



Friday 23rd October 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

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! 😊

Poppy Appeal Box

We are pleased to let you know that our **Poppy Appeal collection box** has now arrived in school. We are inviting all learners to help us raise money for the **Royal British Legion** and support the valuable work they do for serving and former members of the Armed Forces and their families.

The following items will be available:

- Snap Bands - **£1.50**
- Rubber Bands - **£1.00**
- Traditional Poppies - **£1.00**
- Zip Pull Wristbands - **£1.00**
- Paper Poppies - **50p**

We would like to thank you in advance for your support and generosity. Every contribution, no matter how small, will help support this worthwhile cause.

Remembrance 11th November 2026 - (Biddulph Remembrance Event Sunday 8th November 2026)



On Sunday 8th November representatives from our Draco class will be joining Mrs Johnson-Allen in attending the Remembrance Parade in Biddulph.



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Parents Consultations - Wednesday 11th November 2026

Parent Consultations

We are pleased to be holding our **Parent Consultations in school on Wednesday 11th November 2026**. 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 have been sent out 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.

☀ Attendance Stars Shine Bright! ☀



A huge congratulations to **Draco Class** for their fantastic attendance last week! They achieved an amazing **97.1% attendance**, which was proudly celebrated during this week's Achievement Assembly. Well done to all of our Draco learners and families for their commitment to attending school every day and making the most of every learning opportunity.

We are also delighted to share that our **whole-school attendance** as of **Thursday 22nd October 2026** stands at an impressive **96.6%**. Thank you to all parents and carers for your continued support in helping learners attend school regularly and arrive on time each day.

Every day counts, and together we can continue to build excellent attendance habits that support our learners' success. Keep up the fantastic work! 🏆 ⭐ 📚

Staffing Update

I would like to take this opportunity to update you regarding a few staffing changes that will be taking place in school.

Mrs Simms our Key Holder and Cleaner has retired after serving the school for a very long time. Mrs Simms has held many roles over the years and we would like to thank her for her hard work and dedication to the school's community and we wish her all the best in her well-deserved retirement. **Mrs Walklate is also moving onto new adventures** as this is her last day working at Squirrel Hayes. Mrs Walklate is commencing a new job working for the NHS and I am sure you will join us in thanking her for her commitment over the years and wishing her good luck in her new role.

We would also like to welcome two new members to our Teaching and Learning team over in Early Years, Mrs Toplass and Miss Cox. I am sure you will soon get to know them and welcome them into our school community.

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:

Friday 23 rd October 3:15pm	School closes for the October Half Term Holiday	All classes
Monday 2nd 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



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