families and friends to our Macmillan Coffee Morning and Grandparents to School Day. Thanks to your generosity, we raised over £260 for Macmillan Cancer Support. Thank you to everyone who has supported these events and helped make them such a success.

As we head into the half-term break, we would like to thank all our pupils, families and staff for their continued support and wish everyone a restful and enjoyable holiday. We look forward to welcoming everyone back for another busy and exciting half term.

Supporting Ashby Food Bank

As part of our Harvest celebrations, we are once again collecting donations for Ashby Food Bank. We know that many local families continue to face difficult circumstances, and even a small donation can make a real difference.

Please consider donating an item from the attached list of the food bank's most urgently needed supplies. All donations should be brought into school by the end of this week.

Thank you for your kindness, generosity and continued support in helping our local community. Together, we can make a real difference to those who need it most.

Our Most Wanted Items

Tinned hot meat
Tinned vegetables
Tinned rice pudding
Jam
Instant Mashed Potato
UHT Milk
Shampoo
Bars of Soap



Conkers Prize Extended to the Whole School!

We are absolutely delighted to share the news that Conkers Discovery Centre has very kindly agreed to extend our prize for winning the Heather Scarecrow Festival to include the entire school!

As a result, every child will have the opportunity to enjoy a free visit to Conkers Discovery Centre, which we are planning to arrange during the Spring Term.

A huge thank you to everyone at Conkers for their generosity and support. We are incredibly grateful and know that this will be a fantastic experience for all our children. We look forward to sharing more details with families in the coming months.

Life Education Visit

This half term, we welcomed the Life Education team to Snarestone for a series of engaging PSHE lessons across the school. Children explored important themes including friendship, feelings and celebrating what makes us unique. The sessions encouraged children to think about healthy relationships, understanding emotions and developing self-confidence. A particular highlight was meeting Harold the Giraffe, the much-loved Life Education mascot, who was a big hit with children and staff alike!



Attendance



EVERY DAY COUNTS
Every day in school matters.
Snarestone Primary School



Our attendance so far this year:
Swans Reception: 98.3%
Swans Year 1/2: 98.0%
Hérons: 97.8%
Kingfishers: 94.3%
Whole School: 97.0%

September's Attendance Award went to Reception with 98.3% - well done!

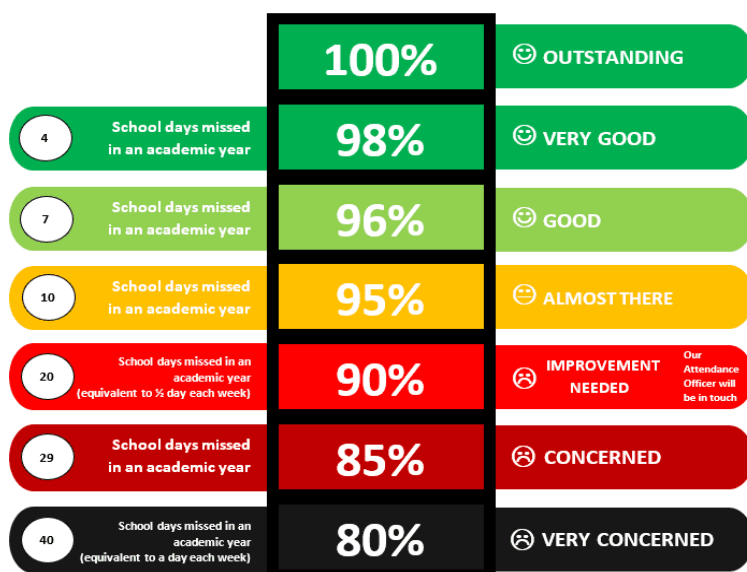
Attendance is one of the biggest factors in helping children succeed at school. When children attend regularly, they are more likely to make strong progress, develop positive friendships, feel confident and take full advantage of the opportunities available to them.

This year, we are launching our 'Every Day Counts' campaign to celebrate and promote excellent attendance across our school community. The campaign is designed to encourage pupils and families to recognise the importance of being in school every day, arriving on time and ready to learn. Throughout the year we will be sharing attendance information, celebrating successes and recognising classes and pupils who demonstrate excellent attendance and commitment to their learning.

We understand that children are sometimes genuinely unwell and should remain at home when necessary. However, wherever possible, we ask families to support us by ensuring children attend school every day and by arranging appointments and family holidays outside term time.

Together, we can ensure that every child enjoys the full benefit of their education and all the opportunities that school life provides. Thank you for your continued support.

Every Day Counts. Every Lesson Counts. Every Child Counts.



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**.

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.

Children should be off school for 48 hours if they have diarrhoea or a sickness bug. However, if your child has managed a day without being sick or having loose stools then speak to the school office as your child may be able to return to school before the 48-hour time frame.

If you are unsure how long your child should be absent with an illness, speak to the school, your doctor or a pharmacist for advice.





Diary Dates: Autumn Term 2026

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

OCTOBER			
Thursday 15th	Open afternoon for prospective 2027 starters	1:30-3pm	
Friday 16th	TEACHER TRAINING DAY – SCHOOL CLOSED TO PUPILS		
19th – 23rd	HALF TERM		
Tuesday 27th	Parents' Evening – full details to follow. You will be able to sign up for a 10-minute timeslot	tbc	all classes
Wednesday 28th	Parents' Evening – full details to follow. You will be able to sign up for a 10-minute timeslot	tbc	all classes
Friday 30th	FOSS Halloween Party/Disco	Swans 3:30-5pm KS2 5:30-7pm	
NOVEMBER			
Monday 2nd	Flu immunisations	am	whole school
Friday 6th	VIP Assembly – all parents invited	2:50pm	whole school
Wednesday 11th	Walk to Snarestone War Memorial for Remembrance	11am	whole school
Friday 13th	Children in Need – fundraising activities to be decided by our School Parliament	all day	whole school
	Celebration Assembly – children may talk about an out-of-school achievement (sign-up sheet on Mr. Jewitt's door)	2:50pm	whole school
16th – 20th	Anti-Bullying Week. Theme: Break the Silence	all week	whole school
	Monday 16 th - Odd Socks Day (children may wear colourful, crazy odd socks to celebrate diversity)		
Tuesday 17th	Open morning for prospective 2027 starters	9.30-10.40am	
Friday 20th	FOSS Family Quiz Night – details to follow	evening	all welcome
Friday 27th	VIP Assembly – all parents invited	2:50pm	whole school
DECEMBER			
Tuesday 1st	School Christmas post box opens		whole school
Thursday 3rd	Christingle assembly (children will need a large orange)	am	whole school
Friday 4th	Santa Fun Run for Rainbows – wear PJs and Christmas headwear – small donation for Rainbows and raffle prize for FOSS – full details to follow	am	whole school
	Celebration Assembly – children may talk about an out-of-school achievement (sign-up sheet on Mr. Jewitt's door)	2:50pm	whole school
Tuesday 8th	Swans Christmas Nativity performance	2:00pm	Swans
Wednesday 9th	Christmas Jumper Day	am	whole school
	Decorations Day		
	Swans Christmas Nativity performance	5:30pm	Swans
Friday 11th	VIP Assembly – all parents invited (inc. raffle draw)	2:50pm	whole school
Tuesday 15th	Panto at Derby Arena – Snow White children will return late to school on this date	return approx. 5pm	whole school
Thursday 17th	Christmas dinner tbc		whole school
	Children may dress in their Christmas jumpers/hats/tinsel etc.		
	FOSS Christmas Movie Night – details to follow	after school	whole school
Friday 18th	Christmas service at St. Bartholomew's Church tbc	10am start	all welcome
	Last day of term – children may wear their Christmas jumpers		whole school
21st Dec – 1st Jan	SCHOOL CLOSED		
JANUARY			
Monday 4th	School re-opens to pupils		whole school

Friday 8th	Young Voices concert at the BP Pulse Arena, Birmingham – details and timings to follow	concert 7pm start	KS2
FEBRUARY			
w/b 1st	Children's Mental Health Week		
Tuesday 9th	Internet Safety Day. Theme: Together for a Better Internet.'	all day	whole school
Friday 12th	TEACHER TRAINING DAY – SCHOOL CLOSED TO PUPILS		
15th – 19th	HALF TERM		

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

Cross Country

NWL CROSS COUNTRY DATES 2026-27

We are pleased to inform you that we now have the dates for the North West Leicestershire cross country races, which are open to all children from Reception to Year 6. The race dates and venues are as follows:



Saturday 7th November - 10am - organised by Moira Primary School and hosted by Moira Furnace

Saturday 5th December- 10am- organised and hosted by Sir John Moore Primary School

Saturday 16th January – 10am- organised by Ibstock Junior School and hosted by Coalville Rugby Club.

Term Dates 2026-27

Autumn Term

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

Spring Term

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

Summer Term

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

Term Dates 2027-28

Autumn Term

Teacher Days	Thursday 19 th & Friday 20 th August 2027
School Opens to Pupils	Monday 23 rd August 2027
August Bank Holiday	Monday 30 th August 2027
Teacher Day	Friday 15 th October 2027
Mid-Term Break	Monday 18 th to Friday 22 nd October 2027
Schools Close	Friday 17 th December 2027

Spring Term

School Opens to Pupils	Tuesday 4 th January 2028
Teacher Day	Friday 18 th February 2028
Mid-Term Break	Monday 21 st to Friday 25 th February 2028
Schools Close	Friday 7 th April 2028

Summer Term

School Opens	Monday 24 th April 2028
May Day	Monday 1 st May 2028
Mid-Term Break	Monday 29 th May to Friday 2 nd June 2028
Schools Close	Friday 7 th July 2028



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/>

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. This online safety guide focuses on social media and mental health. It highlights a number of tips such as how to hide content, setting daily limits and discussing what children have seen online.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about SOCIAL MEDIA & MENTAL HEALTH

An estimated one-third of children have a social media account, so it's important that trusted adults know what content young people are consuming, what they're posting and the interactions they're having. On social media, it can be easy to go down 'rabbit holes' that aren't beneficial to our wellbeing. As platforms grapple with managing such 'legal but harmful' content, lives are being impacted – sometimes to tragic effect. We might be daunted by the scale of the tech giants and their content which so entrails young people, but we can still help children to be aware of their mental wellness: recognising when something isn't OK ... and knowing what to do about content that upsets them.

1. UNDERSTAND THE ALGORITHM

Algorithms rank content by user interest: someone who regularly interacts with sports news, say, will see the latest results at the top of their feed. Likewise, if a user browses content that can cause harm, that's what will be recommended to them in future. Someone who's had a bad day and looks for posts which reflect their mood will find similar content being suggested to them more and more.

2. AVOID THE MAIN FEEDS

Avoiding the default feeds on social media platforms limits the amount of recommended content that's shown. Users can opt to only scroll through the accounts they follow, use restricted modes, or highlight posts that they don't want to see more of. Explore the platform safety settings to see how you can take control of what your child's phone shows them when they open the app.

3. DISCUSS WHAT THEY'VE SEEN

Chatting about what your child's seen online keeps you aware of the content they're interacting with. Don't assume that platforms are screening out inappropriate material, or even that your child would recognise content as being harmful. Discuss what they follow, what posts they like and what comes up in their feeds: if alarm bells ring, it could be time for a more in-depth talk or to seek support.

4. LEARN HOW TO HIDE CONTENT

If your child stumbles across unuitable content on social media, there's the option to hide that post as well as indicating you'd prefer any similar material not to be suggested in future. On some platforms, you might also be able to block posts that contain specific words, which is an excellent way to start taking control of what your child sees online.

5. SET DAILY LIMITS

Phones and most apps can tell you how much they're being used. Spending too long online can mean a child misses out on other activities that are important to all-round wellbeing. You could set some family rules – for everyone to follow – around device use, such as screen time limits and tech-free spaces: involving your child in creating this agreement makes them more likely to stick to it.

6. MONITOR THEIR ACTIVITY

Keeping a discreet eye on how your child is using social media can help ensure they're not entering potentially dangerous situations. As they grow up, of course, children need space to exercise their independence – but you can still occasionally ask to see what they're looking at. Be transparent about your own social media use and try not to sound judgemental about your child's.

7. TURN OFF PUSH NOTIFICATIONS

Even for adults, it's tempting to check an email or message as soon as the alert sound pings. Push notifications encourage people to open their apps and spend time on their device, so turning them off will help your child to practise mindful use of tech. Most of us have other things that we need to focus on as a priority – and those notifications will still be there later, when we have more time.

8. USE DEVICES TOGETHER

Giving children internet-enabled devices and complete freedom to explore platforms on their own can result in exposure to hugely damaging content. You could consider making a particular area at home a designated space to use phones, tablets and so on – making it much easier to monitor what content your child is viewing and (if necessary) steer them away from any potentially harmful paths.

9. ENCOURAGE OTHER ACTIVITIES

Mental health professionals often highlight the importance of exercise, quality time with loved ones, a balanced diet and restful sleep for our mental wellbeing. Spending hours on social media can cause us to sacrifice other activities that our brains need to feel well – so encouraging your child to put down their phone and enjoy something that doesn't involve a screen can be immensely beneficial.

10. TALK ABOUT PEER PRESSURE

Most platforms default children's accounts to private, so only people they've accepted as friends can see their posts. This reduces the risk of bullying or unkind comments, but – just like offline life – the digital world can still make children feel as if they need to act or look a certain way to fit in. Talk to your child about peer pressure, and listen to any concerns so you can provide the support they need.

Meet Our Expert

Shazia Sarwar-Azim is executive headteacher at a specialist primary school and, as an emotional therapy coach, works with school leaders to focus on the SEND, mental health and wellbeing agenda. A passionate advocate for vulnerable learners, Shazia is a Fellow of the Chartered College of Teaching and the author of *The Rainbow Within*, a book which supports children with SEMH needs.



National
Online
Safety

#WakeUpWednesday

Sources: <https://www.bbc.com/news/technology-53204835>
<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/keeping-children-safe-on-social-media>