



Friday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

### Admissions & Reception/Middle School Applications



Thank you for submitting your applications for Middle School and Reception places. We appreciate your efforts and commitment to your children's education. Please note that you will receive the outcomes of your applications on **National Offer Day, 16 April 2025**. We wish you and your children the very best during this exciting time.

We are excited to announce that our **next intake for Nursery pupils will be in April 2025**. If you know anyone who would be interested in a **free 15-hour nursery place at Squirrel Hayes First School**, please have them contact our school office at 01782 973820 or email us at [office@squirrelhayes.staffs.sch.uk](mailto:office@squirrelhayes.staffs.sch.uk). We look forward to welcoming new families to our school community.

### Cleaner Vacancy (temporary)



Squirrel Hayes First School is seeking a dedicated and reliable part-time cleaner to join our team. This temporary role requires 11 hours of work per week, starting as soon as possible. The position involves maintaining cleanliness during term time and performing thorough clean-downs during some school holidays. If you are detail-oriented and take pride in creating a clean and safe environment for our students and staff, we encourage you to contact the school office for further information.

### Updated contact details



We kindly request that you inform the office as soon as possible if there have been any changes to your contact details, such as telephone numbers, email addresses, or home addresses. Keeping our records up to date ensures that we can reach you promptly when needed.

### Absences & Attendance



We would like to remind you of the importance of regular attendance for your child's education. If your child is absent, please ensure you inform the school by replying to the text message sent each morning at 08:15 am, calling the school office on 01782 973 820, leaving a voicemail if no one is available, or emailing us

**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.**



at [admin@squirrelhayes.staffs.sch.uk](mailto:admin@squirrelhayes.staffs.sch.uk). Your cooperation helps us maintain accurate attendance records and support your child's learning.

### Leavers Hoodies - Year 4 2025



It is that time of year where we start to plan ahead for our Year 4 leavers with a special keepsake! We are excited to offer leavers hoodies for 2025 at a cost of £18.50 each. This price includes a high-quality hoodie with the school logo embroidered on the front and a back print featuring the names of all the leavers. If you would like your child's name to be included on the hoodie, please complete the permission form available here: [https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=6MDVPap5rEuvvzQTS\\_\\_LbJVLTFKwMwRDlpwA\\_fXrbltUOUM3QzFWMjZDV0VKMUpOSEExRFIYRk42MS4u](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=6MDVPap5rEuvvzQTS__LbJVLTFKwMwRDlpwA_fXrbltUOUM3QzFWMjZDV0VKMUpOSEExRFIYRk42MS4u)

Additionally, for an extra £3, you can opt for further personalisation to make the hoodie even more special. Let's make this a memorable farewell for our Year 4 students!

More information will be emailed today to parents/carers with a link to buy.

### Could your Child/Children be entitled to Free School Meals?



We are writing to inform you that your child/children may be entitled to free school meals. The application process is quick and easy, and you can receive a decision straight away.

To apply for free school meals, please visit the following link:

<https://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/.../apply-online.aspx>

In addition to free school meals, you can also benefit from:

- Education Support Fund Vouchers: These vouchers can help with shopping expenses.
- Holiday Activities Fund: This fund provides free hours for child care during the school holidays.

Once you have completed the application, could you please let us know the outcome of the decision as soon as possible? You can send a screenshot of the decision and send it to [office@squirrelhayes.staffs.sch.uk](mailto:office@squirrelhayes.staffs.sch.uk)

Effective from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2025 school meal prices will increase from £2.95 to £3.20 this change will not come into effect until 1<sup>st</sup> April 2025.

### Unwanted/old school uniform?



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  
Facebook: facebook.com/squirrelhayes

We are excited to announce a new initiative in collaboration with our uniform provider, Smart School Uniform. If your child has outgrown their school uniform, we kindly ask you to consider donating any items that are still in good condition.

You can bring the unwanted uniforms to the school, and we will pass them on to Smart School Uniform. They will then include these items in their pre-loved uniform service, offering them free of charge to other parents and carers in need.

This initiative not only helps other families but also promotes sustainability by giving uniforms a second life. Thank you for your support!

**Staffordshire Wildlife Trust Nature Tales sessions at Newcastle, Leek, Kidsgrove, and Biddulph libraries starting this month!**

**Nature Tales**  
at Biddulph Library  
Tunstall Road, Biddulph, ST8 6HH

Come along to enjoy a nature themed story followed by some time to play or do a simple craft activity.

1pm - 2pm

Tuesday 28 January  
Tuesday 25 February  
Tuesday 25 March  
Tuesday 29 April

Most suited to children under 5  
but all ages welcome.

[www.staffs-wildlife.org.uk/events](http://www.staffs-wildlife.org.uk/events)  
Visit our website to see all our upcoming events

Free thanks to funding from The Staffordshire Freemasons  
For more details contact us via [getwild@staffs-wildlife.org.uk](mailto:getwild@staffs-wildlife.org.uk)

**Dates and Times:**

- Leek Library: 28th Jan, 10am-11am
- Biddulph Library: 28th Jan, 1pm-2pm
- Kidsgrove Library: 29th Jan, 10.30am-11.30am
- Newcastle Library: 29th Jan, 1pm-2pm

These sessions are packed with fun nature stories and crafts, perfect for children under 5, but all ages are welcome! 😊📖

For more details and future dates, contact your local library or visit [www.staffs-wildlife.org.uk/events](http://www.staffs-wildlife.org.uk/events).

We can't wait to see you there! ✨

**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  
Facebook: facebook.com/squirrelhayes

### #Wakeupwednesday - What Parents need to know about TikTok



Each week we share information on our Facebook pages to keep you updated and in the know about all things e-safety. attached is a copy.

As technology moves so quickly at present, often our children know more than us so we share these information guides and helpful tips to help you keep your children safe online.

With 20 million users worldwide, JusTalk Kids is a hugely popular children's app - but what are the risks? ⚠️

This week's guide 📄 and the latest episode of our #WakeupWednesday podcast 🎧 delve into the safety concerns of JusTalk Kids, and how to safeguard youngsters using the app.

Download here >> <https://ow.ly/nGtQ50UBtAb>

Listen here >> <https://ow.ly/ic8a50UBtAe>



### Air Aware Project



Staffordshire Moorlands have an 'Air Aware project' currently running across all schools in the district. This project aims to encourage Parents/carers to switch off their car engines when they are picking up and dropping off children at school. Over the next few weeks posters will be attached to the lampposts and fencing outside schools to encourage your support with this project.

### DfE Cost of School Uniform Survey



The Department for Education has published their School Uniform Survey report in September 2024. This report shares information about the typical cost of school uniforms and PE Kits for children in State funded

**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.**



(a mutual co-operative membership trust)



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

education. At Squirrel Hayes we regularly review our School Uniform Policy and expectations and have carefully considered the costings involved for Parents/Cares when setting out our expectations.

The report shared that the average cost for both school uniform and PE combined for Primary aged children is £ 350.81. Our school records show that our families typically pay about £170.00 per child in total over a year. This includes school shoes and trainers etc. We are pleased to see that this compares favorably to the average in the report. We will continue to review of Uniform Policy and are always happy to listen to suggestions from our learning community.

Please see the link below to the full report:

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/677ea36522a085c5ff5c04db/Cost\\_of\\_school\\_uniform\\_survey\\_2023.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/677ea36522a085c5ff5c04db/Cost_of_school_uniform_survey_2023.pdf)

### Biddulph Town Council Events

Biddulph Town Council have asked us to share the events below:

**Biddulph Celebrates Chinese New Year**  
FREE Entertainment Food & Music

10.30am - 12.45pm  
**Brimstone Dragon**

11.00am - 12.30pm  
**Yoyo and Lola Yau Chinese Folk Music**

11.30am  
**Amber Ho-Pike Tai Chi Balls**

12.00pm  
**Funki Feathers Lion Dance**

1.00pm  
**Chinese Fellowship Performance**

Times are approx.

Saturday 25th January 2025  
10.30am - 1.30pm  
Biddulph High Street  
Outside Town Hall

**Biddulph Celebrates Chinese New Year**  
10.30 AM - 1.30 PM  
SATURDAY 25TH JANUARY 2025  
BIDDULPH TOWN HALL

YEAR OF THE SNAKE

Funded by UK Government

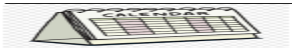
OUTSIDE

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  
 Facebook: facebook.com/squirrelhayes

**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
Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> February 2025	Finance & Personnel Governors Meeting	Governors
Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> February 2025	Valentines Disco	All Classes 3.30pm - 4.30pm
Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup> February 2025	Online Safety Assembly	All Parents/Carers - 2.30pm
Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> February 2025	School closes for pupils and staff at 3:15pm for the half term holiday.	All classes
INSET Day Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> February	School closed to pupil but open to staff for training.	All classes
Tuesday 25 <sup>th</sup> February 2025	School re-opens to Staff and Pupils at 08:45am	All classes

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.