



Friday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome Back



Welcome to the first half of the Spring Term. I hope you have all had an enjoyable Christmas and New Year. We have lots of exciting opportunities planned over the forthcoming weeks.

Admissions

Please be reminded that you need to apply for a Reception and Middle School place by 15<sup>th</sup> January 2022. The link to apply is below:

<https://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/Education/Admissions-primary/Apply/Overview.aspx>

Snow/Adverse Weather Conditions Procedure



As we are entering into another cold and wintery period, I thought it would be appropriate to update you on the snow/adverse weather conditions procedures. The health & safety of your child is of paramount importance to all the staff here at Squirrel Hayes First School. Any decision taken to close the school due to snow or dangerous weather conditions will be considered very carefully following health and safety guidance.

If the school has to be closed due to health & safety reasons surrounding snow or adverse weather conditions then you will be informed as soon as possible through the following:

- Text message on your mobile
- Message on the school's website
- Message on the Staffordshire schools website ([www.staffordshire.gov.uk/education/schoolsandcolleges/emergencyclosures](http://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/education/schoolsandcolleges/emergencyclosures))
- Parents can also sign up to the county council's [alert system](#) which links into the above process to alert parents of their specific closures via text and email.
- Announcement on the local radio stations (BBC Radio Stoke, Signal Radio + signals website [www.signal1.co.uk](http://www.signal1.co.uk))
- Notice on the school gates

If an emergency closure is made during the day you will be required to come and collect your child from school. Please see table below for information regarding where to collect your child from:

**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.**



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

Class	Where to collect
Nursery (Columba) Mrs. P Preston	Collected from the Early Years block via the white door (older siblings will join them)
Reception (Columba) Mrs. F Taylor	Collected from the Early Years block via the white door (older siblings will join them)
Year 1/2 (Leonis) Miss. S Smith	Collected from the main school office entrance (older siblings will join them)
Year 2/3 (Perseus) Mrs. A Harris	Collected from the main school office entrance (older siblings will join them)
Year 3/4 (Draco) Mrs. H Johnson-Allen	Collected from Year 3/4 Draco classroom

**Please do not phone the school to see if the school is closing, this will only jam up the phone lines and prevent us from making emergency calls or contacting the relevant bodies to inform them of school closure.** We do not take the decision to close schools lightly and will be considering the safety of all if a closure is needed.

**Inspire Dance**



Just a reminder that Inspire Dance club commences on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2022. You will receive a text message to confirm if your child has a place on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2022.

**COVID-19 Update**



As a Staffordshire school, we will be following both the National guidance and that from Staffordshire's Local Outbreak Team. As a result, the following guidance will apply moving forward until notified of any further changes:

- All identified close contacts of a positive case will be asked to complete a PCR test on day 2 and take lateral Flow Tests from day 1 - 7. If your child received a negative PCR test result, they will be able to return to school and are advised to continue to undertake Lateral Flow Tests until the 7 days are completed.  
*(This will apply to all adults who are fully vaccinated and all children between 5 - 18 years and 6 months, identified as a contact of someone with COVID)*
- Children under 5 and in our Nursery provision will not be expected to complete 7 days of Lateral Flow Tests but will still need to have a PCR test and await a negative result before returning to school. The rest of the family around the child are advised to complete the Lateral Flow Tests for days 1 - 7.

**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.**





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

Please note that Daily testing of close contacts applies to:

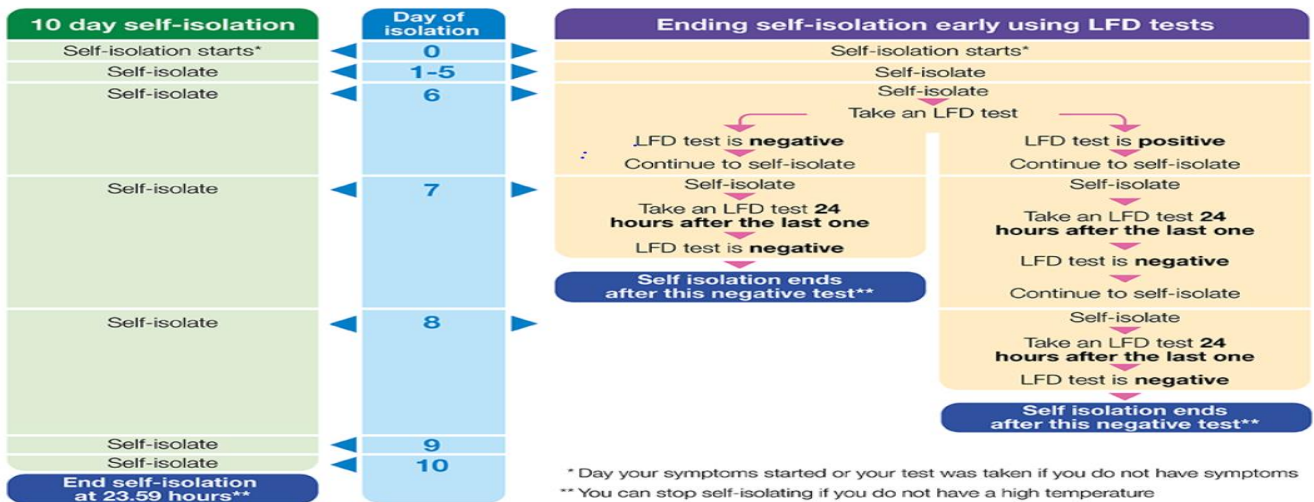
1. Fully vaccinated adults - had 2 doses of an approved vaccine
2. People who are unable to get vaccinated for medical reasons
3. People who are taking part in an approved clinical trial for the COVID-19 vaccine.

Please see link below to the school's COVID-19 Risk Assessment on the school website.

<https://primarysite-prod-sorted.s3.amazonaws.com/squirrel/UploadedDocument/eeb12d09-533c-44f9-9b4f-e0997147eac/220107-covid-19-risk-assessment-full-school-opening-v9.pdf>

Please note the diagram below shows the government's latest guidance on isolation periods

**Examples of when to end self-isolation if you have had COVID-19 symptoms or have received a positive COVID-19 test result**



Confirmatory PCR tests following a positive lateral flow device (LFD) test result are to be temporarily suspended from Tuesday 11 January 2022. This will mean that anyone who receives a positive LFD test result will be required to self-isolate immediately and will not be required to take a confirmatory PCR test.

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

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.

