



*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,

Thank you all for your calm, practical support during this week's heatwave. I am proud that we have been able to keep both schools open and safe. Special thanks to our PTFA teams for organising ice-pop supplies — a small thing that made a big difference to the children's wellbeing.

I'm also pleased to share some excellent professional feedback this week. External writing moderation from the local authority praised the progress our children have made and commended the quality of our judgements. The moderators highlighted that our carefully chosen texts and clear writing outcomes inspire children to write — so much so that they have asked for samples of our pupils' work to use for exemplification across the authority. That is a real endorsement of the Mease approach to English and a credit to our teaching teams and pupils.

As we head into the final weeks of term, please continue to take sensible precautions during warm weather — hats, water bottles and shaded play where possible — and we'll keep monitoring conditions to keep everyone safe. Hopefully the weather will be kinder to us for the remainder of the term.

We have so much to look forward to in the coming weeks - remember to look at the diary dates so you don't miss anything!

Have a lovely weekend.

“With the smallest of seeds great things can grow.”

(Matthew 13:31)

*Rachel Mills - Executive Headteacher*

## What's coming up this week...

### Monday 29th June

- PE Kit for Oak

### Tuesday 30th June

- Music lessons - remember to bring Violin & Guitars
- Spelling Bee Finals rearranged date

### Wednesday 1st July

### Thursday 2nd July

- PE Kit for all
- Willow Trip to Conkers

### Friday 3rd July

- Ukulele lessons Willow - Please bring in your instrument
- Rock up & Read - 8:45-9:15am.
- Maple and Willow PE
- Colour Run 3-5pm @ the Village Hall.

## Dates to note...

### July

- 4th July - Tamworth Arts Festival "Better Together" 11am - 3pm performance time TBC Tamworth Castle Grounds.
- 6th July - Sports Day 9:15am, refreshments available from FOMH from 8:45am.
- 10th July - Library Bus is here!
- 14th July - Open Evening.
- 15th July Year 6 Leavers service in church @9.15am.
- 16th July - MH Got Talent in the village hall @4-6pm.
- 17th July - Break up for Summer Holidays!

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 29th June 2026 - Week 2

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
<p><b>Mains</b></p> <p>Pork Meatballs in Tomato Sauce (DF)</p> <p>Tomato and Herb Pasta Bake (V VE DF)</p> <p>Both options made with whole wheat pasta</p> <p><b>Sandwich option</b></p> <p>Ham or Cheese</p> <p><b>Desserts</b></p> <p>Fresh Fruit Salad with Unsweetened Cream Swirl</p>	<p><b>Mains</b></p> <p>All Day Breakfast Sausage, hashbrown, egg and beans</p> <p>Vegan Sausage All Day Breakfast (V VE)</p> <p><b>Sandwich option</b></p> <p>Ham or Cheese</p> <p><b>Desserts</b></p> <p>Sugar Free Jelly</p>

**Wednesday**

**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)

**Thursday**

**Mains**

BBQ Chicken Served with brown rice and broccoli

Tomato Pasta Bake

**Sandwich Option**

Tuna or Cheese

**Desserts**

Apple Crumble

**Friday**

**Mains**

Cod Bites Breadcr 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)

**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 2

Monday	Tuesday
<p><b>Mains</b></p> <p>Macaroni Cheese Bake</p> <p>Tomato Pasta Bake</p> <p>Both options made with whole wheat pasta, served with carrots</p> <p><b>Sandwich Option</b></p> <p>Tuna or Cheese</p> <p><b>Desserts</b></p> <p>Fruit Slices with Unsweetened Cream Swirl</p>	<p><b>Mains</b></p> <p>Chicken Korma Served with Brown Rice and Broccoli</p> <p>Cauliflower and Sweet Potato Korma (V VE DF)</p> <p><b>Sandwich Option</b></p> <p>Ham or Cheese</p> <p><b>Desserts</b></p> <p>Sugar Free Jelly</p>

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

**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 Breadcr 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 98.4%

Year 1 98.6%

Year 3 96.3%

Year 4 96.8%

Year 5 94.4%

Year 6 98.1%

## 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**

# School Day Changes

## Thank You for Your Consultation Feedback

Following the consultation period and review by the Local Governing Committee, the proposed changes to our school day have been approved for September 2026.



*This reduces our school day by 15 minutes from the start of the 2026 academic year, bringing us in line with other schools in the TSSMAT and meeting the expected 32.5 hour school week by the Department of Education*

## Adapted Wraparound Care for Working Families

We understand that an earlier finish affects family routines. Our wraparound care sessions have been adjusted to seamlessly cover the earlier finish at **no extra core cost**.



After-School Club ⌚ 3:15 pm to 4:30 pm **£5.20\***

Extended Care ⌚ 4:30 pm to 5:15 pm **£9.05\***

Thank you for your continued support as we implement this change to benefit our entire school community. We are providing this notice well in advance to ensure families have ample time to prepare. Should you have any questions regarding your specific childcare needs, please do not hesitate to contact the school office.

Miss R. Mills  
Executive Headteacher, St Andrew's Primary School

Mrs Anna Spencer-Gray  
Chair of the LGC

\*Prices remain consistent with previous rates, with only slight adjustments to session times to accommodate the earlier finish. (Please note these prices are subject to standard annual review).

# Tamworth Festival



## Tamworth Festival 2026

Dear families,

We are delighted to share some very exciting news with you about the Tamworth – Better Together Festival, which will be returning in 2026 following the huge success of last year's event.

This year's Festival will follow a similar, much-loved format and will bring together 20 primary schools and two high schools from across Tamworth. Leaders and teachers from all participating schools have worked collaboratively to plan a rich and inspiring Creative Week, celebrating the power of belonging and the belief that we really are *better together*.

### **Save the Date: Festival Celebration Event**

We would also love to invite families and the wider community to celebrate with us at the main Festival event:

Saturday 4th July 2026

11:00am – 3:00pm

Many families brought picnics last year, and we are pleased to share that even more attractions, performances, and community groups will be joining us this year, making it a wonderful day for all ages. Further details will be shared closer to the time.

Thank you for your continued support. We are incredibly excited about the creativity, joy and togetherness this Festival brings, and we look forward to celebrating with you and your children.

Yours sincerely,

*Tamworth – Better Together Festival Planning Team*

# FOMH Events



FRIENDS OF MARY HOWARD INVITE YOU TO  
OUR ANNUAL



# COLOUR RUN

FRIDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> JULY

3PM-5PM EDINGALE VILLAGE HALL

Save the date!

Lots more details to follow...



PLEASE JOIN THE STUDENTS OF MARY HOWARD SCHOOL AS  
THEY TAKE TO THE STAGE FOR A FANTASTIC EVENING OF TALENT!

**16TH JULY**

4PM - 6PM  
Edingale Village Hall

OUR SMALL SCHOOL IS MIGHTY TALENTED!

TICKETS £3- INCLUDES  
DRINK ON ENTRY  
TICKETS ON SALE SOON

FOOD AND DRINK AVAILABLE TO BUY ON  
THE EVENING

## 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](#).

# Social Media

## **Social media ban for under-16s**

On Monday, the Prime Minister announced the introduction of a social media ban for under-16s.

Speaking in the House of Commons, Liz Kendall MP (Secretary of State for Science, Innovation and Technology) set out the ban would come into force from spring 2027, covering “user-to-user platforms that allow users to post material alongside algorithms” such as Snapchat, TikTok, YouTube, Instagram, Facebook and X.

Restrictions on “high-risk features” will also be introduced, including banning livestreaming for under-16s; “stranger communication” on gaming platforms; and AI chatbots that offer sexualised content for under-18s. The Government is also “strongly minded to bring in default overnight curfews and breaks in infinite scrolling”, with an additional statement due in July following pilot schemes.

Ofqual is expected to set out age-assurance and compliance proposals, undertake a review into the Online Safety Act 2023 to ensure children cannot access “riskier, less regulated sites”, and publish an enforcement strategy.

A summary fact sheet (*new rules to protect children online*) has been published, and further details and the government’s full response to the consultation are expected in the coming months.

# Education Support Fund

## Important Information – Education Support Fund

Please be aware that the Education Support Fund has now closed, and we are no longer able to accept or process any new applications.

All funding has been allocated. The last eVouchers to be issued through the scheme were for the Easter Holiday 2026.

If you are currently experiencing a financial crisis or are in urgent need of support, please contact Staffordshire Crisis & Resilience Team at [staffordshirecrf@staffordshire.gov.uk](mailto:staffordshirecrf@staffordshire.gov.uk)

A member of the team will review your situation and provide guidance on the assistance that may be available to you.

Alternatively use the following link to our webpage [Crisis and Resilience Fund \(CRF\) | Staffordshire County Council](#)

**Please find information, advice, and guidance that you may find beneficial for support at this time.**

- [Staffordshire County Council Here to help](#) [Here to help - cost of living support - Staffordshire County Council](#)
- [Citizens Advice Search for your local Citizens Advice - Citizens Advice](#)
- [Gov.UK Private renting advice for rent arrears - Private renting: Rent arrears - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)
- [Cooking for a family on a budget - Family Hub Cooking | Staffordshire Connects](#)
- [Staffordshire Warmer Homes, a scheme run by Staffordshire County Council in partnership with district and borough councils to combat fuel poverty - Staffordshire Warmer Homes - Warm Homes Scheme](#)
- [Help for Households, this site shows the different support available for families to access. Help for Households - Get government cost of living support](#)
- [Staffordshire Connects – This website can help you find help and support locally. You may want to search for things to do with your children, help with budgeting and local food banks. There are also the Family Support providers who can help you 1:1 with support if you feel this is beneficial. Staffordshire Connects](#)
- [Below are links to our Family Hub social media pages, if you would like to like and follow your local Family Hub as we use this platform to advertise any funding that can be applied for direct by families as and when it comes available.](#)

[Cannock Chase Family Hub](#)

[East Staffordshire Family Hub](#)

[Lichfield Family Hub](#)

[Newcastle Family Hub](#)

[South Staffordshire Family Hub](#)

[Stafford Family Hub](#)

[Staffordshire Moorlands Family Hub](#)

[Tamworth Family Hub](#)

## *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.

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**

**Term Ends:** Friday 17 July

**Inset Day:** Monday 20 July

**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