



*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 families,

What a brilliant start to the new academic year at Mary Howard Primary! It has been an absolute joy to welcome all of our wonderful children back to school. The energy and enthusiasm have been palpable, and it has been fantastic to see so many happy, smiling faces.

One of the biggest highlights of our first week back has been the incredible success of our new outdoor growing area. It has been a hive of activity, with children of all ages getting stuck in. We were a little surprised, but delighted, to see that the mud kitchen has been a massive hit with even our oldest children, who have been busy concocting all sorts of imaginative culinary creations!

This project has been a true labor of love, and we owe a huge debt of gratitude to the Friends of Mary Howard (FOMH). They have worked tirelessly over the summer to transform this space, and it has been a fantastic way to spend the funds raised from all of our wonderful community events. I hope you agree that the results are simply magnificent.

We would be thrilled if you could join us for the official Grand Opening of the outdoor growing area on Saturday, September 21st, from 11am to 1pm. It will be a wonderful opportunity to see the space for yourself and celebrate the hard work of our amazing FOMH team.

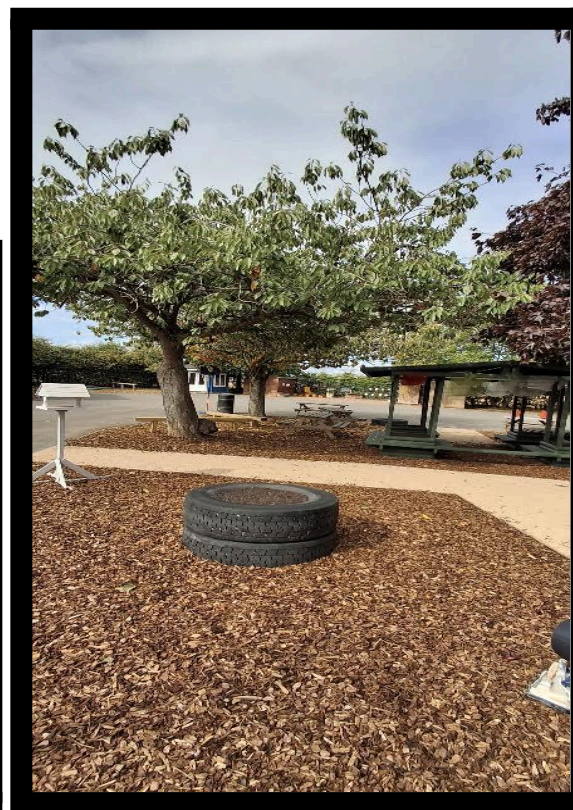
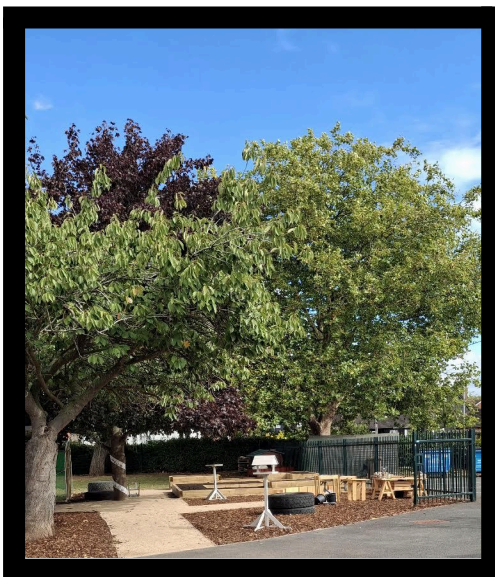
We are hitting the ground running with a very busy schedule of enriching activities for the children. To kick things off, both Willow and Oak classes will be going swimming every Monday for the next six weeks.

Additionally, I want to extend a huge congratulations to Mr. Buckley for passing his minibus test! This is fantastic news, as it will allow us to transport Willow class to St. Andrews every Friday for their weekly ukulele lessons, enabling them to have this wonderful experience together.

It has truly been a great start to the year, and I am so excited for all the wonderful things we will accomplish together.

"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters." - Colossians 3:23

Warm regards, Rachel Mills, Executive Headteacher



What's coming up this week...

Monday 8th September

PE Kit Whole School

Swimming - Willow & Oak (please arrive prompt 8.55 and swim ready)

Tuesday 9th September

Wednesday 10th September

Thursday 11th September

Friday 12th September

PE Kit Willow Class

Music - Willow Class

Please access the Schools' website for key events -

Mary Howard- [Upcoming Events | Mary Howard CE Primary School](#)

Dates to note...

September

- 8th September Swimming starts for Years 3/4/5/6 Mondays for 6 weeks
- 17th September 9.30 to 10.30 Stay & Play for children starting school Sept 2026
- 25th September - AS ABOVE
- 29th September Academy Photography

Dinners for Week Commencing 8th September 2025 - Week 2

WEEK 1



CHEEKY MONDAY

CHOOSE FROM
 🌱 Vegan Sausage Roll
 Pork Hot Dogs
 ON THE SIDE
 Vegetables of the day or salad and chips
 TO FINISH
 Chocolate Brownie

PASTA TUESDAY

CHOOSE FROM
 🌱 Macaroni Cheese with Garlic Bread
 Pasta and Meatballs
 ON THE SIDE
 Vegetables of the day or Salad
 TO FINISH
 Yogurt or Jelly

CHICKEN THURSDAY

CHOOSE FROM
 🌱 Vegan Chicken Nuggets
 Chicken Korma and Rice
 ON THE SIDE
 Vegetables of the day or Salad and Diced Potatoes
 TO FINISH
 Chocolate Sponge

PIZZA WEDNESDAY

CHOOSE FROM
 🌱 Homemade Margherita Pizza
 Homemade Pepperoni Pizza
 ON THE SIDE
 Vegetables of the day or salad and crinkle cut wedges
 TO FINISH
 Homemade Cookies

FISH FRIDAY

CHOOSE FROM
 🌱 Quorn Sausages
 Breaded Cod
 ON THE SIDE
 Peas or beans and Chips
 TO FINISH
 Ice Cream or Ice Lolly

WEEK 2

Our primary school menus comply with the Government's food and nutritional standards, meeting an average of 530 calories for each meal

CHEEKY MONDAY

CHOOSE FROM
 🌱 Cheese and Onion Pasty
 Chicken Nuggets
 ON THE SIDE
 Vegetables of the day or Salad and Chips
 TO FINISH
 Croissants

PASTA TUESDAY

CHOOSE FROM
 🌱 Tomato and Basil Pasta Bake
 Ham Carbonara with Pasta and Garlic Bread
 ON THE SIDE
 Vegetables of the day or Salad
 TO FINISH
 Banana Sponge or Yoghurt

CHICKEN THURSDAY

CHOOSE FROM
 🌱 Vegan Chicken Nuggets
 Chicken Burger
 ON THE SIDE
 Vegetables of the day or Salad and Diced Potatoes
 TO FINISH
 Toffee Sponge

PIZZA WEDNESDAY

CHOOSE FROM
 🌱 Homemade Margherita Pizza
 Homemade Cheese and Ham Pizza
 ON THE SIDE
 Vegetables of the day or salad and crinkle cut wedges
 TO FINISH
 Jelly or Yoghurt

FISH FRIDAY

CHOOSE FROM
 🌱 Vegan Sausage Roll
 Breaded Cod
 ON THE SIDE
 Peas or beans and Chips
 TO FINISH
 Ice Cream or Ice Lolly

WEEK 3



CHEEKY MONDAY

CHOOSE FROM
 🌱 Vegan Sausage Roll
 Beef Burger
 ON THE SIDE
 Vegetables of the day or Salad and Chips
 TO FINISH
 Raisin Sponge

PIZZA WEDNESDAY

CHOOSE FROM
 🌱 Handmade Margherita Pizza
 Homemade Ham and Sweetcorn Pizza
 ON THE SIDE
 Vegetables of the day and crinkle cut wedges
 TO FINISH
 Chocolate Sponge

FISH FRIDAY

CHOOSE FROM
 🌱 Quorn Hot Dogs
 Breaded Cod
 ON THE SIDE
 Peas or beans and Chips
 TO FINISH
 Ice Cream or Ice Lolly

PASTA TUESDAY

CHOOSE FROM
 🌱 Mediterranean Veg Pasta Bake with Garlic Bread
 Spaghetti Bolognese
 ON THE SIDE
 Vegetables of the day or Salad
 TO FINISH
 Homemade Cookies

CHICKEN THURSDAY

CHOOSE FROM
 🌱 Vegan Chicken Nuggets
 Italian Chicken
 ON THE SIDE
 Vegetables of the day or Salad and Diced Potatoes
 TO FINISH
 Jelly and Yoghurt

Light bite options available. Daily sandwiches, jacket potatoes with fresh daily fillings

Mary Howard

Government's emergency alert system-Domestic abuse victims

If you or anyone you know have a hidden or secret phone for your safety, please prepare for the upcoming UK Emergency Alerts test. Date:

Sunday 7 September 2025

Time: 3:00pm

During the test, all mobile phones and tablets will:

-Vibrate

-Emit a loud siren like sound (even if its on silent or vibrate mode)

-Display a message confirming that this is only a test and no action is required

This system is being tested to help keep people safe in future emergencies. However, for victims and survivors of domestic abuse, a sudden loud alert on a hidden phone could put them at a serious risk.

If you or anyone you know uses a concealed phone, for safety, please take steps to opt out of receiving emergency alerts before the test.

According to Merseyside Police, many survivors rely on these phones as a lifeline. It's vital that this alert does not compromise anyone's safety.

Find out how to turn off emergency alerts here <https://www.gov.uk/alerts/opting-out>

Spread the Word!

We are inviting more passionate people to join us. Tell your friends, neighbours and community members about the champions program.

They can register now with Let's Talk Staffordshire, then email communitychampions@staffordshire.gov.uk to request to view this page.

Mary Howard - Arbor

Important Information: Introducing the Arbor App

We are excited to announce the upcoming introduction of a new school app, **Arbor**, which will significantly enhance our communication and administrative processes.

You should have recently received an email with your login details for Arbor. If you have not received this, please check your spam/junk folder in the first instance.

Arbor is designed to replace many of our current systems, including **ParentPay**, and will become the central hub for various school-related activities. We understand that adopting a new system takes time, and this will be a gradual process. We are committed to supporting you through this change and look forward to a smooth transition that will lead to a more streamlined and efficient approach to communications and school management for everyone.

Thank you for your cooperation and support.

Edingale Village Show 2025 – List of competition classes

ENTRIES TO BE DROPPED OFF AT THE VILLAGE HALL ON FRIDAY 12 th SEPTEMBER BETWEEN 16:00 AND 19:00

£1.00 PER ENTRY OR £2.00 IF YOU WANT YOUR ENTRY RETURNED TO YOU

Class Section 1: Children's competition – open to under 12's (£5 sponsored prize for section winner Tamworth & Lichfield Mobile Foot Health Clinic)

- 1 You made it...let's see it - make a character with a wooden spoon
- 2 A poster on Mary Howard Primary – CHECK WHAT TOPIC THE CHILDREN ARE WORKING ON
- 3 A limerick with the first line "There was once a fly on the wall" (Winner to be published in the Mease Valley Parish Magazine)

Class Section 2: Handicrafts (£5 sponsored prize for section winner Harlaston WI)

- 4 A garment for adults or children (e.g. hat, apron, dress, socks, scarf etc) any craft medium may be used.
- 5 A toy - any craft medium may be used.
- 6 An item for the home (e.g. cushion, rug, coaster, quilt, vase, bag) - any craft medium may be used.
- 7 An upcycled item - any craft medium may be used.
- 8 A greeting card - any craft medium may be used.

Class Section 3: Floral arrangement (£5 sponsored prize for section winner Margaret Cliffe)

- 9 6 fresh flower stems (any arrangement, any container. Foliage allowed and not counted in the 6 stems)
- 10 A single rose

Class Section 4: Art (£5 special sponsored prize for section winner Corporate Connections)

- 11 Photograph taken in the Mease valley. Max 8" x 6". No drones to be used
- 12 Photograph of a village event in Edingale
- 13 A picture in any medium
- 14 Short story (500 words) or poem (10 lines)

Reminders

A polite reminder that children should not be walking between staff cars at any time for health and safety reasons.

Parents should also not be parking within the school gates to drop children off, due to safety of the children and congestion.

Thank You

Thank you for your continued support.

Term Dates 2025-2026

Autumn Term 2025

Inset days: Monday 1 September and Tuesday 2 September

Term Starts: Wednesday 3 September

Holiday: Monday 27 October – Friday 31 October

TSSMAT Inset day: Monday 3 November

Term Ends: Friday 19 December

Holiday: Monday 22 December – Friday 2 January

Spring Term 2026

Inset Day: Monday 5 January

Term Starts: Tuesday 6 January

Holiday: Monday 16 February – Friday 20 February

Term Ends: Friday 27 March

Holiday: Monday 30 March – Friday 10 April

Easter Sunday: Sunday 5 April

Summer Term 2026

Term Starts: Monday 13 April

May Day: Monday 4 May

Holiday: Monday 25 May – Friday 29 May

Term Ends: Friday 17 July

Inset: Monday 20 July

Holiday: Monday 20 July – Monday 31 August



OPERATION ENCOMPASS

We are an Operation Encompass School

For further information, please come and see us.

OPERATION ENCOMPASS
In every force. In every school. For every child.

ST ANDREWS
ST ANDREW'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

STAFFORDSHIRE POLICE