



Wednesday 8th March 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

Red Nose Day 2022 - Friday 18th March



On Friday the 18th March we will be joining people across the UK in fundraising for Red Nose Day. This year's theme is 'Funny is Power'. **We are aiming to raise at least £100 by inviting both the staff and pupils to join in this year's fundraising activities.**

This year we are inviting all learners to donate a £1.00 and to come to school on Friday 18th March wearing either a 'red item' or dressed as a Superhero. All learners will be taking part in a number of activities linked to this year's theme 'Funny is Power'.

Your help in supporting this worthy fundraising events is much appreciated.

Reading Workshops



If any parents are interested in home support for reading, please speak to your class teacher.

Home-school-partnership in Learning



'Google Classrooms' is your 'go to' space for all of your child's weekly home learning tasks. Due to the major disruption in learning caused by the pandemic, it is now more important than ever that you support your child in accessing 'Google Classroom's each week to aid them in their educational recovery. **Home-learning tasks such as those listed below are available for your child each week:**

- Spellings - **Compulsory**
- Over-learning & Discussion prompts - **optional**

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- Bug Club - optional
 - Oxford Owl - optional
 - Times Table Rock Stars - **Compulsory**
 - Numbots - optional
 - Reading Dairy - **Compulsory** (submit the reading diary or drop a comment in the 'reading google classroom')
- We recognise that access to 'devices' and ability to connect to on-line activities at home will be different for everyone.** We have been looking a variety of options to support you in ensuring that your child has access to a reliable ICT device on which they can complete their weekly home-learning.

To help us explore this further **we need you to complete and submit your responses to the following simple survey. This can be done by clicking on the link below or clicking on the link, which will also been sent to you by text.**

<https://forms.office.com/r/LRtC7QVz7w>

We will be using the results and findings from the survey to organize loan devices to homes where access to a suitable laptop or chrome book is required. We want to support you as much as possible in helping your child to maximize their learning opportunities both in and outside of school through using 'Google Classrooms'.

If you are unsure how to help your child access their 'Google Classrooms' account, please speak to your child's class teacher or contact the school office to request another copy of your child's login details.

School Uniform Review



The department for education has updated its statutory guidance to schools regarding school uniform and the costs associated with this. At Squirrel Hayes we are very aware of the increasing costs of living and want to ensure that we work in partnership with our community regarding our school uniform and making sure that its cost is 'reasonable' and 'best value for money'.

In response to this, we have given some thought to how we may be able to ensure that the cost of our school uniform is as affordable as possible. Please see the points below:-

- Learners do not need to come to school wearing uniform on days they have PE or on a Friday when it is 'Active Learning Day'. As a result, there will be less need to buy as much school uniform e.g. decrease the amount of shirts required etc.
- PE kit to be changed to (black leggings/joggers/shorts for girls) and (black shorts/joggers for boys). These items are easily purchased in many shopping outlets and supermarkets and do not need to be branded.

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The PE top to be changed from a blue Squirrel Hayes T-shirt to a white polo shirt for both boys and girls. These items are easily purchased in many shopping outlets and supermarkets and do not need to be branded with the school logo.

- School main uniform to remain the same. (hopefully parents would no longer need to buy as many quantities due to coming to school in PE kit on 2 days a week)
- Second Hand uniform items available from Smart Uniform shop.
- School 'book bags' optional as parents are free to provide another school bag for learners to keep their books and learning materials in.
- Voucher available to help towards the cost of school uniform when purchased from 'Smart Uniform' for learners who qualify for Free School Meals.

Your feedback on these possible changes is important to us. Please could you therefore spare a minute to complete the attached survey regarding the above suggestions. The link to this survey can be found below.

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=6MDVPap5rEuvvzQTS__LbJVLTFKwMwRDlpwA_fXrbltUNUhQSUNNQ09TS0JNT0dHMUFHRFQzQ0pYVS4u

Once we have collated all your views, these will be shared with the Governing Body and you will be updated regarding any proposed uniform changes for September 2022 as a result.

A MUSICAL INVITATION TO ALL PUPILS (Year 3 to Year 13)



Please see below message form the Moorlands Music Centre:

Dear Parents/Carers of Young Musicians and Singers,

I'm Mr Hollingshurst, the Centre Manager for the Moorlands Music Centre. I'm writing to invite your child to join one or more of our FREE music groups/bands.

For beginners and younger musicians (from Year 3 to Y13), we currently run STRINGSTERS (our Training String Orchestra for any violin, viola, cello and bass players) and the Training Wind Band (for all wind and brass instruments). Both groups are perfect for young beginner musicians. For all those who love to sing (Y3 and older)...we also have our Centre Choir. Older pupils (grade 3+) are invited to join our Wind Band and String Orchestra.

Membership of all our groups is completely FREE. We meet once or twice a month on Saturday mornings, at Blythe Bridge High School, ST11 9PW. Rehearsals for the instrumental groups are from 9.30-11.30am, with the

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choir following from 11.30-12.15pm...instrumentalists are very welcome to stay on for choir and non-instrumentalists are welcome to join the choir too of course! All groups are led by very experienced instrumental/vocal teachers and all groups achieve very high standards of performance. We usually hold two concerts a year, and occasionally perform at other local events when we are invited to.

Our next rehearsal is this coming SATURDAY 5th MARCH and your son/daughter would be very welcome to come along. In order to join, pupils will need to bring their instrument. During the morning rehearsals we have a Tuck Shop break, so pupils might like to bring a small amount of money to spend (snack prices range from 20p to £1). Parents/carers then collect their children at the end of the rehearsal, at 11.30am. (or 12.15pm if they are in the choir).

Music-making is such a social activity - Moorlands Music Centre gives your child the chance to meet and perform with other like-minded young musicians from across North Staffordshire, in an inclusive and nurturing environment, but one which seeks and achieves high quality musical outcomes for all pupils and groups. Put simply, playing music with others is not only a great way to become a better musician, it's also much more fun!

I really hope to see your child soon at Moorlands Music Centre. If you can't make this Saturday's rehearsal, our next will be on Saturday 19th March and Saturday 2nd April. If you have any questions about the Centre or our rehearsals, please don't hesitate to contact me via email (contact details below) or see the attached music centre information leaflet.



<p>Moorlands Music Centre Venue: Blythe Bridge High School, ST11 8PW When: Saturday Forthright Rehearsals Centre Manager: Mr Dan Hollingshurst dan.hollingshurst@entrust-ed.co.uk</p> <p>09.30-11.30 Training Viol Band - Beginners to Grade 2 - Mr Fossil Woodwind - Beginners to Grade 2 - Mr Frost Woodwind - Grade 3 and above - Mrs Hollingshurst Wind Band - Grade 3 and above - Mrs Thom 11.30 - 12.15 Voices Together Choir - All ages and abilities - Mrs Hollingshurst</p> <p>Dates September 11, 25 October 9 November 13, 27 December 4 (Concert) January 15, 29 February 12 March 5, 19 April 2 May 7, 21 June 18 (Concert)</p>	<p>Friends of Moorlands Young Musicians The Friends support the young people in the Centre. If you can spare a little time or want more information, please contact Mr Hollingshurst</p> <p>Cross Region Ensemble - Jazz Festival 2022 Northern Jazz meets at Newcastle Music Centre in the Spring Term only to prepare for the Jazz Festival. Grade 3 and above Musicians are welcomed</p> <p>Contact: Mrs Golds (Newcastle Music Centre Manager) janine.golds@entrust-ed.co.uk for more information</p> <p>Staffordshire Sings Moorlands Music Centre works in partnership with local schools to provide singing opportunities for school choirs. Staffordshire Sings Local Leader caroline.hollingshurst@entrust-music.co.uk</p>
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Year 4 Leavers Hoodies

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Once again, we will be offering our Year 4 pupils the option to order a leavers hoodie. Once again these can be ordered through the Smart School Uniform website by clicking the below link. In order for these to be delivered to school, any orders need to be placed by the end of **March 2022**.

<https://smartuniform.co.uk/product/squirrel-hayes-leavers-hoodies/>

Nursery Provision



Children can attend our Nursery setting the term after they become 3 years old. We offer 3 intakes per year: September, January and April.

January Intake: If your child is 3 years old by 31 st December, they are eligible to start our Nursery setting in January. Please apply by 25 th October.
April Intake: If your child is 3 years old by 31 st March, they are eligible to start our Nursery setting after the Easter half term break. Please apply by 28 th February.
September Intake: If your child is 3 years old by 31 st August, they are eligible to start our Nursery setting in September. Please apply by 30 th June.

Please contact the school office if you would like your child to join our Nursery setting. Alternatively, complete the nursery admission form that can be found on our school website (link below) drop it into the school office or email it over to admin@squirrelhayes.staffs.sch.uk

<https://www.squirrelhayes.staffs.sch.uk/admissions/>

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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ENERGY COSTS CAFE

For Residents & Businesses

Saturday, 19th March 2022
10 am till 1.00 pm
Biddulph Town Hall

FREE REFRESHMENTS GIVEAWAYS

WWW.BIDDULPH.CO.UK OR CALL ON 01782 498480

Are you worried about the increase in fuel prices?
Concerned about heating or eating?

Do you need help to manage your budget?

Are you a carer or are you or someone you know vulnerable?

Are you interested in making simple changes in your home (private or association) to save some money?

You are not alone.

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