



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 11th September 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

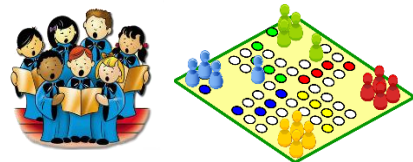
Welcome Back!



A very warm welcome back to all of our pupils and families following the summer break. We hope you have enjoyed a wonderful summer and had the opportunity to relax, spend time with family and friends, and create lots of special memories.

We are delighted to see our children returning to Squirrel Hayes First School, full of enthusiasm and ready for an exciting year of learning, discovery and achievement. A special welcome goes to all of our new pupils and families who are joining us for the first time. We hope you quickly feel part of our friendly school community. The start of a new academic year is always an exciting time, bringing new opportunities, new experiences and new challenges. Our staff have been busy preparing classrooms, activities and learning experiences to ensure that every child has the best possible start to the year. Here's to a fantastic year at Squirrel Hayes First School!

After School Clubs



We are delighted to announce that letters have been sent home regarding our exciting after school clubs for this term:

🎵 **Choir Club - Start Date: Monday 21st September**

🎲 **Board Games Club - Start Date: Thursday 24th September**

If your child would like to attend either club, please complete and return the reply slip as soon as possible. Please note that places are limited and will be allocated on a first come, first served basis. Once all places have been filled, a waiting list will be created.

We look forward to welcoming our budding singers and board game enthusiasts to these fantastic clubs!



New School Lunch Menu 2026-2027 & Important Free School Meals Information

Please find attached our new school lunch menu for the 2026-2027 academic year.

	WEEK ONE	WEEK TWO	WEEK THREE
MONDAY	Fajita Pizza with Purple Slaw (V) or Fiesta Bean Burrito with Rice (Ve) Veg of the Day Banoffee Mousse (V)	Margherita Pizza with Jacket Wedges (V) or Rainbow Vegetable Chow Mein (Ve) Veg of the Day Cinnamon Swirl (Ve)	Superhero Pizza with Paprika & Garlic Potatoes (V) or Sunshine Sweet Potato Curry with Rice (Ve) Veg of the Day Cinnamon Apple Whirl (Ve)
TUESDAY	Creamy Cauli & Chickpea Curry with Rice (Ve) or Penne with Beef Bolognese Veg of the Day Vanilla Shortbread (Ve)	Garden Sausage with Mash & Gravy (Ve) or Creamy Herby Chicken Pasta Veg of the Day Pinwheel Biscuits (Ve)	Penne with Garden Bolognese (Ve) or Homestyle Sausage Roll with Mash & Gravy Veg of the Day Chocolate Snap (Ve)
WEDNESDAY	Twisted Toad in the Hole with Roasties & Gravy (V) or Classic Toad in the Hole with Roasties & Gravy Veg of the Day Apple Flapjack (Ve)	Sage & Onion Whirl with Roasties & Gravy (Ve) or Roast Chicken with Stuffing, Roasties & Gravy Veg of the Day Flapjack (Ve)	Loaded Yorkshire with Roasties (V) or Beef Mince Loaded Yorkshire with Roasties Veg of the Day Soft Baked Cookies (V)
THURSDAY	Mighty Hero Mac & Cheese (V) or BBQ Chicken Melt with Sunshine Rice Veg of the Day Rich Pear & Chocolate Sponge (V)	BBQ Mac & Cheese (V) or Texas Beef Chilli Burrito with Crunchy Slaw Veg of the Day Golden Apple Cake (V)	Classic Mac & Cheese (V) or Golden Chicken Curry with Lemon Rice Veg of the Day Topsy-Turvy Pineapple Cake (V)
FRIDAY	Cheesy Bean Whirl with Chips (V) or Crispy Battered Fish with Chips Veg of the Day Fruity Jelly (Ve)	Crispy Quorn Nuggets with Chips (Ve) or Chicken Nuggets with Chips Veg of the Day Fruity Jelly (Ve)	Crispy Garden Fingers with Chips (Ve) or Fish Fingers with Chips Veg of the Day Fruity Jelly (Ve)
	31/8/26, 21/9/26, 12/10/26, 2/11/26, 23/11/26, 14/12/26, 4/1/27, 25/1/27	7/9/26, 28/9/26, 19/10/26, 9/11/26, 30/11/26, 21/12/26, 11/1/27, 1/2/27	14/9/26, 5/10/26, 26/10/26, 16/11/26, 7/12/26, 28/12/26, 18/1/27, 8/2/27
	Homemade Hero Pasta (Ve), Filled Jacket Potatoes and Sandwiches (including V/Ve options) are also available daily along with freshly baked bread (Ve), salad, fresh fruit, jelly (Ve), yoghurts (V) and drinking water.		

We would like to remind families that **there have been changes to the eligibility criteria for Free School Meals (FSM)**. If you think your child may now be entitled to **Free School Meals**, we strongly encourage you to **make an application as soon as possible**. Even if you have not qualified in the past, changes in circumstances may mean that you are now eligible.

Apply for FSM - <https://fsm.app.staffordshire.gov.uk/>

Please note that Universal Infant Free School Meals (UIFSM) remain in place for all children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2, regardless of household income.

Applying for Free School Meals not only supports your child but can also provide additional funding to the school, helping us to further support pupils' education and wellbeing.

School Meal Payments

For children who are not eligible for Free School Meals or Universal Infant Free School Meals, **the cost of a school lunch remains £3.25 per day**. Please ensure that payment for your child's meal is made daily via your ParentPay account. It is important that accounts are kept up to date to avoid any outstanding balances.



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Allergy Safety in Schools

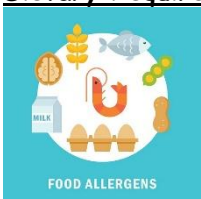


Schools, Colleges and Early Years settings must now have a dedicated 'Allergy Safety Policy' in place. As a school we have always had procedures in place to identify and support children with allergies. These will now be clearly defined within a separate 'Allergy Safety Policy'. **Mrs Oakes as our named Health & Safety Leader and Governor will be supported by Mrs Percival as our named Senior Leader to oversee allergy safety at Squirrel Hayes First School.** We are currently finalising our new 'Allergy Safety Policy' and will be sending out a link to this policy withing the next few days.

In order to help us manage allergies effectively in school, please ensure that you share any allergy information your child might have with the school office, if you have not already done so.

Our data collection sheets, which we ask to be completed annually at the start of each academic year, have key questions regarding your child/children's health or medical needs, including suspected or confirmed allergies. Please make sure all sections are completed fully and returned promptly to school to enable the office staff to update your child/children's records. **Data Collections Sheets will be sent home on Monday 14th for your completion and return.**

Dietary Requirements, Allergies and Intolerances



If your child has any dietary requirements, food allergies, or food intolerances, it is essential that these are registered directly with our catering provider, Edwards & Ward. Please complete the online form using the link below:

<https://edwardsandward.co.uk/special-diets/>



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This information enables the catering team to safely cater for your child's needs. Please be aware that without this information being submitted, the kitchen will be unable to make the necessary adjustments to your child's meals.

If your child's dietary requirements change during the school year, please ensure that Edwards & Ward are updated as soon as possible.

Illness/Lateness



Please can we remind everyone that if your **child is poorly/absent from school or late you must contact school to provide a reason for their absence/lateness**. There are many ways to contact the school office: Phone: 01782 973820 or reply to the text message that is sent each morning. Or email office@squirrelhayes.staffs.sch.uk. If no reason is provided or approved then **the absence will be marked as unauthorized**. Please be mindful that the **official start to the school day is 8.45am** therefore any arrival **after this time will be classed as late and anything after 9.10am will be classed as unauthorized** as this is when the registers officially close.

Staffordshire Childcare Survey for parents



Early Years Sufficiency and Data Officer from Staffordshire County Council are conducting a parent's survey to find out parent's views on childcare. The survey is for parents and parents to be of EY children living in Staffordshire - Please complete using the link below.

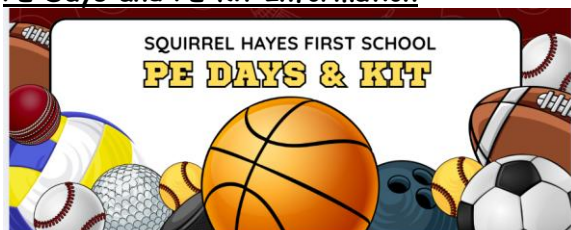
This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people/vulnerable adults and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.



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<https://letstalk.staffordshire.gov.uk/embeds/projects/24643/survey-tools/57858>

PE Days and PE Kit Information



To help everyone prepare for PE lessons and our exciting outdoor learning opportunities, please see the information below regarding PE days for each class.

Early Years (Reception)	- Wonder Wednesday: Wednesday - PE Kit Day: Friday
Hydra Class	- Wonder Wednesday: Wednesday - PE Kit Day: Friday
Draco Class	PE Days: Wednesday and Friday

PE Kit Requirements

Children should come to school wearing:

- A blue T-shirt or polo shirt
- Black shorts (for both boys and girls)
- Suitable trainers or PE shoes

Hair and Jewellery

For health and safety reasons:

- Long hair must be tied up before coming to school.
- Earrings should be removed before school unless your child is able to remove and replace them independently.

Thank you for your support in ensuring that children are dressed appropriately and ready to take part safely in PE lessons and outdoor learning activities.



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Important Diary Updates



Please find below a table of events that have been planned for the Autumn Term (1st Half). 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 6 th October 2:30pm	Harvest Celebration and Assembly - Parents/Carers welcome	Rec - Year 4 classes
Monday 19 th October 3:30pm - 4:30pm	Spooky Disco	Nursery - Rec
Thursday 22 nd October	Academy Photography in School	All classes
Friday 23 rd October 3:15pm	School closes for the October Half Term Holiday	All classes
Monday 2 nd November	INSET DAY - School closed to pupils	School closed to pupils
Tuesday 3 rd November 8:45am	School opens for the 2 nd half of the Autumn Term	All classes
Tuesday 10 th November 9:30am	Flu Team in school	Rec - Year 4
Friday 20 th November	Children in Need Fundraising	All classes
Tuesday 1 st December 6:00-8:00pm	Full Governing Body Meeting	Governors
Wednesday 2 nd December 10:15 am onwards	Christmas Carol Concert in Church followed by return to school for Christmas Fair and fundraising activities - Parents/Carers invited	All classes
Monday 7 th December 3:30pm - 4:30pm	Christmas Disco	All classes
Tuesday 8 th December 2:00pm - 3:00pm and 6:00pm - 6:45pm	Christmas Performance Afternoon and Evening - Parents/Carers invited	Hydra and Draco class
Tuesday 15 th December 11:00am onwards	Christmas Lunch - Parents/carers invited	All classes
Thursday 17 th December	Christmas Party Day	All classes
Friday 18 th December	Christmas Jumper Day School closes at 3:15pm for the Christmas Holidays	All classes
Monday 4 th January 2027	School Opens for the Spring Term 08:45am	All classes

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

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ARE YOU IN NEED OF ITEMS OF SCHOOL UNIFORM?

At the Family Hub, we have a stock of **NON-NAMED** school uniform items available.

 These include T-shirts, shirts, trousers and skirts.

GOOD QUALITY PRE-LOVED UNIFORMS available **FREE OF CHARGE** to families.

NEED SOMETHING? *We're here to help!*

If you are in need of any school uniform items, please contact us:

01782 297970
familyhubadminmoorlands@staffordshire.gov.uk

SUPPORTING OUR COMMUNITY AND HELPING FAMILIES TOGETHER

Pop in and see us!

SUPPORTING FAMILIES
BUILDING CONFIDENCE
SUPPORTING HOUSEHOLD BUDGETS
STRONGER COMMUNITIES

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New Alcohol Awareness Page Launches on Staffordshire App Finder



A new **Alcohol Awareness** page is now live on the **Staffordshire App Finder** website.

The page brings together a range of digital tools and resources to support alcohol awareness, helping residents access trusted information, advice and wellbeing support in one convenient place.

All apps featured within the App Finder library are independently reviewed and assessed by **ORCHA (Organisation for the Review of Care and Health Apps)** against rigorous standards for safety, privacy, usability and effectiveness.

This gives you confidence that the apps available through App Finder are trusted, safe and suitable for use.

One of the top-rated resources featured is the free **NHS Drink Free Days** app, which helps users choose alcohol-free days, track their progress and stay motivated through practical tips, reminders and milestone celebrations. Whether someone is looking to cut down, take regular alcohol-free days, or make positive lifestyle changes, the app offers a simple and practical way to build healthier habits.

To explore the new Alcohol Awareness page, visit: <https://staffordshire.orchhealth.com/en-GB/alcohol-awareness-week>