



*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,

Christmas is in full flow at Mary Howard Primary School, and what a wonderful time it has been! This week has been filled with joy and community spirit.

We welcomed our new children for September during our Christmas Stay and Play session. These little ones are already becoming a cherished part of our school family. The excitement was palpable as we visited the village hall and shared Christmas cheer by singing carols together.

A magical evening was spent at Holy Trinity celebrating Christingle - a special thanks to Reverend Nicky for making the event so memorable. Today, we enjoyed a lovely day at our sister school, where children created beautiful Christmas cards and calendars. The highlight was watching the pantomime of Rick Whittington, generously funded by FOMH and SASA, and hosted by St Andrews Church.

We are incredibly grateful for all the support with transport for these wonderful activities.

Looking ahead, next week promises to be full of festive fun! Here's what we have planned:

- Elfridges (run by FOMH)
- Nativity in church, where we'll be presenting special certificates for demonstrating our vision and values
- Christmas lunch
- After-school disco (organised by FOMH)
- Final day: Whole Mease trip to Staffold to round off the year

As we approach the end of term, I'm reminded of the words from the Bible that guide us: "*Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.*" (Galatians 6:9)

Wishing you all a lovely weekend.

*Rachel Mills*

*Executive Headteacher*

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

### **Monday 15th December**

- PE Kit Oak Class

### **Tuesday 16th December**

### **Wednesday 17th December**

- 9:15am - Nativity at Church & Living Out Our Social Vision Celebration - Parents welcome to attend
- Christmas Lunch - if you have not pre-ordered a dinner please bring in a packed lunch

### **Thursday 18th December**

- PE Kit for all classes
- Christmas Parties & FOMH disco after school - wear party clothes!

### **Friday 19th December**

- Christmas Jumper Day!
- Christmas Magic Statfold Trip & Break up.

## *Dates to note...*

### **December**

- 22nd December - 2nd January - Christmas Holiday

### **January**

- 5th January - Inset Day
- 6th January - Return to School
- 9th January - The Library Bus is here!
- 7 - 9th January - Oak Class Bikeability - Children need to have their own suitable bike and helmet bought into school. Please let us know if this is not possible.
- 23rd January - The Library Bus is here!

Please access the Schools' website for key events - Mary Howard

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

## *Reminders*

Young Voices Payment of £19.50 is now on Arbor also to pay for those attending.

### **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.

If your Arbor Account is in arrears of over £10 for Snacks, we will no longer be able to offer your child a daily snack.

If your Account is in arrears of over £50 for Wraparound Care, we will no longer be able to offer the care (unless payments are made via vouchers).

Thank you for your understanding.

## *Living out our School vision awards*

*The following Children will be receiving an award at our living out our school vision assembly after the nativity in Church on the 17th December 9:15am we look forward to seeing you there!*

*Maple Class*

*Alice & Finley*

*Willow Class*

*Henry & Theo*

*Oak Class*

*Isaac & Ella*





**Christmas Postbox final date Thurs 18th Dec.**

**All envelopes need a name and class.**

**The School Council will be making the deliveries.**

# Dinners for Week Commencing 15th December 2025 - Week 1



## WINTER MENU FROM NOVEMBER 2025



V Vegetarian  
VE Vegan  
GF Gluten Free  
DF Dairy Free

### Week 1

#### Monday

##### Mains

Beef Bolognese  
100% beef bolognese with sliced garlic bread

##### Sides

Seasonal vegetables of the day and  
Homemade fresh salad bar

##### Desserts

Homemade Apple Cake (v) or  
Fresh Fruit

#### Tuesday

##### Mains

Tuna and Cheese Pasta Bake  
Served with diced herby potatoes

##### Sides

Seasonal vegetables of the day and  
Homemade fresh salad bar

##### Desserts

Natural Yoghurt (v) or  
Fresh Fruit

#### Wednesday

##### Mains

Cheese and Tomato Pizza  
Homemade Pizza Dough topped with  
Cheese and Tomato. Served with Potato  
Croquettes

##### Sides

Seasonal vegetables of the day and  
Homemade fresh salad bar

##### Desserts

Freshly Baked Oat and Raisin  
Cookies (v) or  
Fresh Fruit

#### Thursday

##### Mains

Roast Chicken  
100% Chicken breast, served with roast  
potatoes, yorkshire pudding and gravy

##### Sides

Seasonal Vegetables of the day and  
homemade fresh salad bar

##### Desserts

Apple and Berry Crumble (v)  
Fresh Fruit

#### Friday

##### Mains

Fish Fingers  
Breaded cod served with oven fried chips

##### Sides

Seasonal vegetables of the day and  
Homemade fresh salad bar

##### Desserts

Ice Cream (v, ve, gf) or  
Fresh Fruit

#### Daily Options

##### Jacket Potatoes

Freshly baked jacket potatoes. 1 filling from a  
choice of Tuna, Cheese or Beans (v, ve, gf)

##### Tomato Pasta Bake

Wholemeal pasta in a tomato sauce (v, ve, gf)

##### Homemade Toasties

50/50 bread, with filling options of Tuna,  
Cheese or Ham.

Homemade Soup and Sandwich  
Soup made using fresh seasonal vegetables.  
Some vegetables are grown in the school  
allotments at selected schools. 50/50 bread,  
with filling options of Tuna, Cheese or Ham.

All options are served with seasonal  
vegetables, potato option of the day  
and fresh salad bar

### Week 2

#### Monday

##### Mains

BBQ Chicken  
100% chicken breast, topped with BBQ  
sauce and sliced peppers

##### Sides

Seasonal Vegetables of the day and  
Homemade fresh salad bar

##### Desserts

Chocolate and Caramel Cake  
Cocoa chocolate and sugar free condensed  
milk, caramel cake (v)  
Fresh Fruit

#### Wednesday

##### Mains

Cottage Pie  
100% beef. Topped with sliced potatoes and  
gravy.

##### Sides

Seasonal Vegetables of the day and  
Homemade fresh salad bar

##### Desserts

Apple Crumble (v) or  
Fresh Fruit

#### Friday

##### Mains

Fish Fingers  
Breaded cod served with oven fried chips

##### Sides

Seasonal Vegetables of the day and  
Homemade fresh salad bar

##### Desserts

Ice Cream (v, ve, gf) or  
Fresh Fruit

#### Tuesday

##### Mains

All day breakfast  
100% Pork sausage, beans, hash brown  
and an egg omelette

##### Sides

Seasonal Vegetables of the day and  
Homemade fresh salad bar

##### Desserts

Homemade Raisin Flapjack (v, ve) or  
Fresh Fruit

#### Thursday

##### Mains

Roast Ham  
100% pork, served with roast potatoes,  
yorkshire pudding and gravy or cheese  
sauce

##### Sides

Seasonal Vegetables of the day and  
homemade fresh salad bar

##### Desserts

Homemade Chocolate Brownie (v)  
Cocoa chocolate brownie  
Fresh Fruit

#### Daily Options

##### Jacket Potatoes

Freshly baked jacket potatoes. 1 filling from a  
choice of Tuna, Cheese or Beans (v, ve, gf)

##### Tomato Pasta Bake

Wholemeal pasta in a tomato sauce (v, ve, gf)

##### Homemade Toasties

50/50 bread, with filling options of Tuna,  
Cheese or Ham.

Homemade Soup and Sandwich  
Soup made using fresh seasonal vegetables.  
Some vegetables are grown in the school  
allotments at selected schools. 50/50 bread,  
with filling options of Tuna, Cheese or Ham.

All options are served with seasonal  
vegetables, potato option of the day  
and fresh salad bar

### Week 3

#### Monday

##### Mains

Pork Meatballs  
Pork meatballs served in a tomato and basil  
sauce with wholemeal pasta and Garlic  
Bread

##### Sides

Seasonal Vegetables of the day and  
Homemade fresh salad bar

##### Desserts

Natural Yoghurt (v) or  
Fresh Fruit

#### Wednesday

##### Mains

Cheese and Tomato Pizza  
Homemade Pizza Dough topped with  
Cheese and Tomato. Served with Potato  
Croquettes

##### Sides

Seasonal Vegetables of the day and  
Homemade fresh salad bar

##### Desserts

Pancakes and fresh fruit (v) or  
Natural Yoghurt

#### Tuesday

##### Mains

Sausage and Bean Casserole  
Pork sausage in a baked bean casserole  
sauce topped with sliced potatoes

##### Sides

Seasonal Vegetables of the day and  
Homemade fresh salad bar

##### Desserts

Lemon Cake (v) or  
Fresh Fruit

#### Thursday

##### Mains

Roast Chicken  
100% Chicken breast, served with roast  
potatoes, yorkshire pudding and gravy

##### Sides

Seasonal Vegetables of the day and  
homemade fresh salad bar

##### Desserts

Fresh Berry Sponge Cake (v) or  
Fresh Fruit

#### Daily Options

##### Jacket Potatoes

Freshly baked jacket potatoes. 1 filling from a  
choice of Tuna, Cheese or Beans (v, ve, gf)

##### Tomato Pasta Bake

Wholemeal pasta in a tomato sauce (v, ve, gf)

##### Homemade Toasties

50/50 bread, with filling options of Tuna,  
Cheese or Ham.

Homemade Soup and Sandwich  
Soup made using fresh seasonal vegetables.  
Some vegetables are grown in the school  
allotments at selected schools. 50/50 bread,  
with filling options of Tuna, Cheese or Ham.

All options are served with seasonal  
vegetables, potato option of the day  
and fresh salad bar

All of our food is made on site using the freshest ingredients and complies with all Government legislation for nutritional value for schools

**Santa Claus is coming to town!**

Santa will be driving around Edingale Village on Sunday 21st December \*  
He'll be leaving the village hall car park at 6.00pm and making his way around.  
Pop out and say hello, he'd love to see you!



\* date is weather dependant, but Santa will come!  
Watch [www.edingalevillagehall.com](http://www.edingalevillagehall.com) and Facebook



FRIENDS OF MARY HOWARD INVITE ALL THE CHILDREN TO  
VISIT OUR VERY OWN CHRISTMAS SHOP...

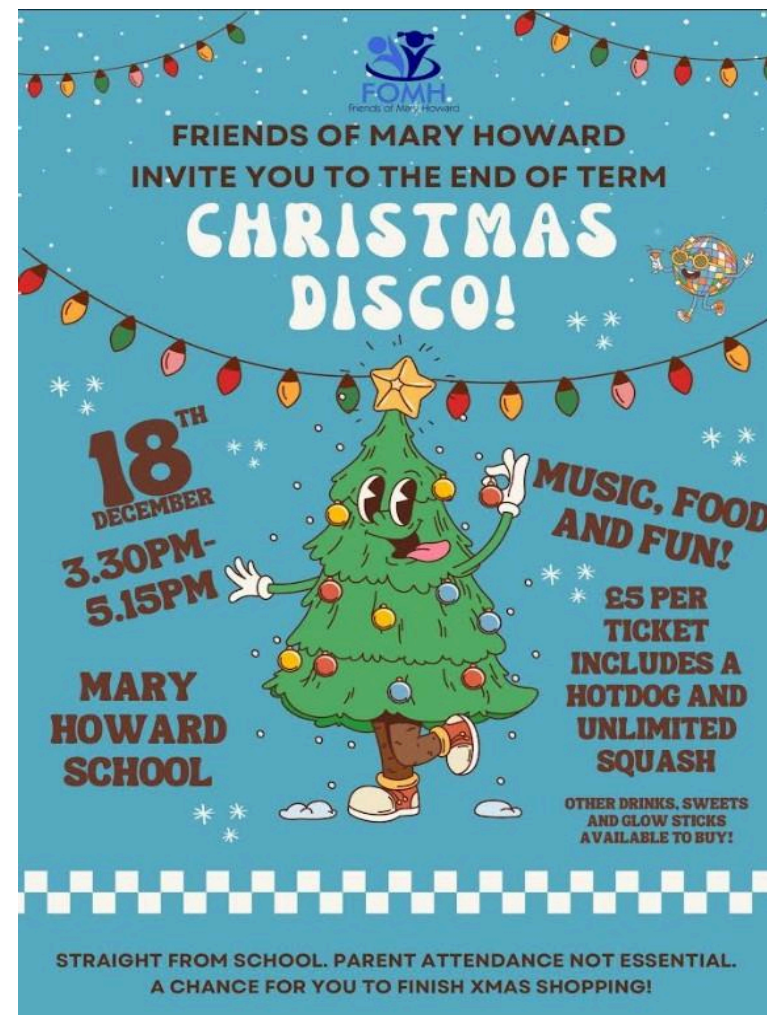
# ELFRIDGES


JOIN US TO CHOOSE A GIFT FROM YOU  
FOR A SPECIAL PERSON AT HOME!

DECEMBER 15<sup>TH</sup>

£5 PER GIFT

THIS IS A CHILD-ONLY ACTIVITY WHICH WILL TAKE  
PLACE DURING SCHOOL TIME. PLEASE SEE LETTER FOR  
FURTHER DETAILS.

  
FOMH  
Friends of Mary Howard

FRIENDS OF MARY HOWARD  
INVITE YOU TO THE END OF TERM

# CHRISTMAS DISCO!


18<sup>TH</sup>  
DECEMBER  
3.30PM-  
5.15PM

MUSIC, FOOD  
AND FUN!

£5 PER  
TICKET  
INCLUDES A  
HOTDOG AND  
UNLIMITED  
SQUASH

OTHER DRINKS, SWEETS  
AND GLOW STICKS  
AVAILABLE TO BUY!

MARY  
HOWARD  
SCHOOL



STRAIGHT FROM SCHOOL. PARENT ATTENDANCE NOT ESSENTIAL.  
A CHANCE FOR YOU TO FINISH XMAS SHOPPING!

## Safeguarding



## Term Dates 2025-2026

### Autumn Term 2025

**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

## *Consultation*

**Dear Families,**

**We would like to inform you that on 8th December, we met with the Local Governing Committee to discuss the points and feedback raised during the recent consultation regarding the proposed changes to the school day.**

**We appreciate your engagement and the valuable insights you have shared. We are currently reviewing all feedback thoroughly and will be sending out the results along with the final decisions after the Christmas break.**

**At that time, we will also provide answers to any remaining questions you may have.**

**Thank you for your continued support and understanding.**

## *Advice and Helplines over the Christmas period*

**Staffordshire Families Integrated Front Door (SFIFD)** if you have concerns or are worried for a child and wish to make a referral: **0300 111 8007**

**NSPCC Helpline** Call **0808 800 5000** or email [help@nspcc.org.uk](mailto:help@nspcc.org.uk) if you're worried about a child.  
[NSPCC Christmas Support \[nspcc.org.uk\]](https://www.nspcc.org.uk/what-we-do/our-services/nspcc-helpline/)

**Childline** Free, confidential support for children and young people: **0800 1111** or [childline.org.uk](https://www.childline.org.uk)

**Samaritans**  
**116 123** [samaritans.org](https://www.samaritans.org)

**Citizens Advice Staffordshire** – Debt, benefits, budgeting  
**0808 278 7874**

**StepChange Debt Charity** – Free debt advice  
**0800 138 1111**