



Squirrel Hayes First School
Springfield Road
Biddulph
Stoke On Trent
ST8 7DF
Headteacher: Mrs. E. J. Pickford
Telephone: 01782 973820
Twitter: @squirrelhayes

Thursday 2nd September 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome Back



Welcome to the start of the Autumn Term. I hope you have all had an enjoyable summer break and that your child/children are looking forward to another school year. All our learners have many exciting learning opportunities to look forward to over the up and coming weeks and we hope that they will quickly settle back into the routine of school life.

As you will already be aware from the news and wider communications, the rules around COVID-19 in schools have changed. These changes are to ensure that pupils have as much time learning in school and to minimise the impact of people having to self-isolate. You will find attached a letter from Staffordshire County Council detailing some of the main changes.

COVID-19 Update for Squirrel Hayes First School



Whilst many of the COVID-19 restrictions that were in place previously have been relaxed or removed, schools still have a duty to ensure the safety of their learning community. The government have released guidance to support schools in maintaining a proportionate approach to managing the on-going risks of COVID-19. In response, we have updated our COVID-19 Risk Assessment to reflect these changes. Some protective measures remain in place especially around the following:

- Ensuring good hygiene for everyone
- Maintaining appropriate cleaning regimes
- Keeping occupied spaces well ventilated
- Following public health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of COVID-19

We will be updating our school website at the start of next week with our new Risk Assessment details and COVID outbreak Management Plans.

The following is a summary of the key changes and protective measures that will be in place for the start of the Autumn Term. Please note that schools may be required to 'step up' and increase the protective measures in place, should there be an 'outbreak' in school or should the Local Authority, Public Health England or Department for Education instruct schools to do so, due to changes both locally or nationally.

This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people/vulnerable adults and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.



Key Changes:

- One-way system no longer in place. Access to classes via the school pathway by Early Years and main school yard.
- Start and finish times of the school day return to normal (Nursery 9.00am - 12.00pm, All other classes 9.00am - 3.15pm - note all classes offer a flexible opening time from 8.45am - 9.00am)
- Use of hand sanitizer to remain in place on entry to school premises (adults and children)
- Class bubbles removed - children in class groups with some mixing for some classes linked to the school timetable.
- School uniform worn every day apart from Fitness Fridays and your child's designated PE day. Children to come to school in their School PE Kit on these days.
- School book bags/bags allowed - children asked not to bring in toys from home
- Children will continue to have their own stationary and equipment - any resources shared will be cleaned in between use
- Staff, children and visitors to wash hands/sanitize when entering and exiting different rooms and buildings.
- Regular cleaning routine continued at designated points of the school day
- All areas used remain well-ventilated - children to bring additional warm clothing when the weather is cooler
- Staff, visitors or children to remain at home if they have any COVID-19 symptoms and to book a PCR test.
- Visitors to school encouraged to make appointments.
- Face coverings to be worn by visitors/parents in the school Main Reception area or if attending a meeting in school

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- All members of the schools community to follow public health advice on testing, self-isolation.
- Remote learning through 'Google Classroom's available for those required to self-isolate or who cannot attend school due to COVID-19.
- Parents/Carers to keep school updated and informed about PCR test results following possible COVID-19 symptoms.

Uniform Orders



Smart school uniform have made us aware that despite their best efforts, there are a small proportion of orders that they have been unable to complete. They have confirmed that this is because their own normal reliable suppliers have been unable to meet their stated deadlines on time.

Smart have confirmed they will be doing all they can for these customers over the coming weeks to get their orders completed just as soon as possible.

If you have any specific issues, please let the school office know and we will speak to our contact at smart and arrange for her to look after you personally.

School Lunch Menus



Please see attached updated school lunch menus for the Autumn and Spring Term.

If you require any additional information or have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the school office.

Yours sincerely,
Mrs E. J. Pickford (Headteacher) & Team

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Jonathan Price
Cabinet Member for Education (and SEND)
Councillor for Stafford North

Staffordshire County Council
2 Staffordshire Place
Tipping Street, Stafford ST16 2DH
Telephone: (01785) 276121
E-mail: jonathan.price@staffordshire.gov.uk
Website: www.staffordshire.gov.uk

Letter to Parents

My Ref: JP / TK 079

Your Ref:

Date: 31 August 2021

Dear Parent

We hope you have had a relaxing summer break, and your child is looking forward to another school year.

The rules around Covid-19 in schools have changed, to ensure pupils have as much time learning in school as possible and to minimise the impact of people having to self-isolate.

Here are some of the main changes:

1. Under 18s no longer need to self-isolate if they are a close contact of someone with Covid-19. They will only need to isolate if they are showing symptoms of Covid-19. They should instead take a PCR test to confirm they are negative.
2. Face coverings are no longer recommended in school, but we would strongly recommend that these continue to be worn on dedicated school or college transport.
3. Children will no longer need to be in 'bubbles,' but your school may decide to keep some form of grouping of pupils.
4. Schools will undertake two on-site tests for those in Y7 and above, at the start of the Autumn term. After that, please continue to test your child twice a week at home. Testing helps prevent positive Covid-19 cases being brought into school and will further reduce any disruption.
5. You may have seen in the news about Covid-19 vaccinations for 12-15-year olds. No decisions from government have been made on these yet, but we will look to work with schools and the NHS on any vaccination programme. Staffordshire County Council and Public Health England will keep monitoring schools and offer support if Covid cases increase.

Schools have developed their own arrangements for the start of the Autumn term to support a successful start to the new school year.



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We understand that some parents and children will be anxious about returning to school. We would encourage anyone to talk through these measures, and any school-specific ones, with your child's school who will be able to reassure them about the measures being taken in school.

If you have a child aged 16 or 17, please ensure they get their vaccine as soon as possible. Details of walk in centres can be found on the NHS website: www.nhs.uk.

The past 18 months have been tough for schools and pupils, and we hope to return to some sort of normality over the next school year. We must remember that Covid is still with us, and we must be vigilant and take sensible steps to keep Covid-19 levels low in schools. Please continue to do everything you can to help your local school remain open and keep children learning by following the rules your school will have in place.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Jonathan Price".

Jonathan Price
Cabinet Member for Education
(and SEND)

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Richard Harling".

Richard Harling
Director for Health and Care

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