



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 8th May 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

Parking and Drop-Off Reminder



Please can we kindly remind parents and carers not to park or drop off children directly in front of the main large blue automatic gates at the front of the school. This area must be kept clear at all times to ensure the safety of our learners and to allow access for emergency vehicles and authorised staff.

Thank you for your cooperation and for helping us keep everyone safe during drop-off and pick-up times.

Sun Safety in Warmer Weather



As the weather continues to warm up and we look ahead to hotter days, we kindly ask for your support in helping us keep children safe and comfortable while at school.

Please could parents and carers ensure that children **bring a sun hat and sun cream into school each day**. All items should be **clearly labelled with your child's name**.

Sun hats will help protect children outdoors, and having sun cream available will allow staff to support children with sun protection as needed during outdoor activities and playtimes.

Thank you for your continued cooperation and support—it is greatly appreciated and helps us ensure everyone can enjoy the warmer weather safely.

Mental Health Awareness Week - Week Beginning 11th May

Mental Health Awareness Week

11 - 17 May 2026

The week beginning 11th May is Mental Health Awareness Week, an important opportunity for us to focus on mental health and wellbeing across our school community.

Throughout the week, pupils will take part in age-appropriate activities and discussions aimed at helping them understand their feelings, build resilience and learn how to look after their own mental wellbeing, as well as support others.

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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We would like to thank parents and carers for continuing to work with us to promote positive mental health. Your support plays a vital role in helping children feel safe, confident and ready to learn. More information about any specific activities planned during the week will be shared nearer the time.

We value the strong partnership we have with parents and carers in promoting positive mental health. If you would like to access further support, advice or guidance, the following trusted resources may be helpful:

- **NHS - Children's Mental Health (Every Mind Matters):**
<https://www.nhs.uk/every-mind-matters/supporting-others/childrens-mental-health/> [[nhs.uk](https://www.nhs.uk)]
- **Mind - Mental health information for young people and families:**
<https://www.mind.org.uk/for-young-people/> [[mind.org.uk](https://www.mind.org.uk)]

Thank you for continuing to support your child's emotional wellbeing at home and at school. Together, we can help ensure every child feels supported, valued and able to thrive.

Help Us Make Our Sports Day & Summer Fun Fundraiser a Success



We are looking ahead to our **Sports Day and Summer Fun Fundraiser** taking place in June, and we would **love your support** to help make the event as enjoyable and successful as possible for all our children.

If you are able to contribute, we would be very **grateful for donations** of items such as:

- **Bottles (for bottle tombola)**
- **Chocolates and sweets**
- **Toys (new or good-quality preloved)**
- **Tombola prizes or other small items suitable for stalls**

All donations, big or small, will be greatly appreciated and will go a long way in helping us create a fun, memorable day for everyone. If you are able, please also share this request with family members and friends, as any additional contributions would be warmly welcomed. All donations can be brought to the school office.

Music Lessons & Celebration Concert Reminder



As you will already be aware from our previous communications, your child has been learning to play a musical instrument as part of their weekly music lessons. Every Friday, we have welcomed Entrust Music Specialists into school to deliver this tuition.

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- Draco Class (Years 3 & 4) have been learning to play the Ukulele
- Hydra Class (Year 2) have been learning to play the Recorder

The children have made fantastic progress and we are very proud of their commitment and enthusiasm.

Your child has been invited to take part in a Music Celebration Concert at Victoria Hall, Hanley, where they will join children from other schools to sing and perform using their instruments, celebrating their musical learning.

Date: Friday 19th June 2026

Time: Morning performance

To enable the children to attend an early rehearsal, we will be transporting them to and from the Victoria Hall by coach.

Important arrangements for the day:

- Children must arrive at school promptly for 8:00am
- Children must bring their musical instrument
- Children must be wearing full school uniform
- Children will return to school at approximately 12:30pm and will have their usual school lunch

Permission Forms Reminder

We are currently still missing some permission responses for this Educational Experience. If you have not yet returned your child's consent form, please ensure it is handed back to school as soon as possible, as we must have all permissions in place.

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





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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.

Walk to School Week - 18th - 22nd May 2026

We are encouraging pupils and parents/carers to take part in Walk to School Week this May. Walking is a healthy, active, and non-polluting way of getting to school. For those that live too far away to walk the whole distance, try parking 5-10 minutes from the school and walking the rest of the way. Your school may even have a park & stride location. Walking also promotes a less congested environment around the school gate making it safer for everyone.

Staffordshire County Council

Walking Warriors

Are you ready to join the Walking Warriors?

WALK TO SCHOOL WEEK 2026 18-22 MAY

Join our Walking Warriors this May for Walk to School Week

Most pupils in Staffordshire live within walking distance of their school and could walk to school on a regular basis, but survey data shows us that not everyone does this. We appreciate that some pupils do live too far away to walk so why not park further away and walk the last bit of your journey?

Walking to school has many benefits

- Children who walk to school are more alert and focused to learn than those who travel by car.
- A 15-minute walk helps children stay active and provides half of their daily exercise needs.
- It helps children learn road safety rules and become more independent.
- Walking helps lower the air clean and supports action on climate change.
- Children in cars are exposed to noise pollution when people walking nearby.
- Parks are around schools mean more fresh air and green spaces.
- Walking instead of driving can save a family about £600 a year.

Join in the fun and share your stories

Share with us your Walk to School Week story on social media by tagging @AltoAwardsStaffs and @StaffordshireCountyCouncil into your posts and using the hashtag #WalktoSchoolWeek2026. You may feature in one of our social stories. Please only share photos that you are happy for us to share too.

Ask your school for a copy of your 5/10 minute walk zone map. Every school in Staffordshire has one and it may help you to plan your journey more effectively.

Follow us on our website or email: INFO@staffordshire.gov.uk

X @ AltoAwardsStaffs @StaffordshireCountyCouncil #INTOWalkingStaffs

Biddulph Grange Educational Visit - Wednesday 3rd June



On Wednesday 3rd June 2026, learners from Hydra and Draco classes will be visiting Biddulph Grange Gardens as part of their learning. This will take place during school hours and they will be travelling by coach. Learners will be returning to school in the afternoon to have a picnic lunch.

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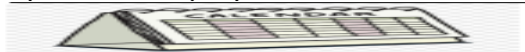


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Learners can either bring their own packed lunch or order a sandwich with chips in the morning from school. Please note no hot other dinners/lunches will be available on this day.

In order to support the school's budget for learning outside of the classroom, we are kindly asking for a contribution of **£2.50** to be paid via ParentPay.

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:

Tuesday 28 th April	Peak Wildlife Educational Visit	Alternative/Enhanced Provision
Wednesday 29 th April - pm	Reading Party - Afternoon Tea	Reward for children in different classes linked to reading
Monday 4 th May	BANK HOLIDAY - SCHOOL CLOSED	All Classes
Tuesday 5 th May	SCHOOL RE-OPENS (None statutory) SATS Week	All Classes Year 2
Week beg 11 th May	Mental Health Awareness Week	All classes
Week beg 18th May	Walk To School Week	All classes
Tuesday 19 th May (6:00pm - 7:30pm)	Fill Governing Body Meeting	Governors
Thursday 21 st May (2:30pm)	Attendance Prizes/Achievement Assembly	All Classes & Parents
Friday 22 nd May	BREAK UP FOR MAY HALF TERM (1 WEEK)	All Classes
Monday 1 st June	INSET DAY - SCHOOL CLOSED	All Classes
Tuesday 2 nd June	SCHOOL RE-OPENS	All Classes & Staff
Wednesday 3 rd June	Biddulph Grange Educational Visit	Hydra & Draco Classes

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

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