

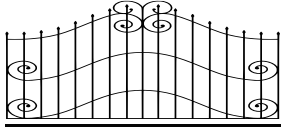


Squirrel Hayes First School
Springfield Road
Biddulph
Stoke on Trent
ST8 7DF
Headteacher: Mrs. E. J. Pickford
Telephone: 01782 973820
Twitter: @squirrelhayes
Facebook: facebook.com/squirrelhayes

Friday 11th October 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

School Security



Please be aware that the school will not officially be open to Pupils and Parents/Carers until 8:30am in the morning. The school day starts at 08:45am and the school day ends at 3:15pm unless your child is attending an after-school club/extra-curricular learning.

Please be aware as a Parent/Carer you are responsible for the safety and supervision of your child or children until they enter the classroom at 08:45am and from collection at 3:15pm.

Thank you for your cooperation in helping us to ensure a smooth and safe school day for everyone.

Harvest Assembly



Thank you to everyone who kindly donated to our Harvest Celebration last week. All food donated will be given to our Local Food bank in support of our local community.

Spooky Disco



We will be hosting a 'Spooky disco' after school on **Monday 21st October 2024**. The Disco will commence from **3.30pm - 4.30pm**. Entry will be **£1.50**; you can now **purchase the entry fee on Parent Pay**, which will be displayed as "Spooky Disco 2024". The entrance fee will include a snack and drink.

Academy Photography



Academy Photography will be in school on **Thursday 24th October 2024** to photograph individuals and siblings. **Please ensure your child is wearing their normal full school uniform on this day.** Family photographs will start from 08:15am.



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Beeston Castle Educational Visit - Hydra Class - Thursday 7th November 2024



This term Hydra children will have the opportunity to enhance their learning with an educational visit to **Beeston Castle**. This will take place **Thursday 7th November 2024**; learners will need to **arrive in school at 7.50am** for a prompt 8:15am set off. We will return to school at approximately 3.15pm. In order to support the school fund learning outside the classroom, we are kindly asking for a contribution of **£10.00**. Payments are to be made via Parent Pay.

Attendance



We would like to remind you of the critical importance of your child's attendance and punctuality at school. Regular attendance is essential for your child's academic success and social development. Please be aware that VIP Education continues to work closely with our school to monitor attendance. School starts promptly at 08:45am, and any arrival after this time will be marked as late. The register closes at 09:10am, and arrivals after this time will be recorded as 'U' for unauthorized absence. Accumulating too many 'L' (late) and 'U' marks can lead to letters being sent home and may even result in fines issued by the local authority. Your cooperation in ensuring your child arrives on time every day is greatly appreciated.

Space Cadets - Before and After School Club (based at Squirrel Hayes First School)



We understand that working around the school day can sometimes pose a challenge with the increasing demands of work and home life. Space Cadets is based at Squirrel Hayes First School and runs a before and after school club for school aged children aged 4 to 11 years old. Breakfast club runs from 7.30am - 8:45am (Squirrel Hayes children can just turn up so long as they are registered with Space Cadets). After school club runs from 3.15pm-6.00pm (needs to be pre-booked). Space Cadets also run a holiday club available from 7.30am to 6.00pm. For further information please either speak to the office or call Krystle 07500803876.



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Data Collection and Contact/Permissions Information



We still have a few data collection forms that need to be completed and handed into school. Thank you to all parents who have given theirs in so promptly, it is much appreciated.

Applying for Free School Meals

Apply online - Free School Meals

As part of our commitment to supporting our students and families, we want to ensure that every eligible child has access to free school meals. If you believe you might be entitled to this benefit, we encourage you to take a moment to check your eligibility. Why Consider Free School Meals? If your child qualifies they will not only be entitled to a Free School Meal but will also be able to access further funded support in school.

How to Check Your Eligibility: If you believe you may qualify for free school meals, please visit our online application portal: [Apply for Free School Meals](#). The process is quick and straightforward, taking approximately 2 minutes. You will receive an answer promptly, allowing you to make informed decisions for your child. Thank you for your attention to this matter. We are committed to supporting our school community, and we encourage all eligible families to explore the benefits of free school meals.

Apply online here - <https://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/education/educational-awards-benefits/freeschoolmeals/apply-online.aspx>

Walk to school month (October)



We are encouraging pupils and parents to take part in Walk to School Month this October. Walking is a healthy, active and non-polluting way of getting to school. For those that live too far away to walk the whole distance away try parking 5-10 minutes from the school and walking the rest of the way. Walking also promotes a less congested environment around the school gate making it safer for everyone. [#WalkToSchoolMonth](#) Please see below a video. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jCOURHoQga8>



Important Dairy Dates



Please find below a table of events that have been planned for the Autumn Term. Please note that we always try our best to stick to the planned dates and times but on occasion's changes have to be made due to unforeseen circumstances. If this is the case, we will always try to give you as much notice as possible. Please note dates in blue have been added or changed:

DATE	EVENT	CLASS
Monday 21 st October 3:30pm - 4:30pm	Spooky Disco	All classes
Tuesday 22 nd October 6:30-8:00pm	Full Governing Body Meeting	Governors
Thursday 24 th October	Academy Photography (Individual & siblings photographs)	All classes
Friday 25 th October	School closes at 3:15pm for the Half Term break	All classes
Monday 4 th November	School opens at 08:45am for all children following the half term break	All classes
Monday 4 th November 09:00am - 9:30am & 5:00pm - 5:30pm	MTC (Multiplication Times Tables Check) workshop/Information session for Parents/Carers	Draco class
Thursday 7 th November	Beeston Castle Educational Visit	Hydra class
Thursday 8 th November	NHS Flu Team in school all day	All classes
Sunday 10 th November	Remembrance Parade - Biddulph	Year 4 Representatives
Monday 11 th November 09:00am - 9:30am & 5:00pm - 5:30pm	Phonics Screener workshop/information session for Parents/Carers	Hydra class
Wednesday 13 th November 2:40pm	Anti-bullying Assembly - Parents/Carers invited Odd Socks Day	All classes
Friday 15 th November	Children in Need - themes day for charity	All classes
Wednesday 27 th November 1:30-3:00pm & 3:30-6:30pm	Parent Consultations	All classes
Tuesday 3 rd December 6:00-8:00pm	Full Governing Body Meeting	Governors
Wednesday 4 th December 3:30pm - 5:00pm	Christmas Fair	All classes
Thursday 5 th December	Peak Wildlife Educational Visit	Nursery and Reception
Tuesday 10 th December 2:00pm & 6:00pm	Christmas Performance	Hydra & Draco
Date TBC 1:30-2:30pm	Whole School Church Performance & Carols	All classes



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Monday 16 th December 3:30-4:30pm	Christmas Disco	All classes
Tuesday 17 th December	Christmas Lunch - Parents/Carers invited	All classes
Thursday 19 th December	Christmas Party day	All classes
Friday 20 th December	Christmas Jumper Day	All classes
Friday 20 th December	School closes for the Christmas Holiday at 3:15pm	All classes
Monday 6 th January 2025	School opens at 08:45am at the start of the New Year	All classes

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