



*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 wonderful week it has been at Mary Howard Primary, full of moments that truly embody our motto: grow and flourish. Every day, I am reminded of our school's vision, inspired by the parable of the mustard seed, where great things can blossom from small beginnings.

This week saw a significant step for our Willow and Oak children as they embarked on their first swimming lessons. It's always a proud moment when staff from other establishments go out of their way to compliment our pupils. The instructors were so impressed with their behavior and enthusiasm, and it's a testament to the respectful and kind young people they are becoming.

We also had a fantastic collaborative moment as our Willow class joined their peers from St. Andrews for their first ukulele lesson of the year. Seeing the two schools come together to learn and make music was a joy. Our youngest members, the reception children, continue to settle into school life beautifully, and it has been lovely to see them becoming more confident each day.

We're also busy looking ahead. It's been great welcoming prospective parents who are already coming to see our wonderful school, and we have some exciting trips on the horizon, including visits to Whittington Barracks and the Arboretum in Alrewas.

This weekend brings another opportunity for our community to shine as we look forward to the Edingale show tomorrow. Please come and join us for the singing and dancing—and have a go at the Olympic-themed games. It's a fantastic chance to celebrate together.

It's clear that we have so much to celebrate and even more to look forward to. I hope you all have a wonderful weekend.

Warm regards,  
Rachel Mills,  
Executive Headteacher

PS: Look out for the details of this year's Spelling Bee- Let's see if we can keep the trophies!

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

### **Monday 15th September**

PE Kit Oak & Willow

Swimming - Willow & Oak (please arrive prompt 8.45 and swim ready- we will leave at 8:50))

### **Tuesday 16th September**

### **Wednesday 17th September**

### **Thursday 18th September**

PE Kit Maple

### **Friday 19th September**

PE Kit Willow Class & Maple 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**

- 16th September- FOMH meeting- all welcome- 6pm-7pm
- 17th September-9.30 to 10.30 Stay & Play for children starting school Sept 2026
- 19th September-Library Bus
- 21st October-11am-1pm- FOMH Garden Opening
- 25th September - 9.30 to 10.30 Stay & Play for children starting school Sept 2026
- 26th September-MacMillan Coffee Morning (Cake Donations 25th Sept)
- 29th September-Academy Photography

### **October**

- 1st October-Harvest & Church 9.15am
- 2nd October-9.30 to 10.30 Stay & Play for children starting school Sept 2026
- 3rd October-Rock up and read 8:45 - 9:15am
- 3rd October-Library Bus
- 7th October - Arboretum Trip for Oak (Class 3)
- 6th October - Parents Evening 3-6pm
- 14th October - Whittington Barracks trip - Willow (Class 2)
- 16th October - Parent Forum 2:45pm
- 16th October- PJs and Movie Night- 5:30pm-7:30pm
- 22nd October - Mental Health & Wellbeing day
- 23rd October - Let your light shine worship 9am

### **November**

- 7th November - Rock up and read 8:45 - 9:15am
- 10th November - Odd Socks day
- 13th November - KS2 Derby Faith Trail (all children)
- 14th November - Children in need - non uniform day (wear spotty clothes)
- 14th November - Anti bullying show and share
- 17th November - Flu Vaccination Programme

# Dinners for Week Commencing 15th September 2025 - Week 3

## 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



  
Friends of Mary Howard

Friends of Mary Howard  
invite you to our...

**Events  
Meeting**

**TUESDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER**

**6-7PM**

What events would you and  
your children like to see in  
the Autumn term?





# BREAKING NEWS

SEPTEMBER 2025

EDINGALE, STAFFORDSHIRE

## MARY HOWARD SCHOOL HAS A BRAND NEW GROWING GARDEN!



AND WE WOULD  
LOVE TO INVITE  
OUR LOVELY  
LOCAL  
COMMUNITY TO  
COME AND TAKE  
A LOOK!

PLEASE JOIN US ON  
SUNDAY 21ST SEPTEMBER  
11AM - 1PM



WE ARE ASKING OUR LOVELY COMMUNITY TO HELP US BEGIN PLANTING!  
WHETHER YOU ARE A CURRENT, PREVIOUS OR FUTURE PARENT, A KEEN  
GARDENER, OR JUST FANCY POPPING DOWN FOR SOME CAKE AND A  
DRINK, EVERYONE IS WELCOME AND WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU!



Can you donate something  
to plant? We are hoping  
for veg or herb plants for  
the polytunnel or outside  
raised beds. Thank you!



Event  
sponsored  
by





## PJ & MOVIE NIGHT

Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> October  
at Mary Howard School  
5.30pm - 7.30pm

Tickets £5 each Non-school-attending siblings  
welcome - ticket needed

Ticket price includes pizza, popcorn and squash  
Ticket letters will be sent home and have a slip to  
return to the office.



# IS YOUR CHILD STARTING SCHOOL IN SEPTEMBER?

Join us in a place of joy and flourishing!

'Mary Howard is a small school with a big heart'  
- Ofsted 2025

JOIN US ON THE  
FOLLOWING DATES...

Wednesday 17th September

Thursday 25th September

Thursday 2nd October

Thursday 11th December

**From 09:30 – 10:30**



Stay  
and  
Play!

**MARY HOWARD CE PRIMARY SCHOOL**

01827 383245

office-maryhoward@tssmat.staffs.sch.uk

School Lane, Edingale, B79 9JJ

<https://maryhoward.staffs.sch.uk/>





## Mary Howard - Spelling Bee- Year 2

### TSSMAT Spelling Bee: Getting a 'BUZZ' about Spelling!

The TSSMAT is thrilled to announce the second year of our exciting new Spelling Bee competition, designed to promote high standards in spelling across our schools. This termly event will not only enhance children's spelling skills but also foster a sense of community and friendly competition among peers.

#### Aims of the Spelling Bee

The School Spelling Bee is set to take place at the end of each term, encouraging children to learn their key spelling words in a supportive and engaging environment.

#### The initiative aims to:

- Promote High Standards: By focusing on key spelling words, we aim to elevate spelling proficiency across the school.
- Encourage Participation: Every child is invited to take part, regardless of their current spelling abilities. We believe that all children can achieve and aspire to be their best.
- Celebrate Achievements: All participants will be celebrated, with each child receiving a Spelling Bee certificate during our Achievement Assembly.

#### How does It Work?

To prepare for the competition, we encourage parents and guardians to support their children in learning the key spelling words. A downloadable list of these words is available below.

#### Here's how the competition will unfold:

1. Class Heats: At the end of each term, class teachers will hold heats within their classes to identify the year group winners.
2. MAT Spelling Bee Competition: In the summer term, the excitement will culminate in a MAT Spelling Bee Competition, where our school will compete against other schools in the academy for the coveted MAT Spelling Bee trophy.
3. Finals and Celebrations: The final event will determine which school will take home the title of Spelling Bee Champion.

#### Join the Buzz!

We encourage all children across every year group and ability level to participate.

Remember, "You've got to be in it to win it!"

Let's rally together and aim to bring the trophy home to the Mease Schools in 2025!

Together, let's make spelling a fun and rewarding experience for all our children, fostering a love for words and language that will last a lifetime. For further details and to download the key spelling words, please check the website.

<https://maryhoward.staffs.sch.uk/children/spelling-bee>

At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about on-line safety, mental health and well-being, and climate change. Formally delivered by National On-line Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit [nationalcollege.com](https://nationalcollege.com).

## What Parents & Educators Need to Know about CONSPIRACY THEORIES

Conspiracy theories are false or misleading beliefs that explain events as secret plots, often involving powerful groups. While once fringe, they are now more accessible through digital media, online influencers and because of algorithmic recommendations. The DfE guidance document, 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' (KCSIE) explicitly recognises conspiracy theories as potential content risks. This guide will help parents and educators understand the risks, spot the signs, and build children's resilience to conspiracy theories.

### WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

- UNDERMINING TRUST**  
Conspiracy theories can lead children and young people to distrust democratic institutions and British values, teachers, and even their own families and loved ones. This erosion of trust makes young people more vulnerable to extremist narratives by isolating them from reliable sources of information.
- ONLINE ALGORITHM TRAPS**  
Social media platforms can often recommend sensationalist content. Once a child engages with one conspiracy-themed video or post, algorithms push more of the same, thereby creating an echo chamber that can intensify their beliefs.
- MENTAL HEALTH IMPACT**  
Exposure to frightening conspiracy content, such as global plots, viruses, or government control, can fuel feelings of anxiety, paranoia, or hopelessness. For some young people, it can trigger prolonged distress or obsessive thinking.
- GATEWAY TO EXTREMISM**  
Conspiracy theories can often overlap with extremist ideologies. Narratives that blame specific groups, such as politicians, scientists, or particular ethnic groups, can groom children in ways that foster hate, bigotry, and radicalisation.
- CONFLICT WITH PEERS**  
Belief in conspiracy theories can lead to isolation or conflict at school. Children may struggle with peer relationships if they express these beliefs or become distrustful of others who disagree; sometimes, confrontation can even result in a strengthening of the belief in the conspiracy theory.
- ERODED CRITICAL THINKING**  
Young people influenced by conspiracies may reject evidence-based learning. This risks undermining their academic progress and weakening their ability to think critically, assess risks, or engage in healthy debate.

### Advice for Parents & Educators

- CREATE SAFE CONVERSATIONS**  
Don't mock or dismiss any questions that children and young people ask about conspiracy theories. Instead, create open, judgement-free spaces to talk. This strengthens trust and makes it more likely they will confide in you.
- PROMOTE CRITICAL THINKING**  
Teach young people how to assess information critically. Encourage them to ask appropriate questions, such as: Who is telling me this? What evidence is there? What do other trusted sources say? Use real examples from current media to explain your answers and reasoning.
- MONITOR DIGITAL BEHAVIOUR**  
Be aware of the content children are accessing, especially on platforms such as TikTok, YouTube, or BeReal. Use parental controls, but more importantly, maintain ongoing dialogue about online experiences and influencers.
- REINFORCE RELIABLE SOURCES**  
Point children toward trustworthy and reliable sources of news and information in a variety of formats tailored to the young person's age. Build habits of verifying facts using reliable sources, and teach them how to spot misleading content.

### Meet Our Expert

Brendan O'Keefe is a headteacher and digital education consultant with over a decade of experience in education. As Director of Digital Strategy across multiple schools and an advisor to The National College, he specialises in digital safety, PREVENT, and pastoral care.

**#WakeUpWednesday** The National College

Source: See full referenced list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/conspiracy-theories>

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## *Term Dates 2025-2026*



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



**STAFFORDSHIRE  
POLICE**

### **Autumn Term 2025**

**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