



Friday 15th May 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

**Fantastic Attendance Achievement!**



We are incredibly proud to celebrate both our **Reception Class** and **Draco Class** at Squirrel Hayes First School for achieving an **amazing 100% attendance** over the past two weeks! 🎉

Your **commitment, enthusiasm, and dedication to learning** have truly shone through. **Coming to school every day makes a huge difference, and you have all set a brilliant example for others to follow.**

A big thank you as well to our supportive families for helping make this possible — we couldn't do it without you! Keep up the fantastic work, everyone!

**Biddulph Grange Educational Visit - Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June**



On Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

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.

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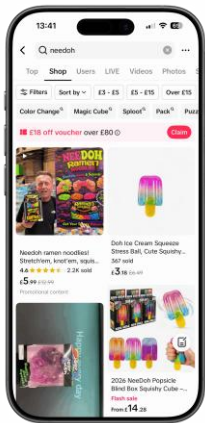
This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people/vulnerable adults and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.



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**URGENT Safeguarding Concern**

The Education safeguarding Advice Service for Schools has issued an urgent warning today regarding the above viral trend. Please read the information shared below



**WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW**

Children and young people are microwaving squishy silicone toys after seeing online videos claiming this makes the toys softer and more pliable. When the toy is squeezed afterwards, it bursts and sprays boiling material, which reportedly has left children's hands and faces seriously burned.

- The toys are widely available in UK shops, and online stores including Amazon and TikTok Shop and are immensely popular for both children and young people.
- Often, the packaging for these toys provides a warning not to heat, freeze or microwave. Children are ignoring it because the online videos they watch encourage them to do the opposite. The child may no longer have the original packaging to even see the warning.
- The silicone casing insulates heat yet the outside stays cool to the touch, all while the inside reaches boiling temperatures.
- In most reported cases, the child was unsupervised. There was no adult present to intervene before the injury occurred.

**THIS IS NOT AN ISOLATED INCIDENT**

Children have been seriously injured by this trend in the UK and the United States since 2025. Most recently, a 10-year-old girl in Bristol was seriously hurt and left with facial burns on 4th May 2026 after supposedly hearing about the trend from TikTok. Likewise, in the US, a seven-year-old required a medically induced coma and a nine-year-old narrowly avoided permanent vision loss. Hospitals in Chicago and Indiana treated multiple cases in a single week in February 2026.

These are only cases that have reached public attention but evidently this is an active online trend which appears as an innocent 'life hack' (a simple technique for making everyday things easier) for children but carries serious risk.

**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**

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- 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.

- 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.





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**Free School Meals Eligibility - Important Update for Parents and Carers**



We are pleased to inform you that **from 1st June 2026**, our school will be able to check eligibility for **Free School Meals (FSM)** on behalf of parents and carers.

This new process is designed to make **applying for Free School Meals quicker and easier**, ensuring that all families who are entitled to support receive it without unnecessary delay.

To support this, **letters will be sent out to all parents and carers of every learner after May half term**. It is important that **everyone completes and returns the form**, even if you believe you may not meet the eligibility criteria. This ensures that our records are accurate and that no child misses out on support they may be entitled to. Free School Meals can provide valuable assistance to families and also help the school access additional funding to support pupils' learning and wellbeing. If you have any questions or need help completing the form, please do not hesitate to contact the school office.

**Mental Health Awareness Week**



Many of our learners and staff came to school today wearing Green in support of Mental Health Awareness Week. **This year's theme is 'Action'**, while awareness is vital, real change comes when we take action.



**Nature is right there, wherever you are**

"Nature has an extraordinary ability to support our mental health," says Chris. "It offers space to slow down, reflect and feel connected to something bigger than ourselves. You don't need to travel far or know the names of everything you see; nature is right there, wherever you are, from a tree on the street to birdsong outside your window. Helping children and adults build a positive relationship with the natural world can bring comfort, confidence and a sense of hope, which feels more important than ever at a time when many people are struggling with their mental health."

Here at Squirrel Hayes First School, we really value health and well-being and recognise the importance of 'being outside and being with nature'. **Learners in all classes regularly experience 'Wonder Wednesday' and 'Wellie Wednesday' where they get to explore their learning through being outdoors and in nature.** This week learners in Draco and Hydra class had a visit from 'The Batman' who is actually an Ecologist and had come to the school to carry out a 'Bat Survey'. Whilst here he spoke to our learners about his job, the different types of bats in the UK and even shared examples of their 'cry', 'example bats' and his 'sensor equipment' used for tracking and monitoring them.

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The below pictures show some of our learners wearing Green to promote 'Mental Health Awareness Week and the importance of 'taking action' with your own mental health and that of others around you.



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**Family HUB - What's going on**

**Family Matters - Stop & Chat**



The session launched on Monday and runs weekly at the Hub on Albert Street from 10-12. It is a drop in for any parent/carer of any aged child, 0-19 (up to 25 with SEND) who is seeking some advice and support. (There is a two week break on the 25<sup>th</sup> May and 1<sup>st</sup> June).

Carol Boon our Family Hub coach is there to advise and offer support or signposting. She can advise and guide with a range of issues from money worries to parenting - behaviour to toilet training.

Parents can bring along any younger children and there will be toys and activities for them to engage with whilst their parent chats to Carol.

In addition, parents/younger children can have a cuppa and some toast.

**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:

Week beg 11 <sup>th</sup> May	Mental Health Awareness Week	All classes
Week beg 18 <sup>th</sup> May	Walk To School 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

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