



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 25th September 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

Harvest Festival Celebration – Tuesday 6th October 2:30pm



As part of our Harvest celebrations, we would like to invite you to join us for our **Harvest Assembly on Tuesday 6th October 2026 at 2.40pm.**

Our children will be taking part in a short assembly to celebrate the Harvest season and reflect on the importance of kindness, gratitude and helping others within our community. We would be delighted if you could join us for this special occasion.

This year, we are proud to be working in partnership with **Stoke-on-Trent Foodbank** and would like to ask for donations of non-perishable food items to support local families in need. The Foodbank has specifically requested the following items:

- Tinned meat or fish
- UHT milk
- Tinned puddings
- Tinned vegetables and fruit
- Pasta sauces
- Tinned tomatoes
- Instant mash
- Tea bags
- Fruit juices
- Chocolate treats
- Cereals

If you are able to contribute, donations can be brought into school from now until the day of the assembly. **All donations will be collected and passed on to the Foodbank following our Harvest celebration.**

We appreciate your continued support and generosity and look forward to welcoming you to our Harvest Assembly.



Harvest appeal 

If you can, please donate an item or two from the list to help local people in need: -

- Tinned Meat/Fish
- UHT Milk
- Tinned Pudding
- Tinned Veg/Fruit
- Pasta Sauce
- Tinned Tomatoes
- Mash
- Teabags size 40 bags
- Fruit Juice
- Coffee
- Sweet Extra i.e. chocolate
- Cereal

Thank you for your help and supporting us to help people in this city who are in crisis.



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Academy Photography - Thursday 22nd of October 2026 (Families, Siblings and Individuals)



We are pleased to let parents and carers know that Academy Photography will be visiting Squirrel Hayes First School on Thursday 22nd October 2026.

During the visit, photographs will be taken for:

- Individual pupil photographs
- Sibling photographs
- Family photographs

Family and sibling photographs provide a wonderful opportunity to capture special memories and will be available to purchase directly from the photography company following the event.

Further information regarding timings and arrangements will be shared closer to the date. We kindly ask that children arrive at school looking smart and in full school uniform

Data Collection's



Thank you to everyone who has already returned their Data Collection Form. We are very grateful for your prompt responses. **We are still awaiting a number of forms and would kindly ask that any outstanding forms are returned to school by Wednesday 30th September 2026.**

It is vital that we receive and process this information to ensure our records remain accurate and up to date. Keeping these details current helps us communicate effectively with parents and carers and ensures that we can respond appropriately in the event of an emergency. If you require a replacement form, please contact the school office. **Please return all outstanding Data Collection Forms by Wednesday 30th September 2026.** Thank you for your support.

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



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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.

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

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/>

Mental health Support



Please see below an update regarding a 24/7 text messaging service available to support Mental Health. Anyone across Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent can access 24/7 mental health support by text through two free text services across the area. The text services are delivered by Midlands Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust (MPFT) and North Staffordshire Combined Healthcare NHS Trust (NSCHT), commissioned by Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Integrated Care Board (ICB).

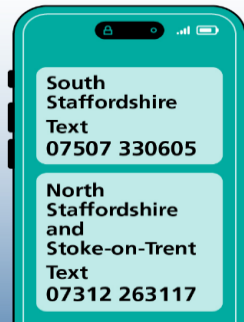
Children, young people and adults can text the following numbers to receive support for their mental health at any time of the day or night.



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24/7 mental health support text services available for residents across Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent



Text for support:

For North Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent – **07312 263117** (NSCHT).
For South Staffordshire – **07507 330605** (MPFT).

Anyone feeling unsafe, distressed or worried about their mental health can also call NHS **111** and select the mental health option. The text service is not for urgent or emergency support; the NHS advises people to call **999** if there is a serious risk to life.

Please see important changes to Christmas Events below:

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

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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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
Tuesday 2 nd December 2:00pm - 3:00pm and 6:00pm - 6:45pm	Christmas Performance Afternoon and Evening - Parents/Carers invited	Hydra and Draco class
Monday 7 th December 3:30pm - 4:30pm	Christmas Disco	All classes
Tuesday 8 th 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
Thursday 10 th December	Visit to See Santa Biddulph Grange	Nursery & Reception
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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The Incredible Years
The Incredible Years® Series
Evidence-based Parenting Programs

Evidence Based Early Intervention programme for parents and carers in small groups led by Family Hub Coaches who are trained professionals. For Families with children who present with social, emotional and developmental issues including conduct, ADHD, learning delays and internalising problems.

We aim to reduce stress, increase parental confidence and positive parent with child interaction using strategies with play, behaviour, modification, emotional wellbeing and boundaries.

For parents and carers of Children aged 3-6 years

STARTS: TUESDAY 6TH OCTOBER
TIME: 10:00AM - 12NOON
8-10 WEEK COURSE

At Staffordshire Moorlands Family Hub, Albert Street, Biddulph, ST8 6DT

Refreshments Provided
For more detail call 01782 297970

SCAN THE QR TO BOOK



Harvest appeal



Help support your food bank this Harvest

In the three weeks leading up to Harvest, the food bank will provide over 1000 food parcels for local individuals and families facing hardship.

Donate food



Donate an item or two from our shopping list, ensuring we can provide food for people facing hardship in your community.

Donate money



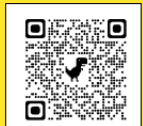
Help to cover the costs of storing and distributing food, as well as developing sustainable projects.

Shopping list

- Tinned meat/fish
- Tinned veg/fruit
- Cooking sauces
- Coffee
- Milk (UHT or powdered)
- Cereals
- Fruit juice (long-life)
- Tinned pudding
- Jam
- Instant mashed potato

stokeontrent.foodbank.org.uk

Registered Charity in England & Wales (1150820)



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Parenting Workshops

Practical advice, support and tips for you and your family

Join our friendly and informal **online workshops**, designed to give you the knowledge and confidence to support your child's health, development and wellbeing.

Wednesday 30th September 5.30 – 6.45pm	Understanding Child's Behaviour Explore why children behave the way they do and learn positive tips and strategies to support them.	
Monday 12th October 10.00 – 11.30am	Healthy Teeth Find out how to care for your child's teeth, with practical tips on brushing, diet and keeping little smiles healthy.	
Thursday 5th November 10.00 – 11.15am	Starting Solids Learn about when and how to introduce solid foods, what to offer and top tips for a positive experience.	
Monday 16th November 4.00 – 5.15pm	Looking After Ourselves A supportive session on your own health and wellbeing, with simple ideas to help you feel your best.	
Thursday 3rd December 1.00 – 2.15pm	Fussy Eating Get practical advice and strategies to help with fussy eating and encourage a healthy, balanced diet.	
Thursday 17th December 10.00 – 11.15am	Eating Well for Less Learn how to cook healthy, tasty meals on a budget, with tips, ideas and simple recipes.	

All sessions are FREE!

Scan the QR code to book your place
Spaces are limited, so book early to avoid disappointment.

All sessions are online

For more information call 01827 475222