



Squirrel Hayes First School
 Springfield Road
 Biddulph
 Stoke on Trent
 ST8 7DF
 Headteacher: Mrs. E. J. Pickford
 Telephone: 01782 973820
 Twitter: @squirrelhayes
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Friday 3rd October 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

Community Litter Picking Initiative

We're excited to share that learners at Squirrel Hayes First School have started a new initiative to help keep our local community clean and tidy! 🗑️ Last Friday, our children enjoyed heading out into the streets around the school to take part in litter picking. They showed great enthusiasm and teamwork while helping to make a positive difference in the area. We're so proud of their efforts and look forward to continuing this project throughout the term! ❤️



Harvest Festival Assembly (Thank you)



We would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all our learners and families for the generous donations made towards our Harvest celebration Assembly. Your kindness and support are truly appreciated and make a real difference to those in need. These donations are vital in supporting our local community in Biddulph and across Stoke-on-Trent, and will be collected by the local foodbank in due course. Your contributions help ensure that families facing hardship have access to essential supplies. Thank you once again for your continued generosity and community spirit.

Food Workshop (Taste & Sensory)

On **Wednesday 1st October**, learners at **Squirrel Hayes First School** had a fantastic opportunity to take part in a **food workshop** hosted by our catering provider, **Edwards & Ward**. During the session, children got hands-on with **pizza making**, exploring ingredients and learning about food preparation in a fun and engaging way. They also took part in a **taste sensory activity**, where they explored different flavours and textures—encouraging curiosity and confidence around food.

It was a brilliant experience that combined learning with creativity, and we'd like to thank **Edwards & Ward** for providing such a valuable and enjoyable workshop for our learners.





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Spooky Disco (Wednesday 22nd October 2025)



We're excited to announce our **Spooky Disco 2025**, taking place on **Wednesday 22nd October** from **3:15pm to 4:30pm** here at **Squirrel Hayes First School**! All learners from **Reception to Year 4** are invited to join the fun! The disco costs **£1.50 per child**, which includes a **drink and snack**. Payment should be made via **ParentPay**. Children are welcome to bring their **spooky costumes** into school on the morning of the disco. They will have time to get changed after school before the event begins. Please ensure your child is **collected promptly at 4:30pm** from school. We're looking forward to a fang-tastic time filled with music, dancing, and Halloween fun!

Academy Photography (Thursday 23rd October 2025)



We're pleased to let you know that **Academy Photography** will be visiting **Squirrel Hayes First School** on **Thursday 23rd October 2025** to take **individual and sibling photographs**. Photographers will be on site from **8:15am**, allowing families with siblings who do **not attend our school** to come in early for group photos. Please arrive promptly if you'd like to take advantage of this opportunity. All children will have their individual photos taken during the school day, and sibling groups within school will also be photographed.

Head Lice Alert - (Please Check Your Child's Hair)



We've been informed that **head lice** have been reported in school. While head lice are a common issue among young children, we kindly ask all families to take **preventative steps** to help stop them from spreading further.

What Are Head Lice?

Head lice are tiny insects that live in hair and feed on blood from the scalp. They are **not caused by poor hygiene** and can affect anyone. They spread through **head-to-head contact**, which is common among children during play and school activities.

How to Spot Them

- Itchy scalp, especially behind the ears or at the nape of the neck
- Small white or brown eggs (nits) attached to hair strands
- A tickling feeling or the sensation of something moving in the hair



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The **only way to confirm** head lice is by finding a live louse. This can be done using a **fine-toothed detection comb**, available at most pharmacies. [[Head lice...nits - NHS](#)]

How to Treat Head Lice

According to **NHS guidance**: [[Head lice...nits - NHS](#)]

- **Wet combing** is an effective method. Use a special detection comb on wet, conditioned hair to remove lice and nits.
- **Medicated treatments** (lotions or sprays) are available over the counter. These should only be used if live lice are found.
- **Check and treat everyone** in the household who has lice on the same day.
- There is **no need to keep your child off school** if they have head lice.

Prevention Tips

- Avoid head-to-head contact during play
- Do not share hats, hairbrushes, or accessories
- Regularly check your child's hair, especially if there's been a known case at school

For full NHS advice, please visit: www.nhs.uk/conditions/head-lice-and-nits [[Head lice...nits - NHS](#)]

Thank you for your cooperation in helping us manage this issue quickly and effectively.

Important Reminder: Earrings and PE Lessons



In line with our uniform policy, we kindly remind all learners and parents that *all jewellery must be removed before PE or active learning sessions*. To avoid any inconvenience, it is **strongly recommended** that learners do **not** wear earrings on days when they have PE or active learning. Learners will be expected to remove their own earrings and watches before participating, and they will be responsible for keeping their belongings safe. Please note that the school **cannot accept responsibility** for any loss or damage to jewellery or watches that are brought in. Thank you for helping us maintain a safe and focused learning environment.

World Mental Health Day - Friday 10th October

Fri, 10 Oct 2025



Mental health matters on the days when everything happens and the days when nothing happens. When life is busy and unpredictable and when it is quiet and ordinary. Together we can make sure that everyone sees it that way.

Over the next week learners and staff across the school will be getting involved with 'creative activities' linked to our own mental health and well-being. We will be focusing on 'knowing ourselves and growing ourselves mentally' through a variety of creative outlets.

Educational Workshop from Magic Door Education: Reception and Hydra



On Tuesday 14th October, Reception and Hydra learners will have the opportunity to enhance their learning, as we have invited Magic Door Education into school to deliver a Florence Nightingale Workshop to complement their learning about the life and times of Florence Nightingale.



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In order to support the school's budget for learning outside of the classroom, we kindly ask for a contribution of £5.00, payment to be made via ParentPay please.

We very much hope that you will support this event by sending your child to school dressed up as a Victorian Child. You need not go to a lot of trouble or expense, as simple costume will be fine. There are some ideas here, but you can research your own costume too.

Walk To School Month (October)



October marks Walk to School Month, and we're encouraging all families to take part in this fantastic initiative supported by Air Aware and Staffordshire County Council. Walking to school—even just once a week—can have a positive impact on children's mental and physical health, helping them arrive at school more alert, happier, and ready to learn. It also helps reduce traffic congestion and improve air quality around our school community. Whether you live nearby or need to drive part of the way, consider parking a little further from school and walking the rest. Every step counts! Let's work together to make our school run healthier, safer, and more sustainable.

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:](#)

Autumn Term 1sthalf 2025

DATE	EVENT	CLASS
Wednesday 8 th October 1:00pm	City 7 Assembly (Stoke Football)	All classes
Week beginning Monday 6th October - Friday 10th October	World Mental Health Day	All classes
Tuesday 14 th October	Florence Nightingale Workshop in school	Reception & Hydra
Wednesday 15 th October	Y4 Tag rugby event	Year 4 Learners
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
Friday 24th October	3:15pm School Closes for October half Term Break	All classes
Monday 3rd November 2025	8:45am School opens for the second Half of the Autumn Term 2025	All classes

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