



*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 truly successful start to the academic year we have had!

As I reflect on a very busy and fun-packed term, I am filled with gratitude for all that we have been able to achieve together. This term, we have seen **Koinonia in action** as we strengthen our school community through our wonderful family partnerships. We have hosted so many excellent **enrichment events**, all enabling our children to grow and flourish in confidence and character.

I must extend my sincerest thanks to our dedicated **staff**, our supportive **parents**, our wider **communities**, and of course, our enthusiastic **children** for consistently making Mary Howard a lovely place to learn and thrive.

This week provided a great moment for us to come together with **St Andrews** for a fantastic well-being day, where we had the pleasure of meeting **Steel and Zactiv**. This highly valuable event was organised by **FOMH**, and we are incredibly thankful for their continued dedication and hard work.

Today, we say a heartfelt goodbye to **Mrs. Boag**, who has worked diligently to ensure a smooth transition to our new administrative system, **Arbor**. We thank her for her hard work and wish her every success and happiness for the future. When we return after the half-term break, we will be welcoming **Vicki Jones** into the office, and I know you will all make her feel incredibly welcome.

As we take a well-deserved rest, I leave you with this biblical quote, which perfectly captures the spirit of partnership we have fostered:

“Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor: If either of them falls down, one can help the other up.” (Ecclesiastes 4:9-10)

Wishing you all a restful and enjoyable half term break.

With warmth and best wishes, regards

Rachel Mills

Executive Headteacher

What's coming up this week...

Monday 3rd November

INSET DAY

Tuesday 4th November

Children Back to School!

Wednesday 5th November

Thursday 6th November

PE Kit All Classes

Friday 7th November

8.45 to 9.15 Rock up & Read

PE Kit Willow Class & Maple Class

Music - Willow Class - Please remember Ukulele

***Class 2 - Willow - After half term PE Thursdays & Fridays - No Swimming**

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

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

Dates to note...

****Applications for Secondary School must be in by 31st October****

November

- **4th November Children back to school**
- 7th November - Rock up and read 8:45 - 9:15am
- 10th November - Odd Socks day
- 10th November - Oak - NSPCC's Speak out. Stay Safe. Programme
- 13th November - KS2 Derby Faith Trail **complete consent form & payments on Arbor**
- 14th November - Children in need - non uniform day (wear spotty clothes)
- 17th November - Flu Vaccination Programme
- 28th November - Maple - Great Fire of London Workshop at St Andrews (more details to follow)

December

- 5th December - Rock up and Read
- 10th December Christingle at Church - 6pm to 7pm - Parents Welcome to attend
- 11th December - Stay & Play 9.30 to 10.30
- 12th December All Pupils will be at St Andrews the whole day
- 17th December Christmas Lunch
- 17th December at 9:15am - Nativity at Church - Parents welcome to attend
- 18th December - Christmas Parties
- 19th December - Both Schools Christmas Magic Statfold Trip & Break up!



*Mary Howard - School & Spiritual Council
Zactiv Mental Health & Well-being Day!*



Reminders

Key Stage 2 - Derby Faith Trail

Permission Forms have been sent out on Dojo for our Derby faith trail please can everyone complete this and make payments on Arbor link below:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScRgHPadsyyiDzn71fdLf9jEVWPJebknpEMHHnY50yxqUOhtQ/viewform?usp=header>

Key Stage 1 - Great Fire of London Workshop

Permission Forms have been sent out on Dojo for this workshop, We are asking for a voluntary contribution of £5 per child to attend this workshop to cover the cost, if we do not get enough contributions we may have to cancel the event, contributions can be made on Arbor there will be a payment item on there for the great fire of London. Thank you in advance for any contributions!

Permission form - <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfoDD9aI4nDzSBUcqygYYmLZ7c8qzRMgb0Y0foPq9uqJ3qAiw/viewform?usp=header>

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.

Thank you for your understanding.

Dinners for Week Commencing 3rd November 2025 - Week 1

(New Menu to start from 10th November)

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

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

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

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

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

CHEEKY MONDAY

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

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

CEO Newsletter

CEO LETTER Autumn 1 2025

As the Autumn colours become so vibrant, it's hard to believe we have already reached the end of this wonderful, yet long, first half-term. Goodness, where has the time gone!

It has been a period packed with excellent learning and vibrant opportunities for your children, from exciting trips and visitors to residential, services and a range of events. We are so proud of everything that has happened across our seven schools and to the staff for ensuring this happens so seamlessly for our children.

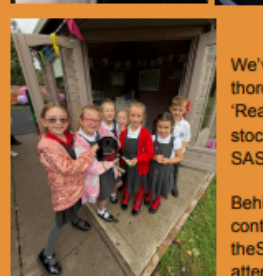
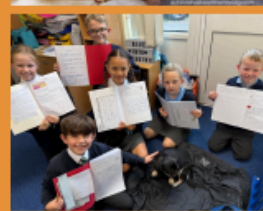
I have thoroughly loved visiting all of our schools several times again. My visits have been for many reasons, including curriculum and standards meetings, but my highlights are always the moments I get to see the children's enthusiasm firsthand. I've had the pleasure of being involved in pupil voice sessions at All Saints, St Mary's, The Howard, and St Andrew's, and it was a privilege to hear their thoughts.

I've also been blessed to attend some of our lovely harvest services at Anson, Richard Crosse, All Saints, and St Mary's. Thank you so much for your generous donations and for helping us celebrate that wonderful sense of community spirit.

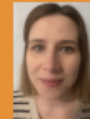
Children at St Marys led our Trust worship on responsibility - it was so well structured with lots of opportunity to answer and join in. They looked at a range of responsibilities as well as online safety!

We've had some fantastic community events, too and was thoroughly delighted to be asked to officially open the new 'Reading Shed' at St Andrew's. It looks gorgeous and is fully stocked for the children. What a wonderful achievement by the SASA (PTA) – the children were so excited!

Behind the scenes, our Headteachers, leaders, and governors continue to work diligently. We have held positive 'Team around the School' meetings to review our curriculum, standards, and attendance, celebrating much success while also identifying our next steps for development. Our school leaders are also working hard to unpick the latest OFSTED framework to ensure we are always moving forward. Please be reassured that this is all positive, background work to make your children's education the best it can be.



Rev. Jules Smith & Sophie Skelton



We are thrilled to formally welcome our new Directors Sophie Skelton and Rev. Jules Smith for link Directors roles for The Mease.

It just leaves me to say a huge thank you to you all for your support during this superb half-term.

I know many children are looking forward to Halloween. If your family is taking part in 'trick or treating,' we hope you have a wonderful time—please stay safe, be visible in the dark, and be respectful of neighbours who may not be celebrating. As a Christian Trust, this time of year also reminds us, as the nights draw in, to be a positive light in our communities, reflecting the message of hope and the light of Jesus that shines brightly for all.

I hope you and your children have a very restful and well-deserved break. We look forward to seeing everyone back for Autumn 2 after our staff INSET day where we are looking further at the effective use of AI in our work.

Thank you, regards, Charlene Gethin and *Ralph*.

Christmas Fayre
Sunday 23 November 10am-2pm
*Festive kitchen ~ mulled wine
craft stalls*



If you would like to book a stall contact
clarekeey@gmail.com

NEW



Sewing & Craft Group

For new & experienced crafters. Join us
during the coffee morning in the Dale room on
Thursday 20 Nov at 10.00am

Learn how to use a sewing machine,
knit & crochet as well as other crafts.
Bring your own project or join in with new ones.
£3.00 per person refreshments provided

Contact Lisa Thorpe on ljt2009@live.co.uk
01827 383183 / 07467 339079 or
edingalevillagehall.com

QUIZ

Festive Quiz
Fri 5 Dec 7.00pm

fish, sausage or veg pie & chips
£10.00

ticket sales:

www.edingalevillagehall.com or
wegottickets.com/event/668404/
£4 on the door with no food

Bar open ~ Raffle

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 and Facebook

www.edingalevillagehall.com

MONTHLY COFFEE MORNING

Thurs 20 Nov - 9.00 am - 12.30pm

Join us for your breakfast or cake.

Meet for coffee & a chat. All welcome !

Also Thurs 8 Jan & 22 Jan, then fortnightly



CHAPS' NIGHTS

An evening
with friends &
real ale.

Thurs 27 Nov
7.30pm



NEW

The village hall has a new website!

Find all the information you need
about the village hall:

how to hire and hire fees, check out the booking
diary, information about our regular groups and
plans for new ones and our full range of fabulous
upcoming events. You can book any event tickets
direct through our website too. Visit us at

www.edingalevillagehall.com

**ONLY
£10**

SATURDAY 1 NOVEMBER
7.00pm – late

BACK TO WWII - FANCY DRESS OPTIONAL
LIVE SINGER LYDIA RAY
BAR OPEN

HOT MEAL - SAUSAGE & MASH (VEG OPTION AVAILABLE)

Box office: www.edingalevillagehall.com or
www.wegottickets.com/event/668399/

Edingale Village Hall & Holy Trinity Church

Prize BINGO night (over 18's only)

Saturday 15 Nov 7.00pm

Bring your own drinks & snacks

**5 games bingo
£5 per book
or 3 for £10**



Primary/Infant/First Schools ONLY - Reception application process

The application process for a reception place for September 2026 will open on 01 November 2025.

The easiest way for parents to apply is online. Further information can be found on [Admission to primary and middle schools - Staffordshire County Council](#)

The closing date is 15 January 2026.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION - ADMISSION INTO RECEPTION CLASS SEPTEMBER 2026

To be sure of receiving an offer on national offer day please apply online through our website www.staffordshire.gov.uk/admissions.

The online system will ask for a UID number – please click 'No UID', this will allow you to continue with your application. You will need to make your application by **15 January 2026** and your child will receive an offer of a reception place on national offer day 16 April 2026.

All the information you need about the admissions process within Staffordshire is available on our web pages. You must apply for all schools that you would prefer your child to attend including schools outside of Staffordshire or grammar schools. You will need to check the admissions arrangements for each school you are interested in to see what priority will be given to your application and whether you should provide additional information or a supplementary form with your online application. If you do not make an application your child will be disadvantaged as children whose parents/carers have applied will be given priority for popular schools.

You must apply even if you have an elder child already attending the school (or affiliated Junior). No priority is given in the admission process because your child is currently in a nursery class and there is no guarantee that they will be allocated a place at the school at which they currently go to nursery.

If there are other persons with parental responsibility for your child, who are not living at your home address, it is expected that you will jointly agree on school places before an application is made. The local authority is not able to intervene in disputes between parents over school applications and will request that these are resolved privately.

(www.staffordshire.gov.uk/admissions).

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>

Safeguarding



Term Dates 2025-2026

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