



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

Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

### Welcome Back



Happy New Year and welcome back to the first half of the Spring Term 2026.

I hope you have all had an enjoyable Christmas and New Year break and are ready for 2026!

### Admissions



Please be reminded that you needed to apply for a **Reception and Middle School** place by 15th January 2026. The link to apply is below if you have still not completed this task.

<https://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/Education/Admissions-primary/Apply/Application-forms-for-admission-to-school.aspx>

### Snow Closure



Thank you for your recent support with the school's closure due to the inclement weather. Decisions made to close the school are not taken lightly and are always made with the health and safety of all pupils, staff and our learning community as a priority. Wherever possible we will always try and give you as Parents/Carers as much notice as possible of decisions taken.

### Snow/Adverse Weather Conditions Procedure



As you will be well aware we have recently experienced some wintery weather, I thought it would be appropriate to update you on the snow/adverse weather conditions procedures. The health & safety of your child is of paramount importance to all the staff here at Squirrel Hayes First School. Any decision taken to close the school due to snow or dangerous weather conditions will be considered very carefully following health and safety guidance.

Learning will be available for your child via their 'Google Classrooms' account. Please ensure that you can log in and access this account.

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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.



If the school has to be closed due to health & safety reasons surrounding snow or adverse weather conditions then you will be informed as soon as possible through the following:

- Text message on your mobile
- Message on the school's official Facebook page  
<https://www.facebook.com/squirrelhayesfirstschool/>
- Message on the Staffordshire school's website  
([www.staffordshire.gov.uk/education/schoolsandcolleges/emergencyclosures](http://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/education/schoolsandcolleges/emergencyclosures))
- Parents can also sign up to the county council's [alert system](#) which links into the above process to alert parents of their specific closures via text and email.
- Announcement on the local radio stations (BBC Radio Stoke, Signal Radio + signals website [www.signal1.co.uk](http://www.signal1.co.uk))
- Notice on the school gates - (where possible)

If an emergency closure is made during the day, you will be required to come and collect your child from school and will be informed about where to collect your child/children from.

**Please do not phone the school to see if the school is closing, this will only jam up the phone lines and prevent us from making emergency calls or contacting the relevant bodies to inform them of school closure.** We do not take the decision to close schools lightly and will be considering the safety of all if a closure is needed.

#### **Inspire Dance Rehearsals - Monday 12th January - 3.30pm-4.15pm**



Inspire Dance after school club starts Monday 12th January 2025. Letters were sent out before the Christmas break for anyone that would be interested. You should have received a text confirming that your child has been allocated a place.

#### **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.



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### 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 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.

We recognise that the recent weather has meant that the school has had to close on the 6<sup>th</sup> January 2026 for health & safety reasons and that the conditions getting into school are still a little tricky on the estate even though we are now open again. We ask that you keep in contact with school and let us know as soon as possible if your child is unable to attend.

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