



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 17th April 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

### Welcome Back



We hope you had a lovely Easter break. As we step into the summer term, we are excited to welcome you back and update you with some of the up-and-coming activities and events we have planned.

### Music Concert



This Monday all classes enjoyed a Musical Concert presented by the Music Service. This was a wonderful opportunity for our learners to see a variety of different musical instruments being played and musical genres explored. They particularly liked the 'Disney theme' and were keen to talk about the musical features.

### Academy Photography - Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2026



Academy Photograph will be visiting our school on **Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2026**. They will capture memorable moments of our learners, including class group photos, Year 4 Leavers', and graduation photos. Please ensure that your child is wearing their correct uniform and look their smartest so that you can treasure these memories forever.

### Parent Pay Lunch Debts



As you may know, the cost of school dinners has risen to **£3.25**. 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. The maximum allowance for a school meal debt is £15 once this has been met then school lunches will be terminated until full payment has been made to your child's ParentPay account.**

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 to pay daily if this helps.



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## Nursery Admissions – September 2026



We are pleased to let parents and carers know that we currently have spaces available in our Nursery for September 2026. Nursery sessions run from 8:45am until 12:00pm, and we have places available for children accessing their 15 hours of funded early education. If your child is 3 years old and you are looking for a nursery place, please visit the school office to collect a Nursery admission form. Once your application has been accepted, we will arrange a home visit to help ensure your child feels settled and ready for their start in September. If you require afternoon provision, we work in partnership with Space Cadets/Little Rockets who can provide the afternoon provision and collect your child from Squirrel Hayes at lunchtime and take them down to their provision for the afternoon.

### Changes to contact details



Please can we remind parents that if any circumstances change i.e. phone numbers, emails or address details please could you let the school office know so we can update the system and have the correct details on file. We always need two contact numbers in case of an emergency.

### Apply for Free School Meals

Did you know your child may be entitled to Free School Meals? The check is quick and easy, taking just two minutes, with an instant decision. Applying will not affect your credit rating or involve any credit checks. If you are eligible, it can also provide extra support on top of access to paid for school meals. Your child can have access to additional support within school through pupil premium funding and during the school holidays, you have access to vouchers and access to Holiday Activities and Food programmes. Applying is simple – just click the link below to see if you qualify and ensure your child doesn't miss out on this valuable support.

<https://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/financial-support-school/free-school-meals/applying-free-school-meals>

### Wonder Wednesdays



We are pleased to let Parents and Carers know that 'Wonder Wednesdays' will be continuing throughout the Summer Term. These special days give children the opportunity to take part in exciting, creative learning experiences 'outdoors' that enrich and enhance our curriculum.



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Wonder Wednesdays will take place on the following dates. We look forward to another wonderful term of learning and exploration and thank you for your continued support.

Draco Class	Ladon Class	Hydra Class	Nursery & Reception
15/04/2026	15/04/2026	22/04/2026	Every Wednesday
29/04/2026	29/04/2026	06/05/2026	
13/05/2026	13/05/2026	20/05/2026	
10/06/2026	10/06/2026	03/06/2026	
24/06/2026	24/06/2026	17/06/2026	
08/07/2026	08/07/2026	01/07/2026	

**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:

Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> April	Academy Photography in school (Class, Leavers & Reception graduation) photos	All Classes
Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> April - am	Presentation Assembly from the 'FairTrade' team as Squirrel Hayes has been awarded 1 <sup>st</sup> Prize	All classes
Tuesday 28 <sup>th</sup> April	Peak Wildlife Educational Visit	Alternative/Enhanced Provision
Wednesday 29 <sup>th</sup> April - pm	Reading Party - Afternoon Tea	Reward for children in different classes linked to reading
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> May	BANK HOLIDAY - SCHOOL CLOSED	All Classes
Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> May	(None statutory) SATS Week	Year 2
Week beg 11 <sup>th</sup> May	Mental Health Awareness Week	All classes
Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> May (6:00pm - 7:30pm)	Full Governing Body Meeting	Governors
Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> May (2:30pm)	Attendance Prizes/Achievement Assembly	All Classes & Parents
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> May	BREAK UP FOR MAY HALF TERM (1 WEEK)	All Classes
Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> June	INSET DAY - SCHOOL CLOSED	All Classes
Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> June	SCHOOL RE-OPENS	All Classes & Staff
Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> June	Biddulph Grange Educational Visit	Hydra & Draco Classes

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

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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**Introducing SAFE steps for Mental Health support for children and young people in Staffordshire**

There are now simple **SAFE** steps to follow, linking to online resource that outlines the support available for children and young people, and how to access it, including:

- local services and referral routes for getting help and more specialist support
- advice and activities to promote wellbeing
- digital tools and apps for young people

Follow the **SAFE** steps for mental health support to find the right help at the right time.

Please find below a copy of the new poster which has a QR link to the website.

You can view the pathway, download the **SAFE** poster and also access the **SAFE** digital poster for digital screens under 'Related images' on [Staffordshire Connects website](#).



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### **Free factsheet: Healthy Eating**

Eating well is an important part of keeping healthy. Children who eat a nutritionally balanced diet tend to be ill less often, have more energy and a better attention span.

Early Years practitioners are in an ideal position to have a positive influence - not only on the nutrition of young children, but also in developing positive attitudes towards food and healthy eating.

Click the link below to see NDNA's free factsheet on healthy eating, written by early years experts.

[https://ndna.org.uk/my-resources/free-factsheet/?utm\\_source=foundation\\_years\\_newsletter&utm\\_medium=website&utm\\_campaign=NDNA\\_free\\_factsheet\\_healthy\\_eating\\_17\\_03\\_26](https://ndna.org.uk/my-resources/free-factsheet/?utm_source=foundation_years_newsletter&utm_medium=website&utm_campaign=NDNA_free_factsheet_healthy_eating_17_03_26)

### **Early Language and Communication Network**

This is a **free** virtual network open to anyone working with young children in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent.

Hear the latest updates around children's speech, language and communication, bitesize training, strategies and tips for supporting children's communication and signpost to useful resources, organisations or events.

The network is run by the Children's Speech and Language Therapy Team at MPUFT.

**Thursday 16 April 2026 1pm to 2:30pm by MS Teams**

Click the link below to book onto this or to view other training courses available through the Stoke Speaks Out webpage.



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<https://www.stokespeaks.org/training>

A blue and white poster for a "School Nurse Community drop in". At the top left, it says "Families' Health and Wellbeing". At the top right, it features the NHS logo and "Midlands Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust". The main title is "School Nurse Community drop in". Below the title is an illustration of a woman and a man talking. To the right of the illustration, it says "For parents/carers of 5-19's and young people not in education". In a yellow circle on the right, it says "2nd Friday of the month 1.15pm - 4.00pm". Below this, it says "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 call in for a chat at →". To the right of this text is a white box with the address: "Staffordshire Moorlands Family Hub, Albert Street, Biddulph, Staffordshire, ST8 6DT, 01782 297970". At the bottom, it says "We provide a confidential and friendly service" and provides the website "www.mpft.nhs.uk/services/health-visiting-and-school-nursing".

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