



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 9th October 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

🎉 Hydra Class Attendance Superstars! 🎉



A huge congratulations to Hydra Class for achieving an incredible 99% attendance this week and being recognised in our Achievement Assembly on Wednesday afternoon! This is the second week running that Hydra Class have topped the attendance charts, showing fantastic commitment to their learning. As a reward, Cyril the Squirrel will be staying in your classroom for another week! Well done to all the learners in Hydra Class. Keep up the amazing work.

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



A huge **thank you** to all of our families for your incredibly generous donations for our Harvest Festival on **Tuesday 6th October**.

Your kindness and support have enabled us to collect a wonderful amount of food and household essentials, which will now be donated to the **Stoke-on-Trent Foodbank** to help local families and individuals in need.

We are incredibly grateful for the generosity shown by our school community. Your donations will make a real difference, and we are proud to work together to support others.

Thank you for helping us make our Harvest Festival such a meaningful occasion.



World Mental Health Day 2026



World Mental Health Day takes place every year on the 10th October. **As this year this falls over the weekend we will be celebrating this day in school on Monday 12th October.**

This World Mental Health Day, let's talk, listen, and support better mental health together.

See the useful link below to a website with great resources and advice about talking about Mental Health.
<https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/our-work/campaigns/world-mental-health-day>

Spooky Disco (Monday 19th October 2026)



We're excited to announce our **Spooky Disco 2026**, taking place on **Monday 19th October** from **3:15pm to 4:30pm** here at **Squirrel Hayes First School**! All learners from **Reception to Year 4** are invited to join the fun!



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The disco costs **£1.50 per child**, which includes a **drink and snack**. Payment should be made via **ParentPay**. Children are welcome to bring their **spooky costumes** into school on the morning of the disco. They will have time to get changed after school before the event begins. Please ensure your child is **collected promptly at 4:30pm** from school.

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



We're pleased to let you know that **Academy Photography** will be visiting **Squirrel Hayes First School** on **Thursday 22nd October 2026** to take **individual and sibling photographs**. Photographers will be on site from **8:15am**, allowing families with siblings who do **not attend our school** to come in early for group photos. Please arrive promptly if you'd like to take advantage of this opportunity. All children will have their individual photos taken during the school day, and sibling groups within school will also be photographed.

Anti-Bullying Week - Week beg 16th - 20th November 2026



As a school we will be joining many organisations to think about our **Anti-Bullying focus** in school during the week beginning the 16th November 2026.

We will be inviting all members of our learning community to wear 'Odd Socks' on **Monday 16th November** to help celebrate individuality and what makes us all unique!

On **Wednesday 18th November** you are invited to join us for our '**Anti-Bullying Assembly**' at **2:40pm**.

Where our learners will be sharing their thoughts about the importance of 'breaking the silence' and speaking out about Bullying.

Year 4 Learners - Time to Start Thinking About Middle School!



If your child is currently in **Year 4**, now is a great time to start thinking ahead about their transition to middle school. Both **James Bateman Middle School** and **Woodhouse Middle School** are holding **Open Mornings and Open Evenings** for prospective learners and their families. These events provide an excellent opportunity to visit the schools, meet staff and learners, tour the facilities, and find out more about what each school has to offer. We encourage all Year 4 families to attend, if possible, as this can help you make an informed decision about your child's next stage of education.

Please see the posters below for further information, including dates and booking details.



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Woodhouse Academy

Discover The Woodhouse Way
OPEN DAY & EVENING
Monday 19th October 2.30–7.30pm
We have places for September 2027

Scan the QR code to book your slot now

- 2:30–4pm (SEN/Quiet Session)
- 4:15–5:45pm
- 6:00–7:30pm

01782 973600
Woodhouse Lane, Biddulph, ST8 7DR
www.woodhouseacademy.staffs.sch.uk

Ofsted
Good Provider



James Bateman Middle School
Ready, Respectful, Resilient

OPEN MORNING
Saturday 17th October & Tuesday 20th October

9:30AM – 12:30PM

- ✓ Tour the school
- ✓ Meet teachers
- ✓ Chat to SLT
- ✓ Ask questions

Book a place now

For more info:
01782 973900
Email: office@jamesbateman.staffs.sch.uk

Visit us: www.jamesbateman.staffs.sch.uk

Head Lice Alert –

(Please Check Your Child's Hair)



We've been informed that **head lice** have been reported in school. While head lice are a common issue among young children, we kindly ask all families to take **preventative steps** to help stop them from spreading further.

What Are Head Lice?

Head lice are tiny insects that live in hair and feed on blood from the scalp. They are **not caused by poor hygiene** and can affect anyone. They spread through **head-to-head contact**, which is common among children during play and school activities.

How to Spot Them

- Itchy scalp, especially behind the ears or at the nape of the neck
- Small white or brown eggs (nits) attached to hair strands
- A tickling feeling or the sensation of something moving in the hair

The **only way to confirm** head lice is by finding a live louse. This can be done using a **fine-toothed detection comb**, available at most pharmacies. [[Head lice...nits - NHS](#)]

How to Treat Head Lice

According to **NHS guidance**: [[Head lice...nits - NHS](#)]

- **Wet combing** is an effective method. Use a special detection comb on wet, conditioned hair to remove lice and nits.
- **Medicated treatments** (lotions or sprays) are available over the counter. These should only be used if live lice are found.
- **Check and treat everyone** in the household who has lice on the same day.
- There is **no need to keep your child off school** if they have head lice.

Prevention Tips

- Avoid head-to-head contact during play
- Do not share hats, hairbrushes, or accessories



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- Regularly check your child's hair, especially if there's been a known case at school

For full NHS advice, please visit: www.nhs.uk/conditions/head-lice-and-nits [Head lice...nits - NHS]

Thank you for your cooperation in helping us manage this issue quickly and effectively.

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/>

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: Tuesday and Friday

Walk To School Month (October)



October marks Walk to School Month, and we're encouraging all families to take part in this fantastic initiative supported by Air Aware and Staffordshire County Council. Walking to school—even just once a week—can have a positive impact on children's mental and physical health, helping them arrive at school more alert, happier, and ready to learn. It also helps reduce traffic congestion and improve air quality around our school community. Whether you live nearby or need to drive part of the way, consider parking a little further from school and walking the rest. Every step counts! Let's work together to make our school run healthier, safer, and more sustainable.

Please see important changes to 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:

Monday 12 th October	World Mental Health Day - focus	All classes
Monday 19 th October 3:30pm - 4:30pm	Spooky Disco	Rec - Year 4 classes
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
Wednesday 11 th November 1:00pm - 3:00pm & 3:30pm - 6:30pm	Parent/carers Consultations	All classes
Monday 16 th Nov	Odd Socks Day - Anti-Bullying Week	All classes
16 th - 20 th November	Anti-Bullying Week	All classes
Wednesday 18 th November 2:40pm	Anti-Bullying Assembly - Parents/Carers invited	All classes
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