



Tuesday 19th May 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

Attendance & Achievement Assembly - Thursday 21st May 2026



We are delighted to invite Parents and Carers to join us on Thursday 21st May 2026 at 2:30pm for a special Attendance & Achievement Assembly.

This will be an extended Achievement Assembly providing an opportunity for us to celebrate the fantastic attendance of our learners over the Autumn 2025 and Spring Term 2026. As part of our attendance rewards learners who have attended school every day on time each week get, their name added to a draw and prizes are drawn at the end of each half term. *(The more times the name is added to the draw the greater chances there are of the name being drawn out)* Regular attendance plays a vital role in your child's learning and success, and we are proud of the commitment shown by our pupils and families.

At our Special Assembly we will be drawing out names for the Autumn Term 1, Autumn Term 2, Spring Term 1 and Spring Term 2 so that the lucky learners can choose their prizes.

We look forward to welcoming you as we recognise and celebrate our learners' achievements together. Your support makes a real difference, and it is always wonderful to share these moments as a school community.

Free School Meals Eligibility - Important Update for Parents and Carers

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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.



Squirrel Hayes First School
Springfield Road
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Headteacher: Mrs. E. J. Pickford
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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.

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 traveling 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.

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.

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:



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- 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.

Summer Half Term Holiday

School closes to both pupils and staff on Friday 22nd May at the usual time of 3:15pm
 School will open to both pupils and staff on Tuesday 2nd June at the usual time of 8:45am
 (Please note that school is closed on Monday 1st June for an INSET)

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.

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 th May	Mental Health Awareness Week	All classes
Week beg 18 th May	Walk To School Week	All classes
Tuesday 19 th May (6:00pm - 7:30pm)	Full 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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May Half Term Events in and around Biddulph

children's half-term events at Biddulph Library

Elmer Day
Saturday 23rd May

Drop in for lots of free Elmer crafts and a hunt, aimed at the under 7 years.

At 2.30pm Elmer and the Gift Storytime and Songs

We will feature Elmer and the Gift, a lovely story which explains about dementia in a heartwarming way. Lots of animal songs and fun!

Aimed at the under 7 years.

Green Fingers Club for Green Libraries Month
Children's event 10.30am-12pm
Seed and Plant Swap all day.

Plant and seed swap, with story time and some planting and small compostable pots and plant radish or sunflower seeds with the children.

The children's portion starts at 10.30 and consists of:

- Chat about the wildlife on the farm
- Identify a turnip from a line-up of villainous vegetables
- Read the story - 'The Enormous Turnip'
- Plant some seeds. Possibly Sunflowers and Radishes
- Go on a bird/animal hunt around the library

This is free but booking is essential.

Kathryn from Nature in Your Neighbourhood / Staffs Wildtrust will be here to chat to people too.

Tuesday 26th May
2pm-4pm

Bring your child to our Story Character themed craft in preparation for the Festival of Brilliant in July. The craft is from 2-4pm. Make a decorated head band or a pop-up card or folded paper mini story card. Suitable for children up to 11 years old.

This a free event but please book.



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Wednesday 27th and Thursday 28th

10am-12pm

Join us for a Children's LEGO Club events at Biddulph Library! Kids can unleash their creativity and build amazing LEGO creations. It's a fantastic opportunity for young builders to explore their imaginations, work together, and have loads of fun. Suitable for children aged 3+. Come and be part of this exciting morning event!

Drop-in event, no charge, and no booking required.

Wonder of Waste

Saturday 30th May 1pm-3.30pm

Imagination crafting with recyclable material - all the children need to bring are their imaginations.

Your child can also experience VR tours of the Energy Recovery Facility showing where the general waste goes.

This is a free drop-in event that is being run by Veolia. No booking is required. Just pop in between 1pm and 3.30pm on Saturday 30th May.

Please get in contact with Biddulph Library on 01782 485491 or Biddulph.library@staffordshire.gov.uk to book or for more information.