



*It is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.*

*Parable of the Mustard Seed- Matthew 13:31-32*

## Message from Miss Mills

Dear families,

As we reach the end of Week 3 of the Autumn Term, I am filled with joy and gratitude for the incredible achievements of our school community. I am thrilled to announce that St. Andrew's has successfully completed its SIAMS inspection! This is a testament to the hard work, dedication, and commitment of our staff, pupils, and parents. Thank you to everyone for your unwavering support and for embodying our Christian values throughout this process.

We are truly blessed to have both Mary Howard and St. Andrew's schools living out our shared Christian vision. Together, we are nurturing an environment where our pupils can grow and flourish, just as the mustard seed grows into a mighty tree. As it is written in Matthew 17:20, "For truly I tell you, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you." This scripture inspires us to believe in the potential of our pupils and the strength of our community.

Looking ahead, we have many wonderful events planned with our fabulous Parent-Teacher Associations (PTFAs) of St. Andrew's (SASA) and Friends of Mary Howard (FOMH). Their dedication and enthusiasm play a vital role in enriching our school experiences, and I encourage everyone to get involved.

Next week, we will be celebrating the Macmillan Coffee Morning on Friday. This is a fantastic opportunity for us to come together as a community, enjoy some delicious treats, and raise funds for a very worthy cause. Additionally, we are excited to welcome PEP the Poet, who will inspire our pupils with his creative talents.

Thank you once again for your continued support and for making our schools such a special place to learn and grow. Wishing you all a lovely weekend!

Warm regards,

Rachel Mills

# Dinners for Week Commencing 9th September 2024

This week is: Week 1

## YOUR SCHOOL MENU

### WEEK 1



#### MONDAY

CHOOSE FROM  
 Plant-based burger in a bap with diced potatoes  
 Spaghetti bolognese  
 ON THE SIDE  
 Vegetables of the day  
 TO FINISH  
 Yoghurt, fruit and freshly baked mini shortbread biscuit

#### TUESDAY

CHOOSE FROM  
 Tomato pasta  
 Italian style chicken goujons with diced potatoes  
 ON THE SIDE  
 Vegetables of the day  
 TO FINISH  
 Chocolate brownie

#### WEDNESDAY

CHOOSE FROM  
 Handmade margherita pizza with crinkle cut wedges  
 Chicken and oriental style vegetable rice  
 ON THE SIDE  
 Vegetables of the day  
 TO FINISH  
 Fruit and jelly

#### THURSDAY

CHOOSE FROM  
 Quorn chicken pieces in a Yorkshire pudding  
 Sliced beef and Yorkshire pudding  
 ON THE SIDE  
 Vegetables of the day, roast potatoes and gravy  
 TO FINISH  
 Lemon drizzle sponge

#### FRIDAY

CHOOSE FROM  
 Sweet potato and lentil curry with a blend of brown and white rice  
 Baked fish fingers and chips  
 ON THE SIDE  
 Vegetables of the day  
 TO FINISH  
 Ice cream topped with cream

### WEEK 2

Our primary school menus comply with the Government's food and nutritional standards, meeting an average of 530 calories for each meal

#### MONDAY

CHOOSE FROM  
 Meat-free hotdog with diced potatoes  
 Cottage pie  
 ON THE SIDE  
 Vegetables of the day  
 TO FINISH  
 Yoghurt, fruit and freshly baked mini shortbread biscuit

#### TUESDAY

CHOOSE FROM  
 Roasted vegetable lasagne  
 Chicken nuggets with diced potatoes  
 ON THE SIDE  
 Vegetables of the day  
 TO FINISH  
 Apple flapjack

#### WEDNESDAY

CHOOSE FROM  
 Handmade margherita pizza with crinkle cut wedges  
 Ham carbonara with penne pasta  
 ON THE SIDE  
 Vegetables of the day  
 TO FINISH  
 Fruit and jelly

#### THURSDAY

CHOOSE FROM  
 Vegetable pastry crown  
 Roast chicken and Yorkshire pudding  
 ON THE SIDE  
 Vegetables of the day, roast potatoes and gravy  
 TO FINISH  
 Victoria sponge

#### FRIDAY

CHOOSE FROM  
 Somerset cheddar cheese and potato frittata  
 Baked battered fish and chips  
 ON THE SIDE  
 Vegetables of the day  
 TO FINISH  
 Homemade cookies

### WEEK 3



#### MONDAY

CHOOSE FROM  
 Somerset cheddar cheese and tomato quesadilla with diced potatoes  
 Pork sausage roll with diced potatoes  
 ON THE SIDE  
 Vegetables of the day  
 TO FINISH  
 Yoghurt, fruit and freshly baked mini shortbread biscuit

#### TUESDAY

CHOOSE FROM  
 Macaroni cheese with Somerset cheddar  
 Chicken curry with a blend of brown and white rice  
 ON THE SIDE  
 Vegetables of the day  
 TO FINISH  
 Jam sponge

#### WEDNESDAY

CHOOSE FROM  
 Handmade margherita pizza  
 Bubble salmon  
 ON THE SIDE  
 Vegetables of the day and crinkle cut wedges  
 TO FINISH  
 Fruit and jelly

#### FRIDAY

CHOOSE FROM  
 Vegetable and bean burrito  
 Baked fish fingers and chips  
 ON THE SIDE  
 Vegetables of the day  
 TO FINISH  
 Freshly baked marble shortbread biscuit

#### THURSDAY

CHOOSE FROM  
 Somerset cheddar cheese and tomato puff  
 Roast chicken and Yorkshire pudding  
 ON THE SIDE  
 Vegetables of the day, roast potatoes and gravy  
 TO FINISH  
 Chocolate orange sponge

Light bite options available. Daily sandwiches, jacket potatoes with fresh daily fillings

All menu items are subject to change, based upon availability and in the event of unforeseen circumstances.

Vegan  
 Vegetarian

## What's Coming Up This Week

### Monday 23rd September

- PE kits

### Tuesday 24th September

### Wednesday 25th September

- School Photos

### Thursday 26th September

- Bring in cakes and donations for MacMillan Coffee Morning.

### Friday 27th September

- PE Kits
- Macmillan Coffee Morning 8:45-9:30am in the hall.
- Pep the Poet visit

**What's  
Happening  
This Week**

## Dates to Note

### DATES TO NOTE



### September

- 25.09 School Photographs-

Mary Howard am– families, siblings and individual photos

St Andrew's PM– families, siblings and individual photos

- 27.09 Macmillan Coffee morning (both schools)
- 27.09 Pep the Poet visit (both schools)

### October

- 04.10 Rock up and Read– 8:45-9:15

- WC 14.10– Harvest Festival- dates TBC

- 15.10-St Andrews Parent Forum– 2:45pm-3:30pm

- 17.10-Mary Howard Parent Forum 2:45pm-3:30pm

- 25.10– Let your Light Shine– Values Assembly– Mary Howard 9am and St Andrew's 3pm

Please note that we have a TSSMAT Staff training day (INSET) on Monday 4th November 2024

## For Information

### No Office Support Available at This Time

It is with regret that we must inform our pupils and their families that our office staff are currently unavailable due to unexpected health issues. We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause.

During this time, we kindly ask that you bear with us as we work to ensure continuity of service. Please utilise Class Dojo and email as your primary means of communication, as our telephone lines may be limited.

We appreciate your understanding and patience as we navigate this temporary situation. Rest assured, we are doing everything we can to restore full office support as soon as possible.

If you have any urgent matters, please do not hesitate to reach out via Class Dojo or email, and we will respond as quickly as we are able. Thank you for your continued support of our school community.



### MacMillan Coffee Morning

On Friday 27th September, we will be holding a MacMillan Coffee Morning in school for parents and carers. This will take place between 8:45—9:30am in the hall. This will be led by children in Class 3 and we are hoping as many people as possible can attend.

We are asking for cake donations—please bring them to the school office on Thursday 26th September or on the day. Children will have the opportunity to purchase a cake for 50p at break time. We look forward to seeing you there and as always, your support is very much appreciated.



# For Information

## Pep the Poet

We are really excited to let you know that Pep the Poet is visiting all of the schools in our schools to deliver a workshop on Friday 27th September.

During the session he will be sharing his work with the children and will sign any books that you purchase. Parents can order books in advance from Pep's website

(or indeed after the workshop when the children are all fired up!) His books are £7.99 each and tote bags are £6.00.

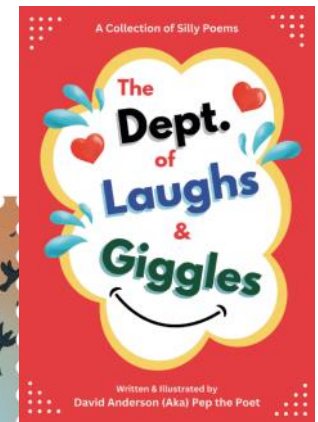
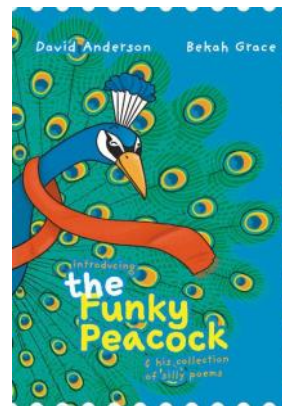
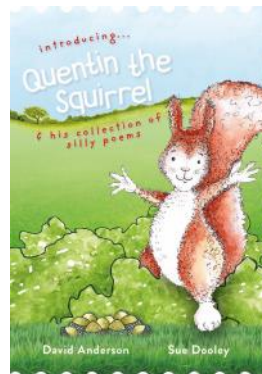
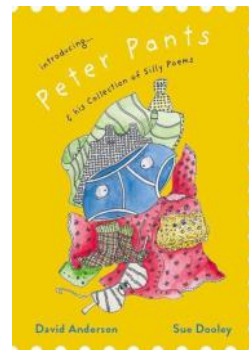
- <https://www.pepthe poet.co.uk/products>, <https://www.pepthe poet.co.uk/books> or scan the QR core to the right
- Pep will bring orders to the school on the day of the visit. (Please use the code **SCHOOLS** for free postage and packaging.)



When ordering from Pep's Website remember **The Shipping Address** is your child's name, school and year group.

**The Billing Address** is your name and your home address.

In the meantime, if you would like to follow Pep the Poet on his social media sites or watch him in action on his YouTube channel or TikTok the address is @pepthe poet



**PEP THE POET**  
@pepthe poet

# Mary Howard



School photos will be conducted on  
**Wednesday 25th September 2024**  
At this session we will be photographing  
Whole School

Families  
(Starting at 8:15am to 8:45am)

Siblings

Individuals

Please ensure full uniform is worn and children are neat and tidy.

Parents will receive free proofs of every image  
and the option to make a purchase.

# St Andrews



School photos will be conducted on  
**Wednesday 25th September 2024**  
At this session we will be photographing  
Whole School

Families  
(Starting at 3:30pm)

Siblings

Individuals

Please ensure full uniform is worn and children are neat and tidy.

Parents will receive free proofs of every image  
and the option to make a purchase.



## Why is it important?

Attendance	Days absent	Weeks absent	Lessons missed
95%	9 days	2 weeks	50 lessons
90%	19 days	4 weeks	100 lessons
85%	29 days	6 weeks	150 lessons
80%	38 days	8 weeks	200 lessons
75%	48 days	10 weeks	250 lessons
70%	57 days	11.5 weeks	290 lessons

**89% or below**  
Drastic effect on academic achievement

**96% - 90%**  
Cause for Concern

**100% - 97%**  
Excellent!



Across the TSSMAT we expect good attendance to ensure that all pupils are able to take full advantage of the education available to them. Good attendance matters.

Pupils who have good attendance: **Get better jobs in the future, Achieve better results, Make better friendships, Have good self-esteem and confidence**

We strive for every child to achieve 96% attendance or higher. Please do not be offended if you are told that we are concerned about your child's attendance or if you receive a letter of concern. Attendance falls under the category of safeguarding and it is our duty of care to challenge and support attendance. If we can help in any way please contact Miss Mills or the office. Thank you.

### Medical Appointments

Could we kindly remind

parents, to try and book medical appointments outside of school times.

We do understand that there are occasions when this is not always possible.

Thank you!

### Little Heroes Attendance

We are excited to announce the return of our Little Heroes Attendance Initiative for the current academic year. You will see posters and other promotional materials displayed throughout the school to raise awareness of this programme.

In each classroom, there is a sticker chart where pupils' names are displayed. Every day a pupil attends school and arrives on time, they will receive a sticker next to their name on the chart. The "Hero" acronym stands for "Here Everyday Ready and On Time" - the key pillars of this initiative.

The Little Heroes Attendance Initiative will run throughout the year. Pupils who maintain 100% attendance and punctuality each half term will be rewarded with a certificate.

For more detailed information about the programme, please visit the dedicated webpage at [Staffordshire.gov.uk/littleheroes](http://Staffordshire.gov.uk/littleheroes).

We appreciate your continued support in encouraging strong attendance habits among our pupil community. Together, we can ensure all our pupils have the best possible start to their day and access the full benefits of their education.

For the TSSMAT Attendance policy, please click the link:

Mary Howard: <https://maryhoward.staffs.sch.uk/parents/attendance-absence>

## **Autumn Term 2024**

**Inset day:** Monday 2 September & Tuesday 3 September

**Term Starts:** Wednesday 4 September

**Holiday:** Monday 28 October – Friday 1 November

**Inset: TSSMAT training day for staff- Monday 4th November**

**Term Ends:** Friday 20 December

**Holiday:** Monday 23 December – Friday 3 January

## **Spring Term 2025**

**Inset:** Monday 6 January

**Term Starts:** Tuesday 7th January

**Holiday:** Monday 17 February – Friday 21 February

**Term Ends:** Friday 11 April

**Holiday:** Monday 14 April – Friday 25 April

**Easter Sunday:** Sunday 20 April

## **Summer Term 2025**

**Term Starts:** Monday 28 April

**May Day:** Monday 5 May

**Holiday:** Monday 26 May – Friday 30 May

**Inset:** Monday 2nd June