



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

Thursday 8th January 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

Amber/Yellow Weather Warning - Snow/Adverse weather procedures



Amber warnings issued for Storm Gorette

As you may already be aware from the news the Met Office has issued an Amber/Yellow weather warning for snow across Staffordshire linked to 'Storm Gorette'. This is currently anticipated from late afternoon today and onwards. As a result, the Local Authority Health & Safety Team have asked all schools to review all 'Business Continuity' arrangements.

In response it has been decided for safety reasons that the school will close today at 4:00pm. This will include 'Space Cadets' after school care run by the Private Provider who operates on our school site. Please be prepared to come earlier to collect your child should you be notified.

As previously communicated, any decisions made regarding school closure is not taken lightly and takes into consideration a number of health and safety factors to ensure the safety and well-being of all of our learning community, including pupils, staff, parents/carers and expected visitors. Factors such as site safety, conditions around the nearby area, transport and travel routes and safe staffing ratios are all considered.

In order to aid Parents/Carers with planning and making arrangements during such difficult situations, school liaises with the Governing Body to try and make a decision on any possible closures as early as possible. We appreciate that this can be challenging for our families and are grateful for your continued support during these situations.



Google Classroom

Should school be required to close for safety, learning will be available for your child/children via their 'Google Classrooms' account. Please ensure that you can log in and access this account. Additional information regarding your child's log in details have been sent out today.



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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)
- 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)
- 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.

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