Grow and Flourish

Koinonia- Wisdom-Love- Perseverance

Mary Howard Primary School

Autumn Term 1, Friday 23rd October 2026

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 an amazing, fun-packed half term we have had at Mary Howard! It has been wonderful to see so many happy children enjoying fabulous learning and plenty of enrichment.

Our Values, Achievement Worship was a lovely testament to the positive half term we have shared. Thank you to our staff for their care and commitment, including keeping our after-school club running, and to FOMH for all their support. A special thank you to everyone who took part in the FOMH Bake Off. Reverend Nicky had the very important job of trying 37 cakes!

Thank you, too, to all our parents and carers for the support you give to our school family. It is very much appreciated.

As we head into the break, we are reminded of our school vision:

Though it is the smallest of all seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree.”-Matthew 13:31–32

I hope you have a restful and enjoyable half term. We look forward to welcoming everyone back on Tuesday 3 November at 8.45 am.

With my thanks and best wishes,

Rachel Mills

Executive Head, The Mease (St Andrew's & Mary Howard)

What's coming up this week...

Monday 2nd November

- Inset Day

Tuesday 3rd November

- PE Kits - all classes
- Guitar lessons with Entrust - please bring in guitars
- We will be selling Poppies in school from today

Wednesday 4th November

- Oak class and Year 4 - PE Kits

Thursday 5th November

- Music with Ed - bring in instruments
- Piano lessons with Entrust - please bring in books
- Parents Forum - 2.45pm

Friday 6th November

- Maple and Year 2 - PE Kits
- Ukulele Y4, 5 & 6
- Academy Photography. There will be no Rock up & Read on this date. All children must wear full uniform - no PE kit

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

Dates to note...

November

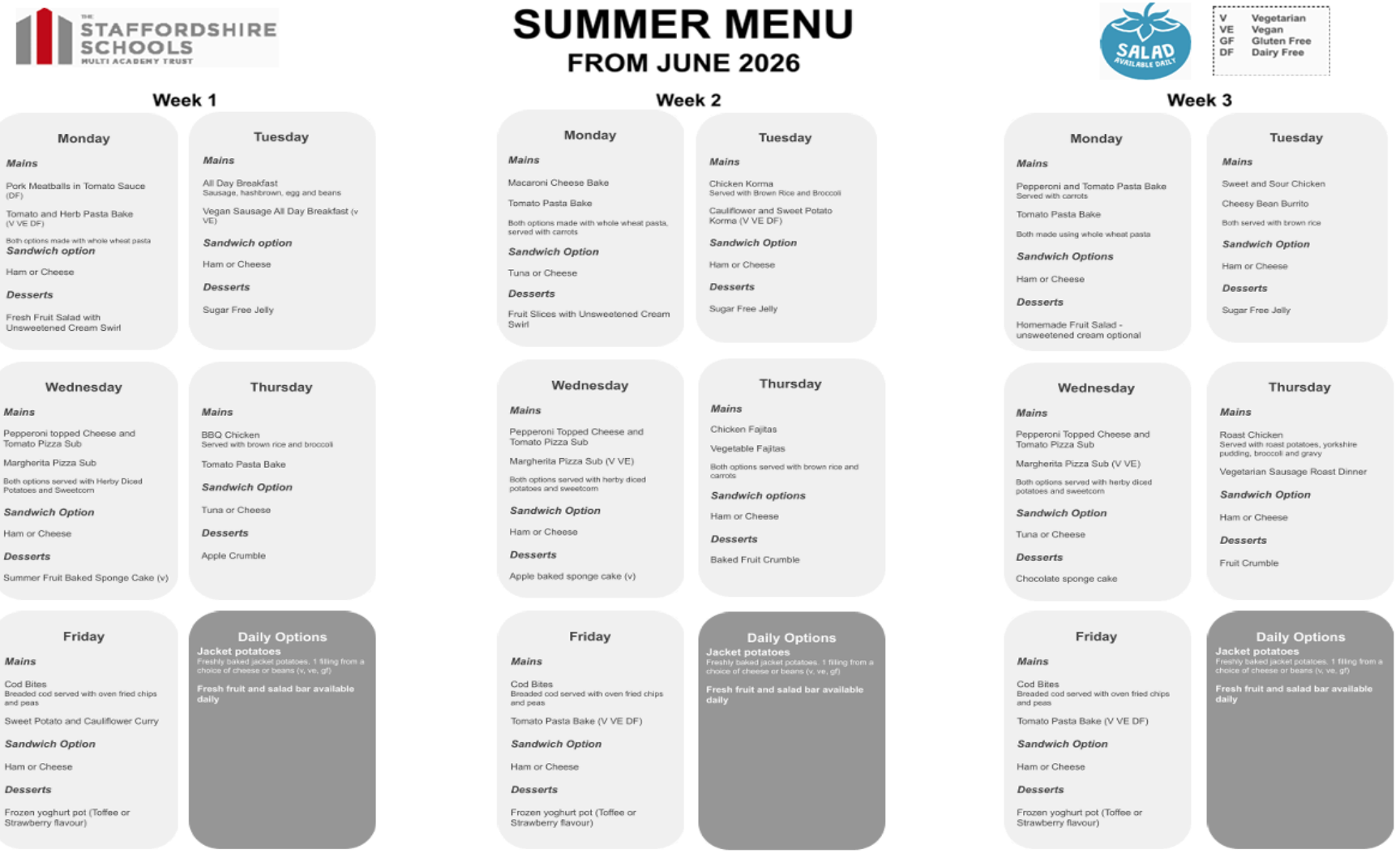
Mon 2nd November - Inset Day

- Wed 11th Nov - Pre-school stay & play session 9.30-10.30 am please get the word out to anyone you know who may like to join us!
- Wed 11th Nov - Netball Tournament @ RC - info to follow.
- Wed 11th Nov - Oak class joining Rememberance service @90.30am in church.
- Fri 13th Nov - The Library bus is here!
- Fri 13th Nov - Children in need - non uniform spotty clothes.
- Mon 16th Nov - Odd Socks Day.
- 16th-20th Nov - Anti-bullying week - "Break the silence".
- Wed 18th Nov -Pre-school stay & play session 9.30-10.30 am please get the word out to anyone you know who may like to join us!
- Thurs 19th Nov - Flu Vaccinations all years.
- Wed 25th Nov - Pre-school stay & play session 9.30-10.30 am please get the word out to anyone you know who may like to join us!
- Fri 27th Nov - Non-uniform day for raffle prizes.
- Fri 27th Nov - The Library bus is here!

December

- Wed 2nd Dec - Final stay & play session
- Fri 4th Dec - Rock up and Read
- Fri 4th Dec - FOMH Festive Friday 3:15-5:00
- Sun 6th Dec - Beacon Park Santa Parkrun @9am
- Wed 9th Dec - Christingle in Church - please note the earlier time of 5pm rather than 6pm.
- Thurs 10th Dec - all classes @ St Andrew's all day. Pantomime performance Beauty and the Beast - wear Christmas jumpers. Breakfast and After School Club will operate but at St Andrew's not Mary Howard.
- Wed 16th Dec - 9:15 Nativity in Church
- Wed 16th Dec - Christmas Lunch
- Thurs 17th Dec - Class Christmas parties pm
- Fri 18th Dec - FOMH Christmas Disco in the village hall after school

Dinners for Week Commencing 2nd November 2026 - Week 1



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 2	100%
Year 4	100%
Year 5	100%
Year 6	84.6%

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, 2, 4 & 5 for 100% attendance this week 👍



Mary Howard Events



Mary Howard Bake Off - well done to Holly 🥇 Ruby & Joe 🥈 & Evangeline 🥉



Job Vacancies

Teaching Assistant at Mary Howard Church of England Primary School

About this Role

Are you a nurturing, enthusiastic educator looking for a rewarding part-time role?

Mary Howard CE Primary School is seeking a dedicated Grade 3 Teaching Assistant to join the team in our Oak Class, working 1-1 with a child. This is a wonderfully unique opportunity to support our mixed-age class of Year 5 and Year 6 children within a fun, busy, and happy learning environment.

You will play an integral role in supporting a child with social, emotional and mental health needs within the class. If you are passionate about child development, enjoy variety, and want to make a meaningful impact in a supportive village school community, we want to hear from you!

The role is 8.45am - 1.15pm with an unpaid 30m break, M-F, term time only. The role is linked to an EHCP, currently due to end in July 28.

What we are looking for:

- A positive, creative approach to supporting children 1:1 and in small groups, and across continuous provision.
- Knowledge of ELSA, emotion coaching or therapeutic intervention of social problem solving would be useful
- Excellent communication skills and a team-player attitude.

After school Care Club Assistant at Mary Howard Church of England Primary School

Role Overview:

As a Care Club assistant, you will play a vital role in providing a safe and engaging environment for our children during the morning and after-school care sessions. You will support children in their activities, ensuring they feel valued and included.

Key Responsibilities:

- Supervise children in the care club, ensuring their safety and well-being.
- Plan and lead engaging activities that promote learning and social interaction.
- Foster positive relationships with children, staff, and parents.
- Maintain a clean and organised environment.
- Collaborate with other staff members to ensure the smooth running of the care club.

Qualifications and Skills:

- Experience working with children in a school or care setting is desirable.
- A passion for supporting children's development and well-being.
- Strong communication and interpersonal skills.
- Ability to work as part of a team and independently.

Why Join Us?

- Be part of a caring and supportive team.
- Contribute to the growth and development of our children.
- Enjoy a rewarding role in a positive school environment.

Reminders & Notices

At our school, we are always looking for ways to keep our festive celebrations fresh, exciting, and memorable for the children.

Starting this academic year, we will be alternating our major Christmas celebrations on a two-year cycle with this year a festive in school pantomime and next year a whole school Christmas trip.

We know our Christmas trip to Statfold has become a much-loved tradition, so we hope the children won't be too disappointed that there won't be a trip this year.

By switching between a special trip one year and a brilliant live pantomime experience in school the next, we can keep the magic alive with something different to look forward to each December.

This updated schedule also allows our wonderful PTA to spread their support across a wider variety of fantastic new projects and resources for the children throughout the whole school year, while helping us keep overall festive costs manageable for all our school families.

Thank you for your understanding, and we're looking forward to a lovely Christmas season together!

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.

To help our team maintain a good work-life balance, please send dojo messages during our regular working hours. Thank you so much.

Sue Keeley and some other members of our local community are working together to create a village display for Remembrance Day. They need helpers to knit or crochet poppies for the display! If you can help in any way please see Sue or drop your completed items into the school office. Thank you!

Academy photography Ltd

School photos will be conducted on

Friday 6th of November - 2026

At this session we will be photographing:

Everyone

Families : 8:15am to 8:45am, classroom 2

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.

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

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