



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

Monday 1st December 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

Breakfast & Mindful Mornings - Parents & Child Activity Morning in school



Over the past two weeks we have been delighted to invite families and members of our School's Community into school to join their child/children in Hydra & Draco classes for a 'Breakfast & Mindful Morning of Activities'. We have already received lots of positive feedback from those who attended and it was clearly enjoyed by all. All involved enjoyed a hot breakfast followed by Christmas Craft and fun.

Nursery Admissions



Please be reminded that we have three Nursery intakes per year: (September, January and April)

Your child can join our nursery for 15 hours free education from the term after their 3rd birthday. If you have a child that will qualify or know anyone that does, please make them aware and ask them to contact the school office on 01782 973820 or email admin@squirrelhayes.staffs.sch.uk

Christmas Carol Concert at St Lawrence's Church & Christmas Fayre - Tuesday 2nd December 2025



On Tuesday 2nd December all of our learners from Nursery to Year 4, will be participating in a Christmas Carol Concert Celebration. Parents and Carers are invited to attend St Lawrence's Church to join in the Christmas Celebrations. The children will be transported by coach to and from the church and the 'Carol Concert' is due to commence in the morning of Tuesday 2nd December at 10am. There will be no charges

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for this event, although there will be the facility to leave a donation for the church. Nursery learners will be invited to stay for lunch and will be transported with our other learners.

Christmas Picnic & Christmas Fair Fundraiser - (Lunch 11:15am - 12:30pm & Fair 12:30pm - 2:30pm)

On return to school Parents/Carers are invited to join your child/children for an 'Indoor Christmas Picnic' where you can either bring your own picnic lunch or purchase hot dogs, burgers and a cone of chips. This event will start from 11:15am giving you change to travel back from the Church. Children eligible for universal or free school meals can have the usual school hot dinner which will be fish fingers, beans and chips if they choose or you can purchase hot dogs, burgers or chips if you prefer.

Following the Christmas Picnic Lunch, we will be inviting everyone to stay for our Christmas Fair Fundraiser. This will commence around 12:30pm until 2:30pm. As usual there will be a number of stalls, face-painting and the popular bouncy castle.

Food available

Burger - £1:50

Hotdogs - £1.00

Cone of chips £1:00

Refreshments such as Hot chocolate, tea, coffee and juice will also be available to purchase.

You are very welcome to join us for all of the events/activities on offer or you can just join us for the individual events if you cannot make it to the whole day of activities.

Biddulph Grange Santa Visit - Early Years (Nursery/Reception classes) (Monday 8th December 2025)



We are thrilled to announce a **magical festive adventure** for our **Nursery and Reception classes!** On **Monday 8th December**, the children will be taking part in a **Santa Experience** at the beautiful **Biddulph Grange Gardens**.

The day will include:

- A winter walk through the enchanting grounds of Biddulph Grange, exploring its stunning scenery and festive decorations.
- A special visit to Santa, where each child will have the chance to meet Father Christmas and share their Christmas wishes.
- A cosy lunch by a warm fire, creating the perfect setting to relax and enjoy the festive spirit together.



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This experience promises to be a wonderful way to celebrate the season and create lasting memories for our youngest learners. Please ensure your child is dressed warmly and wears comfortable footwear suitable for walking outdoors. More details regarding timings and arrangements will follow shortly. In order to support the school's budget for learning outside of the classroom, we kindly ask for a contribution of **£5.00** to be paid via ParentPay.

Reception, Hydra (Year 1 / 2) and Draco classes (Year 3 / 4) Christmas Performance - Wednesday 10th December 2025 Afternoon and Evening



On Wednesday 10th December 2025 Reception, Hyrda (Year 1 / 2) and Draco classes (Year 3 / 4) will be performing in their Christmas Production. This year is it called "The Mouse in Santa's House". Tickets will cost **£3.00** each. A letter detailing how to purchase tickets has been sent home on Thursday 20th November 2025. Payments can now be made on parentpay.

There will be two performances on the 10th December, one during the school day at 2.00pm and one in the evening at 6.00pm. More details to follow.

Christmas Lunch Celebrations - Tuesday 16th December 2025



This year, we will be holding our traditional 'Christmas Meal' on Tuesday 16th December 2025. Once again, we would like to invite you as Parents/Carers/Grandparents to come and enjoy a lunch with your child or children in your family.

In order to cover all supplies, the cost to attend this event will be **£3.20 per child and £4.50 per adult**. A letter with further details about how to order your meals will be sent home next week with your child and e-mailed

In order to prepare and ensure that an appropriate amount of ingredients is ordered, we will need to **receive all return slips and payment via parent pay by Friday 5th December 2025.**



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Important Diary Updates



Please find below a table of events that have been planned for the Autumn term 2nd half. 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.

Autumn Term 2nd half 2025 - Please note dates in blue have been added or changed:

| DATE | EVENT | CLASS |
|---|---|--|
| Tuesday 2 nd December Church - am Christmas food & fair on return to school following the carol concert in the afternoon | Carol Concert - St Lawrence's Church followed by Christmas celebrations 'Winter Lunch' and 'fair/Christmas activities fundraiser' | All class, Parents/Carers invited |
| Tuesday 2 nd December 6:00pm - 8:00pm | Ful Governing Body Meeting | Governors |
| Monday 8 th December During the school day | Biddulph Grange Santa Visit | Nursery & Reception |
| Wednesday 10 th December Afternoon -2:00pm - 2:45pm Evening- 6:00pm - 6:45pm | Christmas Performance 'The Mouse in Santa's House' | Reception - Year 4 Parents/Carers invited |
| Monday 15 th December 3:15pm - 4:30pm | Christmas Disco | All classes |
| Tuesday 16 th December 11:30am onwards | Christmas Lunch | All classes, Parents, Carers invited |
| Thursday 18 th December | Christmas Party Day - Learners invited to wear their party clothes | All classes |
| Friday 19 th December | Christmas Jumper Day | All classes |
| Friday 19 th December 3:15pm | School closes for the Christmas Break | All classes |
| Monday 5 th January 2026 | School opens for the new Spring Term 2026 08:45am | All children & staff |

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

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Talking to a young person about Cannabis/ THC Vapes



Context

Some young people in our area have become unwell after vaping. They thought the vape liquid had THC (a drug found in cannabis), but it actually contained a more harmful synthetic drug known as Spice.

We want to help you talk to your child about this. Knowing the risks can help keep them safe.

What is Spice?

Spice is a man-made drug, made using chemicals - it is known as a Synthetic Cannabinoid. Synthetic Cannabinoids are Class B drugs under the Misuse of Drugs Act. It is not real cannabis, but it tries to mimic the desired effects of cannabis. Spice is much stronger than cannabis and produces more frequent negative side effects.

Why is Spice Risky?

- It can make people feel very anxious or worsen mental health problems.
- It can cause bad side effects that may need hospital treatment.
- People who use Spice often can become addicted and feel sick when they stop.

Vaping Products

Some vaping products say they have cannabis or THC in them. These are illegal drugs called Class B drugs.

Because they are illegal:

- No one checks what's inside them.
- They can be very strong and dangerous.
- They might even contain Spice, which is harmful.



These products can be bought online or through encrypted messaging apps like Telegram or Snapchat.

The best way to avoid any risk of harm is to avoid using illicit vaping products.

Please note that Consumer CBD (cannabidiol) products derived from cannabis are legal. These are sold for their potential to produce 'wellbeing' benefits, including reducing anxiety and relieving pain.

www.staffstars.org
0300 124 0356



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Overdose

Spice strength can vary a lot, which makes it easy to take too much by accident.

People might not know what drug they've taken. That's why it's best to treat the person's symptoms, not just the drug. If you think someone has taken too much Spice, **call an ambulance immediately.**

General symptoms include:

- Loss of consciousness
- Breathing difficulties
- Seizures
- High temperature (more than 38.5°C)
- Severe chest pains
- Vomiting

Spice overdoses have been known to cause Serotonin Syndrome, where symptoms can also include:

- Twitching or jerking movements
- Fully dilated pupils
- Shivering

Top Tips for Speaking to Young People about Drugs

- It helps to **be as factual as possible**. This makes your message more credible and makes sense to the young person.
- Try to speak with care and kindness. Let the young person know you want them to be safe and well and to have a space for discussion.
- Listen to the young person **so they feel heard**, it can help you both feel calmer and open to talking and be reassuring to you.
- Talk to Frank has some more advice on how to talk to your child www.talktofrank.com

Remember:

- Most young people do not vape.
- Young people in your care may not be interested in cannabis-based vape products.
- Most young people who have tried vaping have only used nicotine-based or flavoured nicotine-free vape products (it is illegal to sell nicotine vaping products to anyone under 18).
- Only a small number of young people who vape use cannabis / THC products

More Information or Help

For non-judgemental help and support for parents, carers or young people, contact STaRS for free and confidential advice, including:

- Advice for parents and carers of young people using drugs and/or alcohol.
- Hidden Harm, support for children affected by other people's drug and/or alcohol use.
- Help for individuals wanting to make changes to their own drug/alcohol use.

For more information on Spice and other substances visit www.talktofrank.com.

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Finance & Wellbeing Cafe

3rd December 9:30am - 12:30pm
Staffordshire Moorlands Family Hub
Albert Street, Biddulph, ST8 6DT

Are you struggling with the cost of living?
Would you benefit from some support, advice,
and signposting to relevant services?
If so, we are here to support you.
Come along and meet:

- Department for Work and Pensions
- Citizens Advice Bureau
- Green Doctor
- Social Prescriber
- Potteries Moneywise
- School Uniform Bank
- Our Household Support Fund Coach

Freebies Available!!

Join us for Tea,
Coffee and Mince
Pies

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Staffordshire Moorlands Hub will be holding a Finance and Wellbeing Café on Wednesday, 3rd December from 9.30am. If you would benefit from free financial advice, then please signpost them to the event. Our Household Support Fund Coach will be available to advise families on funding towards energy bills, supermarket vouchers and much more.

Please see attached poster for more details. This is a drop-in session so no need to book.

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