



*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,

Another great week at Mary Howard. Our KS2 children are enjoying their ukulele lessons and it's been wonderful to hear their progress; the swimming sessions are also showing clear improvement already, and I know the children are proud of how much they have developed in just a few weeks.

This week Tamworth Food Bank visited to explain the vital work they do in our community and the kinds of donations that make the biggest difference. You are welcome to join us as we give thanks at our Harvest Festival service in church on Thursday, 8th October 2026, at 9:15am. Children will lead the service and all donations are very welcome - your support for local families is much appreciated.

Today we held our Macmillan coffee morning — with a French twist. A huge thank you to Oak class and Miss Warner for leading this, and to everyone who contributed and supported the event; your generosity and community spirit made it a lovely morning.

We are looking forward to the history workshops next week for Maple and Willow - 'Toy Time Travellers'. These workshops will bring the children's learning to life and deepen their engagement with the past. Thanks to FOMH for helping

Please also look out for dates for our Stay and Play sessions for children starting school in September 2027. These sessions are a warm, informal chance for new families and children to visit Mary Howard, meet our wonderful staff and see what makes our school such a nurturing place to learn.

"Let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us." — Hebrews 12:1

Have a wonderful weekend.

Rachel Mills

Executive Headteacher

What's coming up this week...

Monday 28th September

Tuesday 29th September

- PE Kits - all classes
- Guitar lessons with Entrust - please bring in guitars

Wednesday 30th September

- Swimming lessons for Year 4, 5 & 6 at Belgrave
- Oak class and Year 4 - PE Kits

Thursday 1st October

- Census Day - please order a meal if you can
- Music with Ed - bring in instruments
- Piano lessons with Entrust - please bring in books

Friday 2nd October

- Maple and Year 2 - PE Kits
- Rock up & Read 8:45am-9:15am
- Ukulele Y4, 5 & 6
- The library bus is here!

Dates to note...

October

- 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
- Wed 14th Oct - Parents Evening from 3pm
- Thurs 15th Oct - Parent forum meeting @2.45pm
- Fri 16th Oct - The library bus is here!
- Fri 23rd Oct - Let Your Shine Celebration @9am
- Fri 23rd Oct - Wear pink for breast cancer

Half Term - 26th-30th October

November

- Fri 6th November - Academy Photography this date has changed from September due to swimming. There will be no Rock up & Read on this date. All children must wear full uniform - no PE kit.

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!

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 28th September 2026 - Week 2

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



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) Both options made with whole wheat pasta 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

Wednesday	Thursday
Mains Pepperoni topped Cheese and Tomato Pizza Sub Margherita Pizza Sub Both options served with Herby Diced Potatoes and Sweetcorn 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

Friday	Daily Options
Mains Cod Bites Breaded cod served with oven fried chips and peas Sweet Potato and Cauliflower Curry Sandwich Option Ham or Cheese Desserts Frozen yoghurt pot (Toffee 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

Week 2

Monday	Tuesday
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	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	Thursday
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)	Mains Chicken Fajitas Vegetable Fajitas Both options served with brown rice and carrots Sandwich options Ham or Cheese Desserts Baked Fruit Crumble

Friday	Daily Options
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 (Toffee 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

Week 3

Monday	Tuesday
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	Mains Sweet and Sour Chicken Cheesy Bean Burrito Both served with brown rice Sandwich Option Ham or Cheese Desserts Sugar Free Jelly

Wednesday	Thursday
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	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 Breaded cod served with oven fried chips and peas Tomato Pasta Bake (V VE DF) Sandwich Option Ham or Cheese Desserts Frozen yoghurt pot (Toffee 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 1 100%

Year 2 92.2%

Year 4 98.9%

Year 5 100%

Year 6 95.2%

Well done to Reception, Year 1, & 5 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...

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

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.
-
- 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

Good
Food
Happy
Learners
😊

Chocolate cake



Tamworth Food Bank



MacMillan Coffee Morning - thank you so much for attending



Well done Rhea !



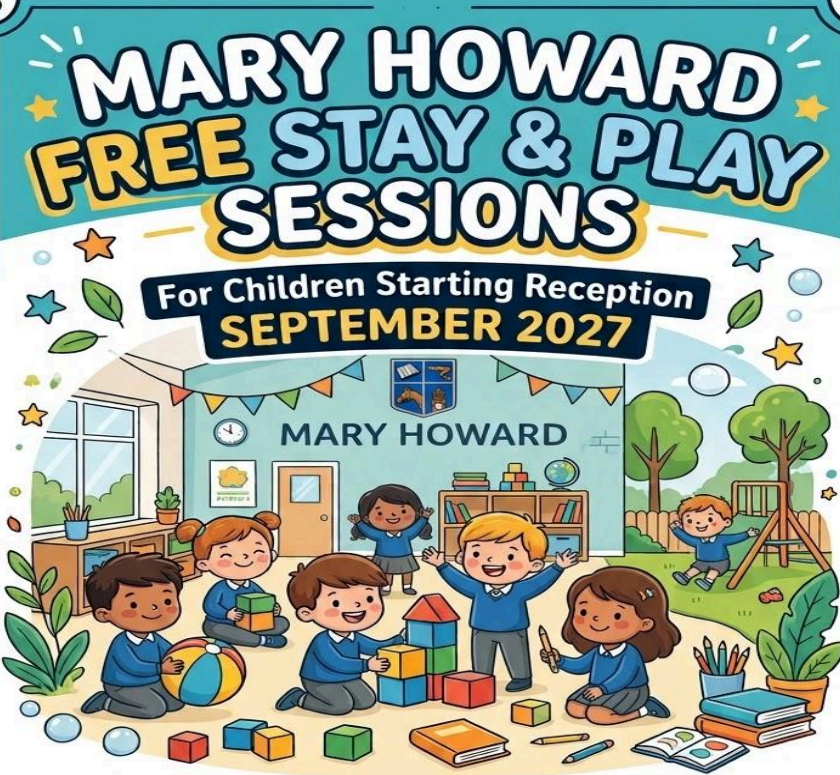
Community Foundation for Staffordshire

8h · 🌐

Vision of BKVC Young People runner up - Rhea, of Edingale



Mary Howard Stay & Play for new Reception 2027 - please share



MARY HOWARD FREE STAY & PLAY SESSIONS

For Children Starting Reception
SEPTEMBER 2027

**COME JOIN OUR WONDERFUL
NURTURING & HAPPY SCHOOL!**

For a weekly session where you can get to know
and become part of the Mary Howard family.

 **DATES & TIMES (all 9:30-10:30am)**
Wed 11th Nov | Wed 18th Nov | Wed 25th Nov | Wed 2nd Dec

 Please contact the school office to reserve your place! 

Tel: 01827 383245 | Email: office-maryhoward@tssmat.staffs.sch.uk

 **MARY HOWARD
PRIMARY SCHOOL**

We look forward to welcoming you! 

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.

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