



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 Mary Howard families,

What a busy and brilliant week across our two schools — small seeds of effort continuing to grow and flourish.

Well done to our KS2 children who represented both schools in this week's Boccia tournament. You played with great skill and sportsmanship. St Andrew's finished joint second and Mary Howard finished joint first — a fantastic result and a wonderful display of team spirit. Thank you to the children, and to the staff and parent helpers who supported the event.

Next week our KS2 children will visit Walsall Art Gallery. This will be a lovely, enriching trip — especially for our Year 6 children who are working hard as they prepare for the upcoming SATs. Year 6: you have shown real commitment and growing confidence; you should be extremely proud of the effort you are putting in. A particular thank you to Mrs Porter and Miss Warner for their hard work, support and excellent teaching at this important time.

It is such a busy time of year with trips, competitions and sporting events continuing right to the end of the school year. If you are ever unsure about dates or arrangements, please check the school website or contact the school office — they will be happy to help.

“Let all that you do be done in love.” — 1 Corinthians 16:14

Wishing every family a wonderful Bank Holiday weekend. We hope the glorious weather continues. School reopens on Tuesday 5 May — we look forward to seeing everyone then.

Rachel Mills

Executive Headteacher

What's coming up this week...

Tuesday 5th May

Wednesday 6th May

- 6th Walsall Art Gallery Trip - Willow & Oak Class - normal drop off and collection times for the School day - remember packed lunches if you didn't request a lunch from School

Thursday 7th May

- PE Kit for all
- Parent Forum @2.45pm

Friday 8th May

- Ukulele lessons Willow - Please bring in your instrument
- Maple and Willow PE

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

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

Dates to note...

May

- 11th - 15th May - Year 6 SATS week
- 14th May - FOMH Quiz Night @ 5.30pm
- 15th May - The library bus is here
- 18th - 22nd May - Walk to School Week
- 18th-20th May - Year 5-6 Residential to Standon Bowers, **please continue to make payments, the balance is due on May 4th.**
- 21st May School census day - please help us by ordering a school dinner if possible!
- 21st May Values Celebration worship @ 3pm in school
- **25th - 29th May - Half Term!**

June

- 2nd June- Cross country at Richard Crosse 4-6pm - more details to follow
- 5th June - Rock up & Read @8.45-9.15am
- 16th June - Tamworth Primary Athletics KS2 - more details to follow
- 17th June - Greenpower Race Day - Curborough Oak class
- 25th June - WCET Celebration Concert - Willow Class Ukulele concert at the Coton Centre, Tamworth - Link for Tickets
<https://www.trybooking.com/uk/GAZD>

Mary Howard Sports Day will be held on Monday 6th July @9:15am

The Year 6 Leavers service will be on Wednesday 15th July in church @9.15am

Dinners for Week Commencing 4th May 2026 - Week 1



WINTER MENU FROM NOVEMBER 2025



V Vegetarian
VE Vegan
GF Gluten Free
DF Dairy Free

Week 1

Monday

Mains

Beef Bolognese
100% beef bolognese with sliced garlic bread

Sides

Seasonal vegetables of the day and
Homemade fresh salad bar

Desserts

Homemade Apple Cake (v) or
Fresh Fruit

Tuesday

Mains

Tuna and Cheese Pasta Bake
Served with diced herby potatoes

Sides

Seasonal vegetables of the day and
Homemade fresh salad bar

Desserts

Natural Yoghurt (v) or
Fresh Fruit

Wednesday

Mains

Cheese and Tomato Pizza
Homemade Pizza Dough topped with
Cheese and Tomato. Served with Potato
Croquettes

Sides

Seasonal vegetables of the day and
homemade fresh salad bar

Desserts

Freshly Baked Oat and Raisin
Cookies (v) or
Fresh Fruit

Thursday

Mains

Roast Chicken
100% Chicken breast, served with roast
potatoes, yorkshire pudding and gravy

Sides

Seasonal Vegetables of the day and
homemade fresh salad bar

Desserts

Apple and Berry Crumble (v)
Fresh Fruit

Friday

Mains

Fish Fingers
Breaded cod served with oven fried chips

Sides

Seasonal vegetables of the day and
Homemade fresh salad bar

Desserts

Ice Cream (v, ve, gf) or
Fresh Fruit

Daily Options

Jacket Potatoes

Freshly baked jacket potatoes. 1 filling from a
choice of Tuna, Cheese or Beans (v, ve, gf)

Tomato Pasta Bake

Wholemeal pasta in a tomato sauce (v, ve, gf)

Homemade Toasties

50/50 bread, with filling options of Tuna,
Cheese or Ham.

Homemade Soup and Sandwich

Soup made using fresh seasonal vegetables.
Some vegetables are grown in the school
attempts at selected schools. 50/50 bread,
with filling options of Tuna, Cheese or Ham.

All options are served with seasonal
vegetables, potato option of the day
and fresh salad bar

Week 2

Monday

Mains

BBO Chicken
100% chicken breast, topped with BBQ
sauce and sliced peppers

Sides

Seasonal Vegetables of the day and
Homemade fresh salad bar

Desserts

Chocolate and Caramel Cake
Cocoa chocolate and sugar free condensed
milk caramel cake (v)
Fresh Fruit

Wednesday

Mains

Cottage Pie
100% beef. Topped with sliced potatoes and
gravy.

Sides

Seasonal Vegetables of the day and
Homemade fresh salad bar

Desserts

Apple Crumble (v) or
Fresh Fruit

Friday

Mains

Fish Fingers
Breaded cod served with oven fried chips

Sides

Seasonal Vegetables of the day and
Homemade fresh salad bar

Desserts

Ice Cream (v, ve, gf) or
Fresh Fruit

Tuesday

Mains

All day breakfast
100% Pork sausage, beans, hash brown
and an egg omelette

Sides

Seasonal Vegetables of the day and
Homemade fresh salad bar

Desserts

Homemade Raisin Flapjack (v, ve) or
Fresh Fruit

Thursday

Mains

Roast Ham
100% pork, served with roast potatoes,
yorkshire pudding and gravy or cheese
sauce

Sides

Seasonal Vegetables of the day and
homemade fresh salad bar

Desserts

Homemade Chocolate Brownie (v)
Cocoa chocolate brownie
Fresh Fruit

Daily Options

Jacket Potatoes

Freshly baked jacket potatoes. 1 filling from a
choice of Tuna, Cheese or Beans (v, ve, gf)

Tomato Pasta Bake

Wholemeal pasta in a tomato sauce (v, ve, gf)

Homemade Toasties

50/50 bread, with filling options of Tuna,
Cheese or Ham.

Homemade Soup and Sandwich

Soup made using fresh seasonal vegetables.
Some vegetables are grown in the school
attempts at selected schools. 50/50 bread,
with filling options of Tuna, Cheese or Ham.

All options are served with seasonal
vegetables, potato option of the day
and fresh salad bar

Week 3

Monday

Mains

Pork Meatballs
Pork meatballs served in a tomato and basil
sauce with wholemeal pasta and Garlic
Bread

Sides

Seasonal Vegetables of the day and
Homemade fresh salad bar

Desserts

Natural Yoghurt (v) or
Fresh Fruit

Wednesday

Mains

Cheese and Tomato Pizza
Homemade Pizza Dough topped with
Cheese and Tomato. Served with Potato
Croquettes

Sides

Seasonal Vegetables of the day and
homemade fresh salad bar

Desserts

Pancakes and fresh fruit (v) or
Natural Yoghurt

Friday

Mains

Fish Fingers
Breaded cod served with oven fried chips

Sides

Seasonal Vegetables of the day and
Homemade fresh salad bar

Desserts

Ice Cream (v, ve, gf) or
Fresh Fruit

Tuesday

Mains

Sausage and Bean Casserole
Pork sausage in a baked bean casserole
sauce topped with sliced potatoes

Sides

Seasonal Vegetables of the day and
Homemade fresh salad bar

Desserts

Lemon Cake (v) or
Fresh Fruit

Thursday

Mains

Roast Chicken
100% Chicken breast, served with roast
potatoes, yorkshire pudding and gravy

Sides

Seasonal Vegetables of the day and
homemade fresh salad bar

Desserts

Fresh Berry Sponge Cake (v) or
Fresh Fruit

Daily Options

Jacket Potatoes

Freshly baked jacket potatoes. 1 filling from a
choice of Tuna, Cheese or Beans (v, ve, gf)

Tomato Pasta Bake

Wholemeal pasta in a tomato sauce (v, ve, gf)

Homemade Toasties

50/50 bread, with filling options of Tuna,
Cheese or Ham.

Homemade Soup and Sandwich

Soup made using fresh seasonal vegetables.
Some vegetables are grown in the school
attempts at selected schools. 50/50 bread,
with filling options of Tuna, Cheese or Ham.

All options are served with seasonal
vegetables, potato option of the day
and fresh salad bar

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 88.9%

Year 3 100%

Year 4 100%

Year 5 97.8%

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 3, 4 & 6 with 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...

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



Family Quiz Night

for all the family!

MAY | 14
5:30PM
Mary Howard School

£5 a ticket. Ticket includes a jacket potato or pizza!
Please see the letter coming home from school with how to purchase tickets.

DfE Screen Time Guidance

DfE guidance published this week aims to give parents clear, evidence-backed advice on screen time for children under five. It recommends:

- For under-twos, screen time should be avoided except for shared activities.
- For children aged two to five, it should be limited to around one hour a day and avoided at mealtimes and before bed.

This guidance sits alongside a wider government consultation on online safety. NGA will respond to the consultation, drawing on views from the governance community to ensure your perspectives are represented.

Reminders

Arbor payments

Would you please check your Arbor Parental Portal for any outstanding payments. We would like to keep all accounts in credit or cleared of any debt.

If your Arbor Account is in arrears of over **£10** for Snacks, we will no longer be able to offer your child a daily snack.

If your Account is in arrears of over **£50** for Wraparound Care, we will no longer be able to offer the care (unless payments are made via vouchers).

Thank you for your understanding.

Trip payments

The balance for the residential to Standon Bowers is due on **May 4th**. Please note now that we are less than 30 days before the trip the full balance has to be paid even if you are unable to attend the trip.

Please make payments on Arbor.

ADVENTURE DAYS

May Half Term



THRILLING ACTIVITIES

AFFORDABLE FUN

FAMILIAR GROUNDS

LUNCH INCLUDED

CONVENIENT SCHEDULE

SEN
INCLUSIVE

Capita

entrust
Inspiring Futures

Ideal for children aged 5–16, taking place at the Standon Bowers Outdoor Education Centre, Weston Lane, Stafford, ST21 6RD & Laches Wood Outdoor Education Centre, Laches Lane, Slade Heath, Wolverhampton, WV10 7PA.

20% off all May Half Term Adventure Days bookings

Use Code - ADSCHOOL20

Mary Howard Parent Forum Agenda Thursday 7th May 2.45-3.30pm

All Welcome

Agenda items to discuss

1. Welcome & Introduction

- Brief opening from Miss Mills.
- Goal of the session: Reflecting on the current year and shaping the next.

2. Logistics & Operations

- Trips and Visits: Review of this year's excursions and enrichments.
- Upcoming opportunities and the strategy for equitable access to trips.
 - The School Day: adjustments for the new academic year.

3. Digital Systems & Communication

- Platform Clarity: review of Arbor- Using it effectively for data, payments, and attendance.
 - ClassDojo: Streamlining classroom updates and celebrating student success.
- Feedback Loop: Discussion on communication frequency - is it too much, too little, or just right?

4. Year in Review: Reflect & Refine

- Evaluation of the Year: A look at key milestones and achievements.
- EBI (Even Better If): An open floor for parents to share constructive "Even Better If" suggestions to improve the children/parent experience.

5. Strategic Growth: Promoting Our School

- Parent Ambassadors: How can parents help share the school's success stories in the wider community?
- Word of Mouth & Social Media: Strategies for boosting the school's local reputation and enrollment.

6. AOB

7. Closing Remarks

- Summary of actionable points.
 - Date of the next forum.

Safeguarding



Summer Term 2026

May Day: Monday 4 May

Holiday: Monday 25 May – Friday 29 May

Term Ends: Friday 17 July

Inset: Monday 20 July

Holiday: Monday 20 July – Monday 31 August

Term Dates 2026

Autumn Term 2026

Please note there has been a change of inset days to include the 2nd of September instead of the 21st of July 2027 due to staff training.

Inset Day: Tuesday 1 September

Inset Day: Wednesday 2 September

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: Wednesday 21st July – Friday 3 September