ASPIRE BELIEVE ACHIEVE

Squirrel Hayes First School
Springfield Road
Biddulph
Stoke on Trent
ST8 7DF
Headteacher: Mrs. E. J. Pickford
Telephone: 01782 973820
Twitter: @squirrelhayes
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Wednesday 4th November 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome Back



We hope you all had a restful and enjoyable October half-term break. Whether you spent time travelling, relaxing at home, or exploring new adventures, we're delighted to welcome everyone back for the second half of the Autumn Term. This half of the term is always a busy and exciting one, filled with learning, creativity, and preparation for the festive season ahead. Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

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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Flu Team (NHS in School) – Tuesday 10th November

This is just a reminder that you have been contacted by the NHS direct regarding the Flu Team visiting school on **Tuesday 10th November for your child's Flu Nasal Spray**. Texts have been sent out by school as a reminder with the link on **to provide your consent if you have not already done so**.

Parents Consultations – Wednesday 11th November 2026

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.

Phonics Screener Information Session for Parents/Carers & Child



On Monday 16th November 2026, Mrs Percival will be running an important information session regarding the Phonics Screener. The Phonics Screener is an assessment that all Year 1 learners will complete in June 2027. **Parents/Carers of Year 1 learners are invited to attend the session with their child at either 9:00am -9:20am or 5:00pm-5:20pm.** You will receive a text for you to confirm whether you will be attending one of the sessions.

Anti-Bullying Week – 16th to the 20th November 2026



During the week begging the 16th of November we will be joining schools across the country in supporting 'Anti-Bullying week'. This year's theme is "Break the Silence" – encourages children, young people, and adults to start conversations about bullying, speak up, listen, and take action together.

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We will start the week on Monday 16th of November inviting our staff and learners to come to school wearing 'odd socks', this is to celebrate what makes us unique. Throughout the week the learners will be looking at different aspects of 'Anti-Bullying'.

(please note the date below has changed)
You are invited into school on Thursday 19th November to join us for our Anti-Bullying and Well-being Assembly at 2.40pm. In this Assembly our classes will be sharing what they have been thinking about and will be promoting key messages about stamping out bullying and celebrating **"Break the Silence". We will also be sharing our on-going focus on mental health and well-being, including sharing our classes 'play lists' to support well-being that they designed following 'World mental Health Day'**

The Return of Breakfast & Mindful Mornings – Parents & Child Activity Morning in school



We're excited to invite Parents and Carers to our upcoming *'Breakfast & Mindful Morning Activity session's'*. These sessions were extremely popular last year and well attended. We will be focusing upon the 5 ways to well-being **through engaging activities for you to get involved in with your child.** You are invited to join us for a relaxed morning **where you can enjoy a hot breakfast with your child at 8:30am followed by a number of fun activities. Activities will be based around a Christmas theme and will involve Christmas craft and fun.**

The first session will be held on **Monday 23rd November** for families in **Draco class (Year 3 & 4)**, and the second on **Monday 30th November** for families in **Hydra (Year 1 & 2) and Columba (Nursery & Reception classes)**. Further details will be sent out soon including how you can order your breakfast!

Christmas Festivities 2026 – ParentPay Payments Now Available!



To help families prepare for our upcoming Christmas celebrations, we have now set up payment items on **ParentPay** for this year's Christmas events.

Christmas School Performances Tuesday 8th December 2026- Hydra and Draco "Hooray in a Manger"
Tickets for both our **AM and PM Christmas Performances** are now available to purchase via ParentPay.

- **Ticket Price:** £3.00 per ticket

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Christmas Lunch – Tuesday 15th December 2026

We are delighted to once again invite parents and carers to join us for a festive Christmas lunch with their child(ren). Places are limited for Parents/Carers to two per family.

Prices are as follows:

- **Adults:** £4.50
- **Children (not eligible for Free School Meals):** £3.25

We hope that by making these payments available early we will help families plan ahead for our Christmas festivities. Further information regarding performance dates, ticket allocations and Christmas lunch arrangements will be shared in due course.

Thank you for your continued support, and we look forward to celebrating this special time of year with 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:

Tuesday 10th November 9;30am	Flu Team in school	Rec – Year 4
Wednesday 11th November 1:00pm – 3:00pm & 3:30pm – 6:30pm	Parent/carer Consultations	All classes
Monday 16th Nov	Odd Socks Day – Anti-Bullying Week	All classes
Monday 16th November 9:00am – 9:20am or 5:00pm – 5:20pm	Phonics Screener Parents/Carers and Child Information Session	Year 1 Pupils
16th – 20th November	Anti-Bullying Week	All classes
Thursday 19th November 2:40pm	Anti-Bullying Assembly – Parents/Carers invited	All classes
Friday 20th November	Children in Need Fundraising	All classes
Monday 23rd November 08.30am until 11am	Breakfast & Mindful Mornings – Parents & Child Activity Morning in school	Draco Class
Monday 30th November 08.30am until 11am	Breakfast & Mindful Mornings – Parents & Child Activity Morning in school	Hydra & Columba R
Tuesday 1st December 6:00-8:00pm	Full Governing Body Meeting	Governors

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Wednesday 2nd 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 7th December 3:30pm – 4:30pm	Christmas Disco	All classes
Tuesday 8th 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 10th December	Visit to See Santa Biddulph Grange	Nursery & Reception
Tuesday 15th December 11:00am onwards	Christmas Lunch – Parents/carers invited	All classes
Thursday 17th December	Christmas Party Day	All classes
Friday 18th December	Christmas Jumper Day School closes at 3:15pm for the Christmas Holidays	All classes
Monday 4th January 2027	School Opens for the Spring Term 08:45am	All classes

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