

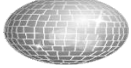


Squirrel Hayes First School
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ST8 7DF
Headteacher: Mrs. E. J. Pickford
Telephone: 01782 973820
Twitter: @squirrelhayes
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Thursday 6th February 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

Valentines Disco -Monday 10th February 2025



Our Valentines Disco will be taking place on Monday 10th February from 3:15pm - 4:30pm. The entrance fee will be £1.50 and will include a snack and drink. This will need to be paid for on 'Parent Pay'.

Wake Up Wednesday - What Parents & Educators Need to Know about Fake News & Scams



Figures from Ofcom claim that nearly 3.5 million British children have encountered a scam online, and it's vital we learn how to recognise their tactics and protect youngsters against them. This week's guide and the latest episode of the #WakeUpWednesday podcast deal with the topic of 'fake news' and how it might be used to make scams seem more persuasive.

Download here >> <https://ow.ly/I65s50UTmOP>

Listen here >> <https://ow.ly/5fp750UTmOR>

Online Safety Day - Tuesday 11th February 2025



On Tuesday 11th February we will be joining many others globally to support 'Safer Internet Day 2025' all celebrations and learning will be based around this year's theme 'Too good to be true? Protecting yourself



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and others from scams online'. All of our learners will be focusing on 'being safe on the internet' and will be joining in a whole school assembly in the afternoon led by our ICT and e-Safety Leader Mrs. Percival.

The link below will take you some useful resources for Parents/Carers on how you can keep your family safe online with 'phones, laptops, smart speakers, games consoles, tablets, Smart TV and Social media'

<https://saferinternet.org.uk/guide-and-resource/parents-and-carers>

As a school we will be encouraging you to attend an 'Online Safety' presentation/workshop with your child/children which is to be held after half term on Tuesday 4th March 2025. There will be two sessions available. 9:00am-9:30am and a 5:00pm-5:30pm. You will only need to attend one of these sessions, whichever is more convenient for you. We have many Parents/Carers asking us for support with this area and we hope that this will help you to identify ways you can help and support your family to keep themselves safe when on-line.

Edwards and Ward Catering Firm Update



Unfortunately we have been made aware that the catering company that provides lunches for the school is due to increase their meal prices due to cost pressures. See below:

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

Pancake Day - Special Menu - Dinners Tuesday 4th March 2025



Edwards & Ward, our Catering Providers are having a themed "Pancake Day". This will take place on Tuesday 4th March. If you would like your Child/Children to have a school dinner on this day then please let their Teacher know.

The main course will be a choice of

Pancake Day

DID YOU KNOW?
THE PANCAKE TOSSING WORLD RECORD IS HELD BY AN AUSTRALIAN CHEF WHO MADE 140 FLIPS IN ONE MINUTE

Pancake Day

Main Course of the Day
with
Veg of the Day

Build Your Own Pancake
choose from
lemon & sugar or jam

edwards and ward



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Year 4 Leaver's Hoodies Orders



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. **Closing date for website 17/3/25.** 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/e/VeCOS3qKhW>

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!
To buy a hoodie please visit the following link: <https://smartuniform.co.uk/product/squirrel-hayes-leavers-hoodies/>

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.

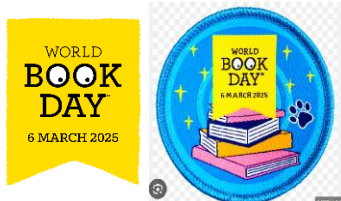
To apply for free school meals, please visit the following link:
<https://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/.../apply-online.aspx>

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

World Book Day - Thursday 6th March 2025



This Year we will be joining many schools in celebrating **World Book Day on Thursday 6th March 2025.** As part of our celebrations we would like to invite our learners to come to school dressed as one of their most loved story characters. You do not have to buy any fancy costumes as we also love to see your own 'creations'.

In support of the celebrations our kitchen team will be offering a special menu which can be ordered on the day with your child's class teacher. This can be seen below:



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Unwanted/old school uniform?



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.

February Half Term - School Closure and INSET Day



School will finish at the normal time of 3:15pm on Friday 14th February 2025.

School will re-open to Pupils on Tuesday 25th February 2024 at 08:45am.

Please note that school will be closed to pupils on Monday 24th February 2024 as this is an INSET day and staff will be in school for training.

Reminders of Local Events



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Biddulph Youth & Community Zone Church Rd
 Biddulph ST8 6NE
 Presents



SIMPLY PLAY

Starting Wednesday 5th
 February 10am-11:30am

Would you like to learn more about your child's development? Would you like to find new ways of supporting them through play? Come along and join us for some fun activities in a relaxed setting.

We offer free courses for parents of 0-4 year olds in a stay and play format, so you can enjoy quality time with your little one alongside learning.
 Booking is essential*

To book onto this, please call 01782 297970 or email:
groupwork@staffordshire.gov.uk



groupwork@staffordshire.gov.uk




FROM PRAM TO PRIMARY SCHOOL




A 6 Weeks Course Online Over
 Microsoft teams starting
 Monday 27th January 2025
 10am-12pm

Would you like to feel more confident in your parenting? Would you like to learn more about your child's behaviours and their emotional development? Then Pram to Primary might be the course for you!

We offer free courses for parents of 0-11 year olds with both face-to-face and virtual options available.

To register your interest, please contact:
Groupwork@staffordshire.gov.uk


Financial Well-being Support

Jo Hall is the designated 'Financial well-being Coach' for Newcastle and the Moorlands. If you feel you need any support, please get in contact with her. See below for extra details:

HOUSEHOLD SUPPORT FUND

FINANCIAL WELLBEING WORKSHOPS
 "BUILDING FIRMER FOUNDATIONS"

Funded by UK Government

Are you struggling with your personal finances or concerned about the cost of living?

If so, would you like ...

- To identify and overcome your barriers?
- To receive some tips that will help you make your money go further, reduce costs, and leave you feeling more hopeful?
- To talk about how financial difficulties can impact our wellbeing.

If so, we are running weekly workshops in your local district.



Staffordshire County Council



IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO JOIN US, PLEASE SCAN THE QR CODE, OR FOLLOW THIS LINK WHICH WILL TAKE YOU TO OUR WORKSHOP SIGN UP FORM
<https://forms.office.com/EZAKFU7XPPFORIGIN=LPRINK>

For any additional support please contact -
financialwellbeing@staffordshire.gov.uk



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Support for Parents/Carers of Teens

I have been asked to share the following information regarding an on-line session being run by Carol Middleton 'Family Hub Coach' for Parents/Carers of Teens.

TALKING TEENS
FREE SESSIONS STARTING MARCH 2025

Free 6 week course delivered online for parents of teenagers aged 13-18 years. The course covers

- All about you
- Parenting Styles
- Understanding Behaviour
- Setting clear and appropriate boundaries
- Healthy Families

Online Sessions start March 26th 2025 at 12.30pm - 2.30pm

To book your place please email groupwork@staffordshire.gov.uk

Important Dairy Dates



Please find below a table of events that have been planned for the Spring 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
Wednesday 5 th February	Paramedic visiting school	Early Years
Monday 10 th February 2025	Valentines Disco	All Classes 3.30pm - 4.30pm
Tuesday 11 th February 2025	Online Safety Assembly	All classes
Friday 14 th February 2025	School closes for pupils and staff at 3:15pm for the half term holiday.	All classes

See next page for Spring Term 2nd half.....



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SPRING TERM 2nd Half 2025

DATE	EVENT	CLASS
INSET Day Monday 24th February 2025	School closed to pupil but open to staff for training.	All classes
Tuesday 25 th February 2025	School re-opens to Staff and Pupils at 08:45am	All classes
Wednesday 26 th February	Disco 3:15pm - 4:30pm	All classes
Friday 28 th February	Live Music Concert in school - am	All classes
Tuesday 4 th March	Online Safety Presentation/activities 9:00am - 9:30am 5:00pm - 5:30pm	Parents/Carers invited with child
Tuesday 4 th March	Pancake Day - Special Menu	All Classes
Thursday 6 th March 2025	World Book Day - children invited to come to school dressed as a book character	All Classes
Tuesday 18 th March 2025	Inspire Dance Show -Biddulph High School	Inspire Dance learners
Tuesday 25 th March	Full Governing Body Meeting 6:00-8:00pm	Governors
Wednesday 26 th March 2025	Parent Consultations 1.00pm - 3.00pm & 3.30pm-6.00pm	All Classes
Wednesday 2 nd April 2025	Zoolab - Educational Workshop in school	All Classes
Monday 7 th April	Academy Photography	All classes
Thursday 10 th April	Easter Celebrations Assembly - Easter Bonnet and Easter Scene creations - 9:30am	Parents/Carers invited
Friday 11 th April	School closes for pupils and staff at 3:15pm for the half term holiday.	All classes
Monday 28 th April	School re-opens for staff and pupils 08:45am	All classes

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