



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 30th January 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

**Space Cadets Changes to Nursery Wraparound Care and Before and After School Club**



As a school we have been made aware that **Space Cadets** will be moving some of their provision from Squirrel Hayes First School to their Little Rockets Setting in Biddulph. The Before and After School Club and Wraparound Nursery provision currently available on our school site will be moving after the Easter Holidays to Space Cadets sister site in Biddulph.

Parents/Carers who currently use these facilities can continue to do so but your child/children will be taken to and picked up from Squirrel Hayes First School by The Space Cadets Team either via a 'Walking Bus' or via 'Car'. This is already the case for some other schools who use Space Cadets provision on our school site at present.

These changes will commence on **Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2026**. If you are currently using these facilities or want to know more about the arrangements you can contact the Space Cadets Team through the usual channels.

The **Holiday Club Provision** is remaining on Squirrel Hayes First School site and can be booked through the usual arrangements.

**Leavers Hoodies 2026**



We're excited to announce that **Smart School Uniform** will once again be supplying this year's **Leavers Hoodies for the Class of 2026!**

These hoodies are a fantastic way to celebrate your time at school and create a lasting memory with your classmates.

**Price:** £18.50 + optional £3.50 if name on front of hoodie

**How to Order:** Visit the Smart School Uniform website using the link below.

Please find below the link to your Leavers Hoodie page.

<https://smartuniform.co.uk/product/squirrel-hayes-leavers-hoodies/>

**Order Window:** You have **9 weeks** to place your order, so don't miss out!

Make sure to get yours before the deadline - once the window closes, no further orders can be accepted.



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Also, you will need to fill out a permission form which can be done online to have the selected learners name on the back of the leaver's hoodie. [Parental Permission - Leavers Hoodies 2026 - Fill in form](#)

### Valentines Disco - Monday 9<sup>th</sup> Feb 2026

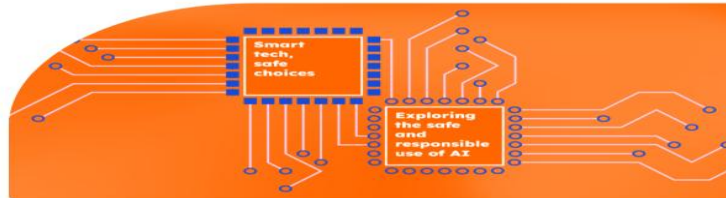


Our Valentines Disco will be taking place on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> February from 3:15pm - 4:30pm. The entrance fee will be £1.50 and will include a snack and drink. This will need to be paid for on 'Parent Pay'.

### Safer Internet Day - Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> Feb 2026

Safer Internet Day - 10th February 2026

## Education Resources



On Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> February we will be participating in 'Safer Internet Day' and exploring different aspects of staying safe on-line. This year's theme is around:

**Smart tech, safe choices – Exploring the safe and responsible use of AI**

In school all learners will be looking at 'safe internet/online use' and sharing their learning around this important aspect of everyday life. We will be holding an Assembly for all our learners in the afternoon where we will be encouraging our learners to think carefully about the technology, they use every day and how to stay safe while exploring the online world.

### Mental Health Week Monday 9<sup>th</sup> Feb - Friday 13<sup>th</sup> Feb 2026



Starting on the week commencing the 9<sup>th</sup> February we will be joining many other organisations in thinking about the importance of everyday 'Mental-health & well-being'. This year's theme we will be exploring is "This is My Place". We will be thinking about the importance of belonging and how school is a place where you can feel safe, included and values.

We will be holding a 'Mental Health Awareness Assembly' on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> February where we will be sharing all the key messages and learning from the week and our on-going focus on this important theme.

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.



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Red nose day (Friday 20 March)



encourages children to think carefully about the technology they use every day and how to stay safe while exploring the online world.

There is just 52 days to go until **Red Nose Day 2026** on Friday 20 March!

Just giving page for Squirrel Hayes First School - <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/rnd26-squirrel-hayes-first-school>

February Half Term - School Closure and INSET Day



School will finish at the normal time of 3:15pm on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2026.

School will re-open to Pupils on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2026 at 08:45am

Please note that school will be closed to pupils on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2026 as this is an INSET day and staff will be in school for training.

Parent Pay Debts



As you may know, the cost of school dinners has risen to **£3.20** and we are seeing increasing lunch debts. We understand with the current climate surrounding the cost of living that things will be a bit tight but **would ask that you check that you can pay for your child/children's dinner before ordering one each day.**

When a child has a school lunch and they do not qualify for Free School Meals or Universal Free School Meals (e.g. in Reception or Year 1 or Year 2) it automatically becomes a debt on your parent pay account. This will need **to be paid daily** to keep the debt off your parent pay account. You can top up your child/children's parent pay account each week so that you do not have pay daily if this helps.

Could your Child/Children be entitled to Free School Meals?



We are writing to inform you that your child/children may be entitled to free school meals. The application process is quick and easy, and you can receive a decision straight away.

To apply for free school meals, please visit the following link:

3 |

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<https://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/.../apply-online.aspx>

In addition to free school meals, you can also benefit from:

- Education Support Fund Vouchers: These vouchers can help with shopping expenses.
- Holiday Activities Fund: This fund provides free hours for child care during the school holidays.

Once you have completed the application, could you please let us know the outcome of the decision as soon as possible? You can send a screenshot of the decision and send it to [office@squirrelhayes.staffs.sch.uk](mailto:office@squirrelhayes.staffs.sch.uk)

#### 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.

#### FREE Online sessions - Knife Crime

FREE online session for Parents and Carers. 2 hour session on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> February 6-8pm.

This session is hosted by knife crime prevention charity, The Ben Kinsella Trust and covers the following topics:

- Understanding knife crime from the perspective of young people
- The signs and stages of child exploitation
- Gangs and gang-life
- Exploring the link between trauma and exploitation
- Consider online harms, social media, slang and gang-related music
- Understanding how 'issues' with peers can escalate and how young people can manage them
- Having meaningful conversations about difficult topics
- Helping our children stay safe; the SAFE 'T's approach
- Further support and resources

You can book your space using the link below (please discard the previous link)-

<https://benkinsellatrust.beaconforms.com/form/dcd0caf8>



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## Healthy Relationships



Click to complete a Family Hub Referral Form

### Free 3 week course

Do you ever worry about the atmosphere in your home? We all argue sometimes. Whether that's with our partners, our parents or other family members. Life stresses can put strain on families, leading to conflicts which can impact on children's mental health and long-term outcomes. This free course has been designed to help you find ways to improve your relationships and get on better. Remember, you don't see your arguments. Your kids do.



Booking required through referral only. Please complete a 'Family Hub Referral Form' to book your space.



- Right help.
- Right time.
- Right place.

Search Family Hubs Staffordshire to get the support you deserve

Families' Health and Wellbeing



## School Nurse Community drop in

2nd Friday of the month  
 13.30 - 16.30pm



For parents/carers of 5-19's and young people not in education

The School Nurse is here to help your child feel healthy, happy and safe during their school years and to get the best from their education. If you have any concerns about their health

Biddulph Children Centre  
 Albert Street  
 Biddulph  
 ST8 6DT

We provide a confidential and friendly service

[www.mpft.nhs.uk/services/health-visiting-and-school-nursing](http://www.mpft.nhs.uk/services/health-visiting-and-school-nursing)

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The poster for Caudwell Children's SEND Support Team sessions has a purple background with yellow gear-like shapes. At the top left is the Caudwell Children logo, which includes the text 'Empowering Disabled & Neurodivergent Children'. Below the logo is the heading 'ABOUT US'. The main text describes the organization's mission to champion every kind of potential in disabled and neurodivergent children. It lists the types of support offered and provides contact information for the local SEND Support Team. A list of who can visit is provided, including parents, health professionals, and anyone interested in learning more. Two photographs are included: one showing a child and an adult with colorful blocks, and another showing a child with their hands raised. At the bottom, the poster lists the dates and times for the sessions at the Staffordshire Moorlands Family Hub.

**CAUDWELL CHILDREN**  
Empowering Disabled & Neurodivergent Children

**ABOUT US**

We champion every kind of potential in disabled and neurodivergent children by truly listening and understanding.

Every child is different, that's why we offer personalised practical and emotional support. We're here to listen, support and help find the right path for your family.

Chat with your local **SEND Support Team** at community hubs across Staffordshire.

**Who can visit us?**

- \* Parents and carers of disabled and/or autistic children
- \* Health, education, and care professionals
- \* Anyone looking to learn more about Caudwell Children's services

Our **SEND Support Team** will be at Staffordshire Moorlands Family Hub **ST8 6DT** on the following dates. Drop in so no booking required

9:30am—12:30pm  
14th & 28th January,  
11th & 25th February  
11th & 25th March

Caudwell Children are offering free drop-in sessions for parents / carers to meet their SEND Support Team.

Caudwell Children know face-to-face conversations matter. That's why you can visit your local SEND Support Team at Family Hubs across Staffordshire. They are there to listen, answer your questions, and guide your family to the right support.

Please find the details for your local SEND Support Team sessions via the below, including times, dates, and locations.

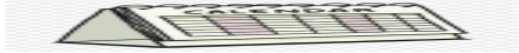
### Local SEND Support Team - Caudwell Children

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**Important Diary Updates**



Please find below a table of events that have been planned for the Spring 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:

DATE	EVENT	CLASS
Wed 28 <sup>th</sup> Jan - afternoon	Hydra Class - Leisure Centre activities	Hydra
Tues 3 <sup>rd</sup> Feb 6:30pm - 7:30pm	Governing Body Meeting	Governing Body
Mon 9 <sup>th</sup> Feb 3:15pm - 4:30pm	Valentines Disco	All classes
Tues 10 <sup>th</sup> Feb 2:40pm	Safer Internet Day Assembly	All classes
Weds 11 <sup>th</sup> Feb 2:40pm	Mental Health Awareness Assembly - Parents/Carers invited to attend	All classes
SPRING HALF TERM HOLIDAY Mon 16th Feb - Fri 20th Feb	SCHOOL CLOSED FOR HALF TERM HOLIDAY	All classes
Mon 23 <sup>rd</sup> Feb	INSET DAY - SCHOOL CLOSED TO PUPILS	All classes
Thurs 5 <sup>th</sup> March	World Book Day	All classes
Weds 11 <sup>th</sup> March 1:30pm - 6:30pm	Parent Consultations	All classes
Week beg 16 <sup>th</sup> March	INSPIRE Dance - rehearsal and show	Dancers involved
Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> March 1:00pm	Visiting James Bateman Junior High School to watch their School Performance	Year 4 learners
Thurs 19 <sup>th</sup> March	Easter Bonnet & Easter Fund Day - Times & details to follow	All classes
Tues 24 <sup>th</sup> March 6:00pm - 8:00pm	Full Governing Body Meeting	Governing Body
Thurs 26 <sup>th</sup> March	Educational Visit to Bernard's Farm	Reception Class & Hydra

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

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