



*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,

As we bring this school year to a close at Mary Howard, my heartfelt thanks go to everyone who has helped our children to grow and flourish.

A special thank you to FOMH for the many events that have brought our community together and for the generous Chromebook donation which is already boosting classroom practice and pupils' digital confidence; your support has also funded the Growing Garden and the new playground markings that have brightened playtimes and enriched outdoor learning.

I am deeply grateful to our staff for their tireless hard work and commitment. Your care, high expectations and creativity have helped children thrive academically, in sporting events and during our church performances. There have been so many highlights for me, where I stand and watch with pride, but last night's 'Mary Howard's Got Talent' was such an amazing way to end the year.

This year has been full of memorable moments including sporting fixtures and achievements, the Green Power project and the many trips and visits that brought our curriculum to life and given the children experiences they will treasure.

A brilliant well done to our Year 6 children who leave us today with excellent SATs results; we are immensely proud of their effort, resilience and kindness and wish them every success as they move on.

We also look forward to welcoming our new children in September and to continuing to build a confident, curious and caring Mary Howard community.

Enjoy a brilliant summer holiday. School reopens on Thursday 3 September 2026. As we rest and recharge, may we remember the words of our vision: "Though it is the smallest of all seeds, yet when it grows it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds come and perch in its branches." — Matthew 13:31–32. With thanks and best wishes for a safe, happy summer.

Rachel Mills - Executive Headteacher

What's coming up this week...

Monday 31st Aug

Tuesday 1st September

- Inset Day

Wednesday 2nd September

- Inset Day

Thursday 3rd September

- All pupils return to school

Friday 4th September

- Rock up & Read
- Library Bus is here!

Dates to note...

September

- Wed 9th Sep - Whole of KS2 start swimming lessons for 7 weeks - please bring in your swimming kits
- Wed 16th Sep 4pm - KS2 Cross County @ Richard Crosse
- Fri 18th Sep - The library bus is here!

PE will begin w/c 7th September, teachers will let you know the days for kits
Further dates will be added to the first newsletter of the academic year.

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](#)

Summer 2 CEO Letter

 [Click Here to View the Summer 2 Flipbook Letter](#) 

Dinners for Week Commencing 31st August 2026 - Week 1

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	Tuesday
Mains Pork Meatballs in Tomato Sauce (DF) Tomato and Herb Pasta Bake (V VE DF) <i>Both options made with whole wheat pasta</i> Sandwich option Ham or Cheese Desserts Fresh Fruit Salad with Unsweetened Cream Swirl	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	Tuesday
Mains Macaroni Cheese Bake Tomato Pasta Bake <i>Both options made with whole wheat pasta, served with carrots</i> Sandwich Option Tuna or Cheese Desserts Fruit Slices with Unsweetened Cream Swirl	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

Week 3

Monday	Tuesday
Mains Pepperoni and Tomato Pasta Bake Served with carrots Tomato Pasta Bake <i>Both made using whole wheat pasta</i> Sandwich Options Ham or Cheese Desserts Homemade Fruit Salad - unsweetened cream optional	Mains Sweet and Sour Chicken Cheesy Bean Burrito <i>Both served with brown rice</i> Sandwich Option Ham or Cheese Desserts Sugar Free Jelly

Wednesday	Thursday
Mains Pepperoni topped Cheese and Tomato Pizza Sub Margherita Pizza Sub <i>Both options served with Herby Diced Potatoes and Sweetcorn</i> Sandwich Option Ham or Cheese Desserts Summer Fruit Baked Sponge Cake (v)	Mains BBQ Chicken Served with brown rice and broccoli Tomato Pasta Bake Sandwich Option Tuna or Cheese Desserts Apple Crumble

Wednesday	Thursday
Mains Pepperoni Topped Cheese and Tomato Pizza Sub Margherita Pizza Sub (V VE) <i>Both options served with herby diced potatoes and sweetcorn</i> Sandwich Option Ham or Cheese Desserts Apple baked sponge cake (v)	Mains Chicken Fajitas Vegetable Fajitas <i>Both options served with brown rice and carrots</i> Sandwich options Ham or Cheese Desserts Baked Fruit Crumble

Wednesday	Thursday
Mains Pepperoni Topped Cheese and Tomato Pizza Sub Margherita Pizza Sub (V VE) <i>Both options served with herby diced potatoes and sweetcorn</i> Sandwich Option Tuna or Cheese Desserts Chocolate sponge cake	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	Daily Options
Mains Cod Bites Breadcrd cod served with oven fried chips and peas Sweet Potato and Cauliflower Curry Sandwich Option Ham or Cheese Desserts Frozen yoghurt pot (Tofee or Strawberry flavour)	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

Friday	Daily Options
Mains Cod Bites Breadcrd 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)	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

Friday	Daily Options
Mains Cod Bites Breadcrd 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)	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 90.6%

Year 3 100%

Year 4 87.3%

Year 5 100%

Year 6 100%

Well done to Reception, Year 3, 5 & 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

New Class Structure for 2026/2027

Maple Class

Reception/Y1

Mrs Orgill and Mrs Reid

Willow Class

Y2/Y4

Miss Arrowsmith and Miss Brownhill

Oak Class

Y5/6

Miss Warner and Mrs Aston-Wright

Mary Howard certainly has LOTS of Talent!!







Summer Savings

The Great British Summer Savings scheme is running from 25 June to 1 September 2026, helping families feel a bit less squeezed this summer.

The new scheme includes reduced VAT on days out, including tickets at attractions like soft play, adventure centres and theme parks, children's tickets for theatres and cinemas, and children's meals in restaurants. Children aged 5 to 15 in England will also be able to travel free on local bus services throughout August.

For further information about the scheme visit [Summer Savings](#). If helpful, please share this with parents, carers and families through your usual channels.

This is in addition to further support available to families, with more information available at [Cost of Living Help](#).

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

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

Summer Term 2026

Holiday : Monday 20 July – Monday 31 August

Autumn Term 2026

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: Thursday 22nd July – Friday 3 September