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
Facebook: facebook.com/squirrelhayes

Monday 16th November 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

Snow/Adverse Weather Conditions Procedure



As we are approaching the wintery weather, I thought it would be appropriate to update you on the snow/adverse weather conditions procedures. The health & safety of your child is of paramount importance to all the staff here at Squirrel Hayes First School. Any decision taken to close the school due to snow or dangerous weather conditions will be considered very carefully following health and safety guidance.

Learning will be available for your child via their 'Google Classrooms' account. Please ensure that you can log in and access this account.

If the school has to be closed due to health & safety reasons surrounding snow or adverse weather conditions then you will be informed as soon as possible through the following:

- **Text message on your mobile**
- **Message on the school's official Facebook page https://www.facebook.com/squirrelhayesfirstschool/**
- **Message on the Staffordshire school's website (www.staffordshire.gov.uk/education/schoolsandcolleges/emergencyclosures)**
- Parents can also sign up to the county council's alert system which links into the above process to alert parents of their specific closures via text and email.
- **Announcement on the local radio stations (BBC Radio Stoke, Signal Radio + signals website www.signal1.co.uk)**

If an emergency closure is made during the day, you will be required to come and collect your child from school and will be informed about where to collect your child/children from.

Please do not phone the school to see if the school is closing, this will only jam up the phone lines and prevent us from making emergency calls or contacting the relevant bodies to inform them of school closure. We do not take the decision to close schools lightly and will be considering the safety of all if a closure is needed.

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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.

(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'**

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!

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Christmas Fayre & Fundraising Day Donations



Christmas Fayre & Fundraising Day - Wednesday 2nd December 2026
As we begin preparations for our annual Christmas Fayre and Fundraising Day, we would be very grateful for any donations that families are able to provide.
We are looking for a variety of items to help make our event a success. Donations big or small are greatly appreciated and will help us raise valuable funds for the children of Squirrel Hayes First School.
Suggested donations include:

- New or unused gifts and toys
- Chocolates and sweets
- Christmas-themed items
- Toiletries and gift sets
- Books, games and puzzles
- Raffle prizes
- Bottles (non-alcoholic or alcoholic for adult stalls)
- Homemade crafts or festive treats

If you are able to donate, please send items into school by Monday 30th November 2026 wherever possible. Thank you for your continued support and generosity. Every donation helps us make our Christmas Fayre a memorable and enjoyable event for our children, families and local community.

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

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

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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.

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:

16th – 20th November	Anti-Bullying Week	All classes
Thursday 19th November 2:40pm	Anti-Bullying Assembly – Parents/Carers invited	All classes
Monday 23rd November 08.30am until 11am	Breakfast & Mindful Mornings – Parents & Child Activity Morning in school	Draco Class
Thursday 26th November (Morning)	**Woodhouse Visit – Cooking & drumming**	**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
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 – **4:15pm**	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