



*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,

We have completed our first full week at Mary Howard! The children have joined in their new topics with enthusiasm, setting a wonderful tone for the rest of the school year.

On Wednesday we successfully hosted the TSSMAT Collective Worship for all seven schools. Year 6 and Miss Warner led a meaningful service about Respect, encouraging reflective behavior and healthy relationships across the trust. A warm thank you to Mrs. Gethin, Ralph, and Rev'd Nicky for supporting the worship service and enriching the school community experience.

Also this week the children got hands-on experience harvesting fresh carrots, cucumbers, and tomatoes from our growing garden. Rachael, our amazing cook, put them to good use in our lunches!

Have a wonderful weekend!

Sarah Orgill - Deputy Headteacher

"Do to others as you would have them do to you." Luke 6:31

What's coming up this week...

Monday 14th September

- Maple phonics workshop @3.15

Tuesday 15th September

- PE Kits - all classes
- Guitar lessons - please bring in guitars
- FOMH meeting @3.15

Wednesday 16th September

- Swimming lessons for Year 4, 5 & 6 at Belgrave
- Cross Country @ Richard Crosse 3:30pm. Those that have been selected have been contacted. Please complete the permission form.
- Oak class and Year 4 - PE Kits

Thursday 17th September

- Music with Ed returns please bring in instruments
- Piano lessons - please bring in books

Friday 18th September

- Maple and Year 2 - PE Kits
- The library bus is here!
- Ukulele Y4, 5 & 6

Dates to note...

September

- Fri 25th - MacMillan Coffee Morning @8.45-9.30 with a french twist. All Welcome! Cake donations night before/or the morning

October

- Thurs 1st Oct - Census Day
- Fri 2nd Oct - Rock up & Read 8:45am-9:15am
- Fri 2nd Oct - The library bus is here!
- Thurs 8th Oct - Harvest Worship in church @9.15am. Parents welcome to attend
- 5th-9th Oct - NSPCC kindness challenge week
- Fri 9th Oct - World Mental Health Day
- Fri 16th Oct - The library bus is here!
- Fri 23rd Oct - Let Your Shine Celebration @9am
- Fri 23rd Oct - Wear pink for breast cancer

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 14th September 2026 - Week 3

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 98.2%

Year 2 100%

Year 4 98.9%

Year 5 90.5%

Year 6 100%

Well done to Reception, Year 2 & 6 for 100% attendance this week 👍

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

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.

Census

Dear Parents and Carers,

On Thursday, 1st October, our school will participate in the national School Census.

This day is critical for our school budget. Government funding for Universal Infant Free School Meals (Reception, Year 1, and Year 2) is calculated directly from the number of children who eat a school lunch on Census Day.

How this impacts our school:

- Every infant pupil who eats a school meal on 1st October secures approximately **£500 per year** in government funding for our school.
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- If your child normally brings a packed lunch, choosing a school dinner on this single day makes a substantial financial difference to our budget.
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- All funds received go directly back into learning resources, classroom materials, and support staff for the children.

All pupils in Reception, Year 1, and Year 2 are entitled to a free school lunch every day. We strongly encourage all families to have their children enjoy a school meal on **Thursday, 1st October** to help us secure our full funding allocation.

To make the day extra special, our kitchen team will be serving a favourite menu on 1st October, we'll send more details out shortly.

Thank you for your ongoing support in helping us maximise funding for our school at a time when our budgets are exceptionally tight.

CENSUS DAY MENU

Thursday 1st October



Pepperoni pizza sub
with vegetables and
herby diced potatoes

Margarita pizza sub
with vegetables and
herby diced potatoes



Jacket potatoes
with cheese or beans

Ham or cheese
sandwiches



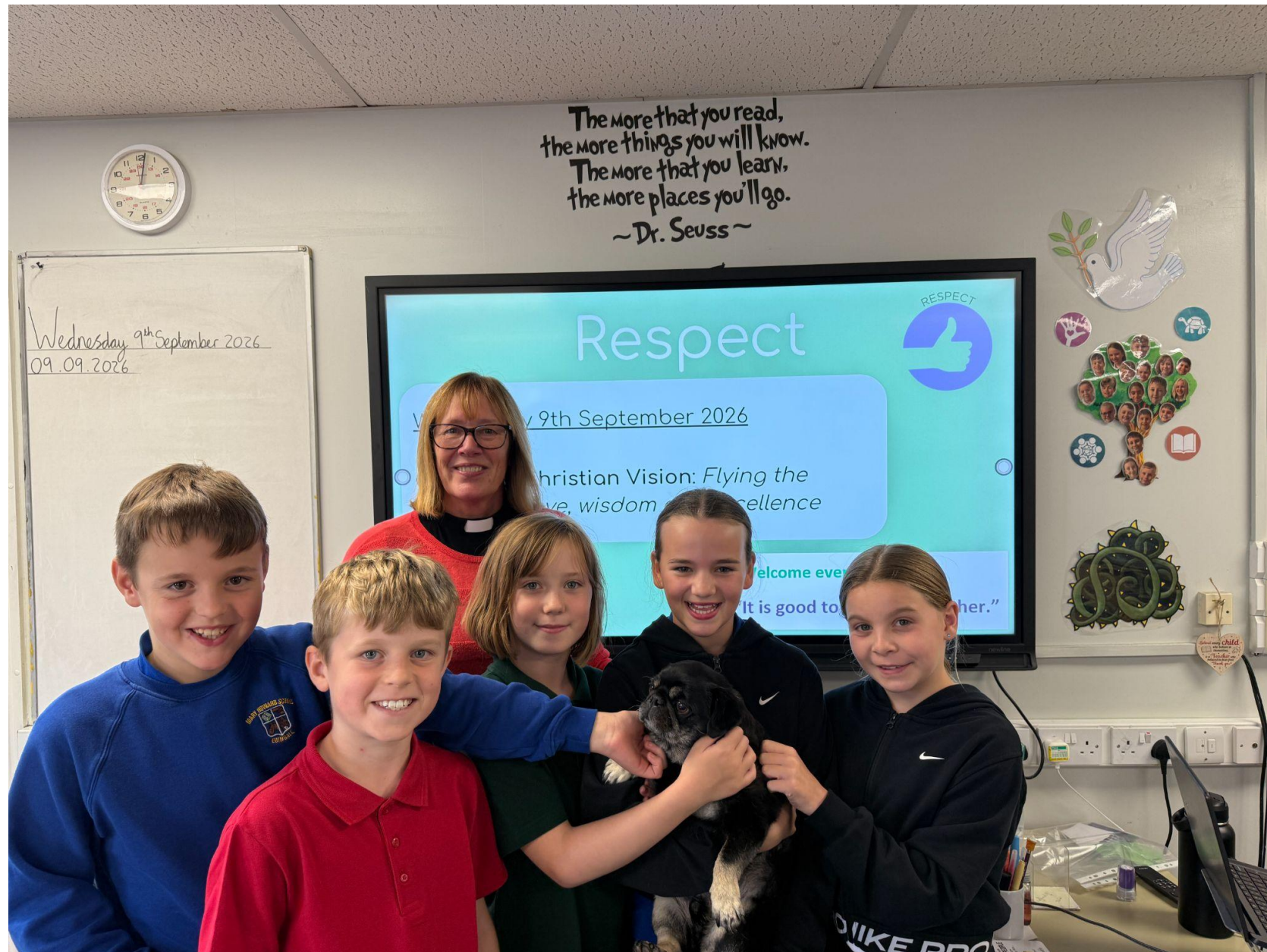
Fresh fruit platter

Chocolate cake



Good
Food
Happy
Learners
😊

TSSMAT Collective Worship



MH home grown vegetables!

A big *THANK YOU* from Rachael, our amazing cook who gathered these wonderful zebra cucumbers and tomatoes from the allotment / veggie patch, the children really enjoyed eating our home grown salads this week.



Reminders

Please return all Ukuleles to the office, many thanks.

A polite reminder: Breakfast club starts at 7:45am.

Arbor payments

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

Please can ALL payments be cleared.

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