



Friday 25th October 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

The first half term of the new academic year has passed by very quickly. It has been lovely to see everyone settle into their new routines and get off to a great start with their learning. As ever, after half term we will be very busy with many events and activities on the run up to the festive period. I have included a list of the planned events to date at the end of this letter to help you prepare and plan ahead.

School closes for Half Term Holiday



- School closes today (Friday 25th October) at the normal time of 3:15pm to staff and pupils for the half term break.
- School re-opens on Monday 4th November at the usual time of 08:45am

Water Safety Day - Rudyard Lake - Thursday 31st October 2024

We have been asked to make you aware of the following event on at Rudyard Lake on Thursday 31st October 2024



- There will be plenty of treats - and no tricks - at Rudyard Lake this Halloween when the District Council and its partners host an open water safety day.
- The event, funded by the Staffordshire Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner, is taking place between 10am and 2pm on Thursday 31 October and everyone is welcome.
- Come along and learn how to be safe around water in the autumn and winter months, how to spot danger, and find out more about the dangers of ice. You'll also pick up practical skills including how to put someone in the recovery position and how to throw a throwline to help someone in difficulty.
- Other fun activities include water safety quizzes and games and remote-control boats together with educational films and information.
- Councillor Bill Cawley, Cabinet member for Communities, said: "We all know the importance of behaving safely around open water whatever the time of year. As we move into the colder months, we want to make sure people know how to keep themselves and others safe around water when the temperatures drop.
- "That's why we're pleased to be hosting this safety awareness day with our partners to provide people with useful information, advice and guidance.



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- "There are plenty of fun and interactive activities for people of all ages so please come along and join us and let's work together to keep everyone safe this winter."
- The Council will be joined by Staffordshire Fire and Rescue service who will be bringing along Wellyphant and the water rescue boat, the Royal Lifeboat Society with Perry the Lifebuoy, community first responders, Staffordshire Police and Support Staffordshire.
- Staffordshire Commissioner for Police, Fire and Rescue and Crime Ben Adams said: "Water safety education is incredibly important, particularly as the weather gets colder and ponds, lakes and canals begin to freeze over."
- "Knowing what to do if you, or someone you're with, gets into trouble in the water could help to save a life."
- "This event, hosted by Staffordshire Moorlands District Council and partners, is an excellent use of the funding I provide to the local Community Safety Partnership."

Stoke-On-Trent Foodbank (Thank you)



Following your kind donations at our Harvest Celebration Assembly we have received the following communication from our local Food Bank.

STOKE-ON-TRENT FOODBANK FOOD DONATION

On behalf of Stoke-on-Trent foodbank, we would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your generous donations in 2024.

In 2023/24 financial year we fed 19635 people. We couldn't do it without your support and donation. THANK YOU. Last month donation we received 6959kg and we gave out 9634kg. We are so thankful for your donation, but as you can see we are giving out more than we are receiving. If you can help us get the word out that we always need support, we would be extremely grateful. We are currently short of the following items:

The items we are most need of in month of October are:

Tinned Meat

Pasta/Rice

Sweet Extra ie Chocolate

Fruit Juice

We will use your donation to help feed the people who are hungry in Stoke-on-Trent.

If you would like to view the most up-to-date information about what is happening at the foodbank please head over to www.stokeontrent.foodbank.org.uk

As always, the generosity of our local schools; local and national business and the wonderful people touch us in our communities and surrounding areas, and we thank you most sincerely for your donation.

You really do make a difference!



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



On Thursday 7th November 2024 Hydra Class will be enhancing their learning with an Educational Visit to Beeston Castle. 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.

Peak Wildlife Educational Visit - Nursery/Reception (Columba & Columba R) - Thursday 5th December 2024



This term learners in Columba (Nursery and Reception) will have the opportunity to enhance their learning with an educational visit to Peak Wildlife Park. This will take place on Thursday 5th December 2024; learners will need to arrive in school at 8:45 for a prompt 9:30am set off. We will return to school at approximately 1:30pm. In order to support the school's budget for learning outside of the classroom, we kindly ask for a contribution of £10.00 to be paid via ParentPay.

Nursery learners coming on the educational visit will need to provide their own packed lunch. When we arrive back 1:30pm. Your child will either need to be picked up or booked into Space Cadets.

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.

Flu Vaccinations - Nasal Spray) 8th November 2024



Flu vaccinations will be administered at school on 8th November 2024 for Reception age and older children. To ensure your child receives their vaccine, please complete the online consent form by 10 am on Thursday, 7th November 2024. Remember to submit one form per child.



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Link to form: <https://forms.mpft.nhs.uk/>

- ✔ School & Date: Squirrel Hayes First School - 08 Nov 2024 - Flu
- ✔ School Code: SS124062-24

MTC Multiplication Times Table Check - Year 4- Information Session for Parents/Carers

On Monday 4th November 2024, Mrs Percival and Mrs Johnson-Allen are running an important information session regarding the Multiplication Times table Check. This is a statutory assessment that all the Year 4 learners will complete in June 2025. Parents/Carers of Year 4 learners are invited to attend the session at either 9:00am -9:30am or 5:00pm-5:30pm.

Extra-Curricular Learning and After School Clubs



After the half term break we will be offering the following clubs:

- **Choir Club (Year 1 - Year 4) Commencing Monday 11th November from 3:15pm - 4:15pm (20 spaces)**
- **Board Game Club (Reception - Year 4) Commencing Tuesday 12th November from 3:15pm - 4:15pm (16 spaces)**

Letters have been sent out for your child to sign up to.

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:



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DATE	EVENT	CLASS
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
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