



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 16th October 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

Important Update - Christmas Festivities Dates and Events Changes



Please note that we have had to make some changes to the dates of our **Christmas festivities** this year. To ensure all families have the most up-to-date information, we have included a table at the end of this newsletter showing the **new confirmed dates** for all Christmas events and celebrations. We kindly ask Parents and Carers to check the updated information carefully and make a note of the revised dates in their diaries. Thank you for your understanding and continued support as we look forward to a fun-filled festive season with our learners. 🌲 ✨

Checking School Bags



A gentle reminder to all parents and carers to **check your child's school bag each day** for any letters, forms, newsletters, or important information that may have been sent home from school. While we share information through a variety of channels, some communications are still provided as paper copies and sent home with learners. Checking bags regularly helps to ensure that important information is received and any forms or permissions can be returned promptly.

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! The disco costs **£1.50 per child**, which includes a **drink and snack**. Payment should be made via **ParentPay**.

Payments will have to be made by 11am on Monday 19th October 2026 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.



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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.

October Half-Term Holiday



As we approach the end of a busy half-term, we would like to remind parents and carers that school will close for the October half-term holiday on Friday 23rd October 2026 at the usual time of 3.15pm.

We hope all our families have a safe, restful, and enjoyable break.

School is closed to Pupils on Monday 2nd November as this is an INSET Training Day for school staff.
School will re-open for learners on Tuesday 3rd November 2026 at the usual start time of 8.45am.

We look forward to welcoming everyone back for the second half of the autumn term. Enjoy the break! 😊

Parents Consultations - Wednesday 11th November 2026



We are pleased to be holding our Parent Consultations in school on Wednesday 11th November 2026.



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This is a valuable opportunity for parents and carers to meet with their child's class teacher, celebrate their achievements and learning, and discuss the progress they have made so far, this academic year. **We encourage all families to attend and take the opportunity to find out more about how their child is developing both academically and personally.**

Letters will be sent home next week with further information on how to book your appointment time slot. We look forward to welcoming you into school and sharing your child's successes with you.

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 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



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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
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
Monday 23 rd November 08.30am until 11am	Breakfast & Mindful Mornings - Parents & Child Activity Morning in school	Draco Class
Monday 30 th November 08.30am until 11am	Breakfast & Mindful Mornings - Parents & Child Activity Morning in school	Hydra & Columba R
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 school followed by 'Winter Lunch', 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 of "Hooray in a Manger" Afternoon and Evening - Parents/Carers invited	Hydra and Draco class
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