



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 6th February 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

Attendance Reminder



At Squirrel Hayes First School, good attendance and punctuality are really important for helping children get the best possible start to their day. Over the past few weeks, we have noticed an increase in children arriving late. Please can we remind parents and carers that **school starts promptly at 8:45am**, and the **school gates open at 8:30am**. Arriving on time ensures children are settled and ready for learning.

We have also had a number of absences where parents and carers have not informed the school. If we are not notified, these absences must be recorded as **unauthorised**. To make reporting absences quick and easy, parents and carers can **reply directly to the text message sent each morning at 8:15am**, **phone the school and leave a voicemail**, or **email the school office at office@squirrelhayes.staffs.sch.uk**.

Thank you for your continued support in helping us maintain good attendance for all our children.

Valentines Disco - Monday 9th Feb 2026

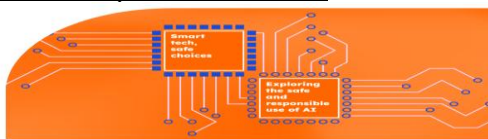


Our Valentines Disco will be taking place on Monday 9th February from 3:15pm - 4:30pm. The entrance fee will be £1.50 and will include a snack and drink. This will need to be paid for on 'Parent Pay'.

Safer Internet Day - Tuesday 10th Feb 2026

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Education Resources



On Tuesday 10th 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

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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.

<https://www.squirrelhayes.staffs.sch.uk/attachments/download.asp?file=448&type=pdf>

Mental Health Week Monday 9th Feb - Friday 13th Feb 2026



Starting on the week commencing the 9th 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 11th 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 will form part of our 'Achievement Assembly' and Parents/Carers are welcome to come along and join us at 2:40pm.

World Book Day - Thursday 5th March 2026



This Year we will be joining many schools in celebrating World Book Day on Thursday 5th March 2026. As part of our celebrations, we would like to invite our learners to come to school dressed as one of their most loved story characters. You do not have to buy any fancy costumes as we also love to see your own 'creations'. To help families prepare for our upcoming World Book Day celebrations, we are supporting a **World Book Day Costume Donation and Swap**. If you have any preloved costumes, you no longer need, donations can be dropped off at Biddulph Library from **Saturday 7th February**. Families will then be able to browse and swap costumes from **16th February to 5th March**. This is a great way to recycle, save money, and support our school community. Even if children aren't dressing up this year, we would still appreciate any costume donations.





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Red nose day (Friday 20 March)



There is just 42 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>

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/>

February Half Term - School Closure and INSET Day



School will finish at the normal time of **3:15pm on Friday 13th February 2026.**

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

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

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

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

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