



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 5th September 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome Back



Welcome back to school and the start of the Autumn Term 2025. I hope you have all had an enjoyable summer break and managed to make the most of the sunny weather while it lasted. It was lovely to see so many smiling faces on Wednesday morning as the children arrived back. Everyone has settled in well and are getting used to their new routines.

School Uniform and PE Reminders



It was fantastic on visiting all classes to see our learners looking smart in the correct school uniform. As you will be aware on PE days and on 'Fitness Friday' your child will need to come to school in their school PE Kit. The following tables are a reminder of what uniform is required and on what day for each class.

PE Kit	
Pale blue polo shirt	Purchased form a store of your choice
Black Shorts/leggings/joggers	Purchased form a store of your choice
Indoor pumps and outdoor trainers	Purchased form a store of your choice
Plain Black Hoodie or Tracksuit Top (For outdoor wear when weather is cooler)	Purchased form a store of your choice

Please see below for the designated PE days for the different classes when your child needs to come to school wearing their PE kit.

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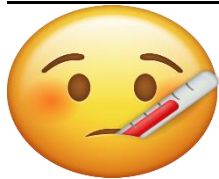
Class PE Days	
Columba (Nursery)	Friday
ColumbaR (Reception)	Wednesday & Friday
Hydra (Year 1 / 2)	Wednesday & Friday
Draco & Draco Ladon (Year 3 /4)	Tuesday & Friday

Academy Photography



Academy Photography will be in school on Thursday 23rd October 2025 to photograph individuals and siblings. Please ensure your child is wearing their normal full school uniform on this day.

Illness/Lateness



Please can we remind everyone that if your child is poorly/absent from school or late you must contact school to provide a reason for their absence/lateness. There are many ways to contact the school office: Phone: 01782 973820 or reply to the text message that is sent each morning. Or email office@squirrelhayes.staffs.sch.uk. If no reason is provided or approved then the absence will be marked as unauthorized. Please be mindful that the official start to the school day is 8.45am therefore any arrival after this time will be classed as late and anything after 9.10am will be classed as unauthorized as this is when the registers officially close.

Parking and School Safety



Please can I remind all Parents/Carers about parking safely when dropping off and picking up your children both before and after school. Please do not park on the zig-zags or pull up in the school drive area as this is not a suitable or safe area to park. Please can you also avoid blocking driveways of the

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residents who live on the roads near the school. I appreciate that this is a very busy and hectic time of the day for many Parents and Carers but the safety of our community remains a priority. Your support in keeping our community safe is much appreciated.

Data Collection and Contact/Permissions Information



It is that time of year again when we need to ensure that we have the correct contact details and vital information regarding your child and their care needs. Your child will be sent home on Monday with an envelope containing the 'data collections sheets' to be completed and returned to school by Friday 12th September. It is vital that we have the correct information available should we need to contact you in an emergency or need to check on any key information about the safety and care of your child whilst in school. If you require any additional information or have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the school office. **Please also note we will need a minimum of 2 contacts.**

New School Lunch Menu

With the start of the academic year, Edwards & Ward our catering provider has provided a new lunch menu, (see below). Please can we remind all parents that if your child/children would like a school meal then please inform your teacher at the start of the school day. If any learners have any food intolerances, please visit www.edwardsandward.co.uk/special-diets/ To register your child/children with any dietary needs.



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	WEEK ONE	WEEK TWO	WEEK THREE
MONDAY	Margherita Pizza with Jacket Wedges (V) or Rainbow Pizza with Jacket Wedges (V) Veg of the Day Chocolate & Vanilla Swirl Cookie (Ve)	Margherita Pizza with Jacket Wedges (V) or Rainbow Pizza with Jacket Wedges (V) Veg of the Day Vanilla Snap (Ve)	Margherita Pizza with Jacket Wedges (V) or Rainbow Pizza with Jacket Wedges (V) Veg of the Day Lemon Biscuit (Ve)
TUESDAY	Chicken Tikka Masala with Rice or Classic Mac & Cheese (V) Veg of the Day Apple Cake (V)	Italian Sausage Pasta Bake or Penne with Garden Bolognese (Ve) Veg of the Day Jaffa Cake Sponge (V)	Sausage with Mash & Gravy or Sausage with Mash & Gravy (Ve) Veg of the Day Oaty Apple & Rhubarb Crumble (Ve) with Custard (V)
WEDNESDAY	Roast of the Day with Roasties & Gravy or Loaded Yorkshire with Roasties (V) Veg of the Day Fruity Jelly (Ve)	Roast of the Day with Roasties & Gravy or Toad in the Hole with Roasties & Gravy (V) Veg of the Day Fruity Jelly (Ve)	Roast of the Day with Roasties & Gravy or Butternut Squash Hot Pot with Roasties (Ve) Veg of the Day Fruity Jelly (Ve)
THURSDAY	Homestyle Sausage Roll with Mash & Gravy or Plantastic Balls with Mash & Gravy (Ve) Veg of the Day Flapjack (Ve)	Cottage Pie or Golden Topped Cottage Pie (Ve) Veg of the Day Flapjack (Ve)	Penne with Beef Bolognese or Sweet Potato Korma with Rice (Ve) Veg of the Day Choco Krispie Bite (Ve)
FRIDAY	Fish Fingers or Salmon Fish Fingers with Chips or Crispy Garden Fingers with Chips (Ve) Veg of the Day Banoffee Crumble (Ve) with Custard (V)	Fish Fingers or Salmon Fish Fingers with Chips or Crispy Garden Fingers with Chips (Ve) Veg of the Day Banana Custard Ice Cream (V)	Fish Fingers or Salmon Fish Fingers with Chips or Crispy Garden Fingers with Chips (Ve) Veg of the Day Banana Cake (V)
	1/9/25, 22/9/25, 13/10/25, 3/11/25, 24/11/25, 15/12/25, 5/1/26, 26/1/26	8/9/25, 29/9/25, 20/10/25, 10/11/25, 1/12/25, 22/12/25, 12/1/26, 2/2/26	15/9/25, 6/10/25, 27/10/25, 17/11/25, 8/12/25, 29/12/25, 19/1/26, 9/2/26
<p>Classic Tomato Pasta (Ve), Filled Jacket Potatoes and Sandwiches (including V/Ve options) are also available daily along with freshly baked bread, salad, fresh fruit, jelly (Ve), yoghurts (V) and fresh drinking water.</p>			

V - Vegetarian Ve - Vegan

Apply Now for Free School Meals - Help Support Your Child's Education

Could your child be entitled to a

FREE school meal?



Did you know your child may be eligible for Free School Meals? Applying is quick and easy through the Staffordshire County Council website. If your child qualifies, they'll receive a nutritious meal every school day at no cost to you.

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👉 Apply here: [Staffordshire Free School Meals Application](https://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/Education/Educational-awards-benefits/FreeSchoolMeals/Apply-online.aspx)
<https://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/Education/Educational-awards-benefits/FreeSchoolMeals/Apply-online.aspx>

✅ Who is eligible?

Your child may be entitled to Free School Meals if you receive any of the following:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit - if your household income is less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including benefits)
-

🍏 Universal Free School Meals

All children in Reception, Year 1, and Year 2 automatically receive free school meals under the Universal Infant Free School Meals scheme. However, this ends when your child enters Year 3. If your child is moving into Year 3 or Year 4 and is not eligible for Free School Meals, you will need to pay £3.20 per meal, which can be done via ParentPay.

🔔 Why apply?

Even if your child is in Reception, Year 1, or Year 2, applying for Free School Meals now can help your school receive additional funding through the Pupil Premium, which supports learning and resources.

Important Diary Updates



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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Autumn Term 1sthalf 2025

DATE	EVENT	CLASS
Tuesday 2 nd September 2:00pm	Harvest Assembly (Parents/Carers invited)	Rec, Year 1, 2, 3 & 4
Monday 15 th September 3:15pm - 4:15pm	Street Dance club - led by Miss Bennett commences	Year 1, 2 ,3 & 4
Wednesday 8 th October 1:00pm	City 7 Assembly (Stoke Football)	All classes
Tuesday 14 th October	Florence Nightingale Workshop in school	Reception & Hydra
Tuesday 21 st October 6:00pm - 7:30pm	Full Governing Body Meeting	Governors
Wednesday 22 nd October 3:15pm - 4:30pm	Spooky Disco	All classes invited
Thursday 23 rd October	Academy Photography	All classes

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

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