



*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 Mrs Orgill

Dear Mary Howard families,

Welcome back and a warm welcome to the new children and families that have joined us - we all hope you enjoy being involved with our special school community!

We welcome a new member of staff to our team - Miss Matthews who is working in Oak Class and leading our After School Club from Monday.

Although the children have only been in school for two days we have already started some fantastic learning linked to our vision, values and the start of a new school year. Maple class explored the story "Our class is a family" and Oak and Willow "Home."

As you are aware, Miss Mills is currently out of school due to ill health, we all wish her a speedy recovery. In the meantime, for day-to-day queries please contact your Class Teachers and the office but remember I am always available for a chat when needed.

Have a fantastic weekend!

Sarah Orgill - Deputy Headteacher

"Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go." Joshua 1:9

What's coming up this week...

Monday 7th September

Tuesday 8th September

- PE Kits - all classes

Wednesday 9th September

- Swimming lessons for Year 4, 5 & 6 at Belgrave - please arrive to school in your swimming kits & don't forget goggles
- Oak class and Year 4 - PE Kits

Thursday 10th September

Friday 11th September

- Maple and Year 2 - PE Kits

Dates to note...

September

- Thurs 17th Sep - Music with Ed returns please bring in instruments
- Fri 18th Sep - The library bus is here!

Please access the Schools' website for key events - Mary Howard

[Upcoming Events](#) | [Mary Howard CE Primary School](#)

[Click here for Current Vacancies](#)

[Job Vacancies](#) | [The Staffordshire Schools Multi Academy Trust](#)

Dinners for Week Commencing 7th September 2026 - Week 2

Meal prices will increase to £3.05 in the new academic year

Please all can you preorder your children's meals on Arbor.



SUMMER MENU FROM JUNE 2026



V Vegetarian
VE Vegan
GF Gluten Free
DF Dairy Free

Week 1

Monday

Mains

Pork Meatballs in Tomato Sauce (DF)
Tomato and Herb Pasta Bake (V VE DF)

Both options made with whole wheat pasta

Sandwich option

Ham or Cheese

Desserts

Fresh Fruit Salad with Unsweetened Cream Swirl

Tuesday

Mains

All Day Breakfast
Sausage, hashbrown, egg and beans
Vegan Sausage All Day Breakfast (V VE)

Sandwich option

Ham or Cheese

Desserts

Sugar Free Jelly

Week 2

Monday

Mains

Macaroni Cheese Bake
Tomato Pasta Bake
Both options made with whole wheat pasta, served with carrots

Sandwich Option

Tuna or Cheese

Desserts

Fruit Slices with Unsweetened Cream Swirl

Tuesday

Mains

Chicken Korma
Served with Brown Rice and Broccoli
Cauliflower and Sweet Potato Korma (V VE DF)

Sandwich Option

Ham or Cheese

Desserts

Sugar Free Jelly

Wednesday

Mains

Pepperoni Topped Cheese and Tomato Pizza Sub
Margherita Pizza Sub (V VE)
Both options served with herby diced potatoes and sweetcorn

Sandwich Option

Ham or Cheese

Desserts

Apple baked sponge cake (V)

Thursday

Mains

Chicken Fajitas
Vegetable Fajitas
Both options served with brown rice and carrots

Sandwich options

Ham or Cheese

Desserts

Baked Fruit Crumble

Friday

Mains

Cod Bites
Breaded cod served with oven fried chips and peas
Tomato Pasta Bake (V VE DF)

Sandwich Option

Ham or Cheese

Desserts

Frozen yoghurt pot (Tofee or Strawberry flavour)

Daily Options

Jacket potatoes
Freshly baked jacket potatoes, 1 filling from a choice of cheese or beans (V, VE, GF)
Fresh fruit and salad bar available daily

Week 3

Monday

Mains

Pepperoni and Tomato Pasta Bake
Served with carrots
Tomato Pasta Bake
Both made using whole wheat pasta

Sandwich Options

Ham or Cheese

Desserts

Homemade Fruit Salad - unsweetened cream optional

Tuesday

Mains

Sweet and Sour Chicken
Cheesy Bean Burrito
Both served with brown rice

Sandwich Option

Ham or Cheese

Desserts

Sugar Free Jelly

Wednesday

Mains

Pepperoni Topped Cheese and Tomato Pizza Sub
Margherita Pizza Sub (V VE)
Both options served with herby diced potatoes and sweetcorn

Sandwich Option

Tuna or Cheese

Desserts

Chocolate sponge cake

Thursday

Mains

Roast Chicken
Served with roast potatoes, yorkshire pudding, broccoli and gravy
Vegetarian Sausage Roast Dinner

Sandwich Option

Ham or Cheese

Desserts

Fruit Crumble

Friday

Mains

Cod Bites
Breaded cod served with oven fried chips and peas
Tomato Pasta Bake (V VE DF)

Sandwich Option

Ham or Cheese

Desserts

Frozen yoghurt pot (Tofee or Strawberry flavour)

Daily Options

Jacket potatoes
Freshly baked jacket potatoes, 1 filling from a choice of cheese or beans (V, VE, GF)
Fresh fruit and salad bar available daily

All of our food is made on site using the freshest ingredients and complies with all Government legislation for nutritional value for schools

This Weeks Attendance @ Mary Howard

Government guidelines on attendance

Full attendance (100%) should be the standard expected.

Attendance of 97% or above is very good,

97-95% is good,

95-90% is poor

Below 90% is a serious cause for concern.

Reception 100%

Year 1 100%

Year 3 100%

Year 4 100%

Year 5 85.7%

Year 6 100%

ATTENDANCE MATTERS!

ATTENDANCE DURING ONE SCHOOL YEAR	EQUALS APPROXIMATE DAYS ABSENCE	WHICH IS APPROXIMATELY WEEKS ABSENCE	WHICH IS APPROXIMATELY LESSONS MISSED
95%	9 days	2 weeks	40 lessons
90%	19 days	4 weeks	80 lessons
85%	29 days	6 weeks	120 lessons
80%	38 days	8 weeks	160 lessons
75%	48 days	10 weeks	200 lessons
70%	57 days	11 ½ weeks	230 lessons
65%	67 days	13 ½ weeks	270 lessons

Well done to Reception, Year 1, 3, 4 & 6 for 100% attendance this week 👍

GETTING YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL REALLY DOES MATTER

DID YOU KNOW...?

In a school year, if your child is late every day by...

	Your child would have lost approximately...	or they would have missed approximately...
5 minutes	3 days from school	12 lessons
10 minutes	6 days from school	24 lessons
15 minutes	9 days from school	36 lessons
20 minutes	12 days from school	48 lessons
30 minutes	18 days from school	72 lessons

PLEASE ENCOURAGE PUNCTUALITY TO MAINTAIN ATTENDANCE

School Meals

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are writing to inform you of an upcoming adjustment to our school meal prices, which will take effect from September 2026.

Reviewing our prices is always a last resort. However, like many households and organisations, the school is facing significant ongoing financial pressures. We are experiencing sharply rising costs across our operational budget, specifically regarding food supplies, energy utilities, and staffing salaries. As you may know, our funding has not increased in line with these rises.

Summary of Price Changes

To ensure we can maintain the standard of these vital services, the following adjustments will apply from the start of the new academic year:

- School Lunches: Increasing by 10p, moving from £2.95 to £3.05 per meal.

In looking at how to manage this, we have carefully reviewed school lunch prices across Staffordshire to see how we compare. Moving to £3.05 means we are successfully managing to stay on the lower end of the county's average pricing for school lunches, while still working towards helping with the rising costs of ingredients and catering staff wages.

We want to reassure you that the school does not make any profit from these provisions. Every penny received from these fees goes directly toward covering the baseline costs of delivering nutritious meals and safe, high-quality wraparound care for your children.

We completely understand that any increase in household expenses is unwelcome, and we have worked hard to keep these changes as minimal as possible. We really do appreciate your continued support and understanding.

Reminders

Please return all Ukuleles to the office, many thanks.

Arbor payments

Would you please check your Arbor Parental Portal for any **outstanding payments**.

Please can ALL snack payments be cleared asap.

We would like to keep all accounts in credit or cleared of any debt.

Thank you for your understanding.

Safeguarding



PLEASE CLICK ON THE LINK BELOW

[SAFEGUARDING ALERT: Viral Trend Risks Causing Severe Burns to Children - Ineqe Safeguarding Group](#)

Term Dates 2026/2027

Autumn Term 2026

Term Starts: Thursday 3 September

Holiday: Monday 26 October – Friday 30 October

Inset day: Monday 2 November

Term Ends: Friday 18 December

Holiday: Monday 21 December – Friday 1 January

Spring Term 2027

Inset day: Monday 4 January

Term starts: Tuesday 5th January

Holiday: Monday 15 February – Friday 19 February

Term Ends: Thursday 25 March

Holiday: Monday 29 March – Friday 9 April

Easter Sunday: Sunday 28 March

Summer Term 2027

Term Starts: Monday 12 April

May Day: Monday 3 May

Holiday: Monday 31 May – Friday 4 June

Inset Day: Monday 7th June

Term Ends: Wednesday 21 July

Holiday: Thursday 22nd July – Friday 3 September