



*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

As we approach the end of this academic year, I wish to take a moment to reflect on our shared journey and extend my heartfelt gratitude for your unwavering support. It has been a year filled with accomplishments, and it is essential to acknowledge the remarkable efforts of our staff and children, who have all played a part in making our school community thrive.

This year, we have successfully navigated four successful inspections, both Ofsted and SIAMS, with commendations that fill us with pride. These achievements are a testament to the dedication and hard work of everyone involved, from our teachers who inspire our children daily, to you, our parents, who engage so actively with our school.

I would also like to express my appreciation for our Parent-Teacher Financial Associations, SASA and FOMH, who have worked tirelessly to raise funds for enriching activities and resources. Their contributions have greatly enhanced our children's learning experiences, and we are incredibly grateful for their commitment.

As we go about living our values, it is evident that our vision is embraced by every member of our school community. Thank you to Reverend John and Reverend Nicky for their spiritual guidance throughout the year; your support has been invaluable to us all.

As we bid farewell to our Year 6 students, we are confident that they will carry our values with them into their new high schools. Your children have grown significantly, and we wish them all the very best in the next stages of their educational journeys. At the same time, we warmly welcome our new families, who are just beginning their journey with us. We look forward to seeing you become part of our ever-growing school family.

Before I conclude, I'd like to leave you with a biblical quote that resonates with our journey together: "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." (Philippians 4:13). May it inspire us to continue facing new challenges with resilience and faith.

Wishing you all a wonderful summer break filled with joy and relaxation. We eagerly await the return of children on **Wednesday, 3rd September 2025**.

Warm regards,

Rachel Mills

Executive Headteacher

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

### **Monday 1st September**

Inset Day

### **Tuesday 2nd September**

Inset Day

### **Wednesday 3rd September**

Children back to School!

### **Thursday 4th September**

### **Friday 5th September**

Please access the Schools' website for key events -

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

## *Dates to note...*

### **September**

- 3rd September- Children return to school
- 5th September Rock up & Read 8.45 to 9.15
- 8th September - Years 3/4/5&6 swimming lessons every monday for 6 weeks (9am depart - children to arrive wearing swimwear under their clothing)
- 24th September Academy Photography

### **October**

- 3rd October Rock up and read 8:45 - 9:15am
- 7th October - Arboretum Trip for Class 3
- 6th October - Parents Evening 3-6pm
- 14th October - Whittington Barracks trip - Class 2
- 16th October - Parent Forum 2:45pm
- 24th October - Let your light shine worship 3pm

### **November**

- 7th November - Rock up and read 8:45 - 9:15am
- 10th November - Odd Socks day
- 13th November - KS2 Derby Faith Trail
- 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 1st September 2025 - Week 1

## 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

## *Job Vacancies - St Andrews School*

**St. Andrews Primary School is a small, nurturing environment where excellent behaviour and supportive staff create a positive atmosphere for our children. We are committed to fostering a community where every child can grow and flourish, and our staff can thrive.**

### **Job 1: Care Club assistant (before and after school)**

#### **Hours:**

- **Monday to Friday: 7:45 AM - 8:45 AM**
- **Monday to Friday: 3:15 PM - 5:15 PM**

### **Job 2: Care Club assistant (Before School)**

#### **Hours:**

- **Monday to Friday: 7:45 AM - 8:45 AM**

#### **Role Overview:**

**As a Care Club assistant, you will play a vital role in providing a safe and engaging environment for our children during the morning and after-school care sessions. You will support children in their activities, ensuring they feel valued and included.**

#### **Key Responsibilities:**

- **Supervise children in the care club, ensuring their safety and well-being.**
- **Plan and lead engaging activities that promote learning and social interaction.**
- **Foster positive relationships with children, staff, and parents.**
- **Maintain a clean and organised environment.**
- **Collaborate with other staff members to ensure the smooth running of the care club.**

### **Qualifications and Skills:**

- Experience working with children in a school or care setting is desirable.
- A passion for supporting children's development and well-being.
- Strong communication and interpersonal skills.
- Ability to work as part of a team and independently.

## **Other Information**

### **Why Join Us?**

- Be part of a caring and supportive team.
- Contribute to the growth and development of our children.
- Enjoy a rewarding role in a positive school environment.

### **Application Process:**

To apply, visit <https://tssmat.staffs.sch.uk/job-vacancies/care-club-assistant-2-roles>

please complete the application form and a cover letter detailing your experience and suitability for the role by the closing date of 1st September 2025. Applications should clearly state which role you are interested in, and be sent to [recruitment@tssmat.staffs.sch.uk](mailto:recruitment@tssmat.staffs.sch.uk)

The role is fixed term for a year in the first instance, linked to DfE funding for breakfast clubs.

Interviews will be held on 5th September 2025.

We look forward to welcoming you to our team!

*Mary Howard*

**Water safety:**

As the hot weather continues Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service is asking parents to ensure their children are safe around water. Whilst it might be tempting to take a dip in canals, rivers and lakes this can be dangerous due to unknown hazards.

Ensure your child knows how to “float like a starfish” should they get into difficulty. There is a short animated video they can watch [The RNLI's Seaside Safety Song - YouTube](#)

If you have a mobile phone download the free What3Words app which can be used to report a precise location in an emergency: [Download the free what3words app | what3words](#)

For more safety advice, visit our website here: [Water safety](#)





# Message from our CEO

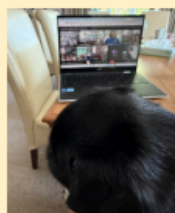
## CEO Letter Summer 2 2025



As we close our academic year of 2024/2025 I have reflected on the CEO letters across the year and realise just how vibrant and special it has been. Seeing All Saints join us in September, seeing all they've done and achieved and shared, it's like they have always been with us and are an amazing addition to our Trust. The Mease have now been with us for well over a year and similarly, we feel part of one big family together and are grateful for their involvement and tremendous contributions. What a team!

Since my last message at the end of summer 1 so much has happened and even more than I am able to reflect on so please do look at school webpages for their blogs., there are so many events that I don't get to see such as summer fetes, the residential at The Mease (mention of Borth at the end), best kept gardens, visits and visitors - so much wonderful learning and opportunities in our schools.

It feels like ages ago now but it was so special to see all classes across the Trust engaging with the worship led by Anson. They delivered an excellent worship on the theme of thankfulness. This letter shows that there is so much to be thankful for. I was able to join online this time and focus on all the schools on screen, how wonderful!



Goodness! Miss Mills and her team at The Mease have had 2 OFSTEDs in the last few weeks! One each at St Andrews and Mary Howad. We are thrilled to share both schools' superb reports as solidly good schools. Well done and what a journey. Have a read!

St Andrews <https://st-andrews-cliftoncampville.staffs.sch.uk/our-school/ofsted>

Mary Howard [https://drive.google.com/file/d/11v0s7IAcQXX6wWYwJudGY2Rbb7Lkta/view?usp=drive\\_link](https://drive.google.com/file/d/11v0s7IAcQXX6wWYwJudGY2Rbb7Lkta/view?usp=drive_link)

	St Andrews	Mary Howard
Quality of Education	Good	Good
Behaviour and Attitudes	Good	Outstanding
Personal Development	Good	Good
Leadership and Management	Good	Good



We are so grateful to everyone for engaging in school reviews this summer in the areas of SEND and EYFS (Early Years Foundation Stage)). They were brilliantly positive with some slight even better ifs. We are so proud of our schools. Thanks to Kathryn Powels, EYFS lead and all the EYFS teams who were able to be released from their schools to take part and to Gemma Duffy (SENDCO) for her ability to attend them all and conduct such a thorough and supportive review. It's been wonderful.



GreenPower was an exceptional day for children from Anson, St Marys, Richard Crosse and the Howard where children raced e-cars that they had designed, built and written portfolios for.

We are grateful to all staff and are especially grateful to Dr Allen for his dedication and commitment - we have decided that this isn't the end of an era and we can take part next year too, with all of our schools!



Cross Country was a tremendous success, what a wonderful event. We are so grateful to Mr Stuart Challinor for organising and leading this opportunity (among all the other things he leads too!). We are very lucky. Richard Crosse's team were thrilled to win! Well done.

Our first 'hubbed' spelling Bee was fabulous. Mary Howard, St Andrews, Richard Crosse and The Howard held their KS1 and KS2 competitions first. Mary Howard

won both events! In our second hubbed Spelling Bee which took place between St Marys, All Saints and Anson, All Saints took the trophies for both KS1 and KS2. Thanks to all the staff who made this happen spearheaded and organised so well by Miss Mills. Thank you.



The Mease (St Andrews and Mary Howard) took part in the 'Kaleidoscope of Dreams' held in Tamworth castle during a recent Saturday. Miss Mills was on the steering group and it was a massive event across Tamworth with artwork, dancing and singing and a whole range of activities, stalls and entertainment. What a day - the children danced Bhangra brilliantly and enjoyed singing in the ensemble. Well done.

I have been blessed to see the plays at Anson (An Inspector Calls), St Mary's (Robin Hood), The Howard (Peter Pan) and the beginning of the play at Richard Crosse! (Super Stan)







I am also blessed to be able to attend the forthcoming sports day and colour run at All Saints and Richard Crosse's final church service (both after this message goes out). Do



look at our Instagram account for updates - thestaffordshireschoolsmat.

In other news, Nic Saint, our Clerk to Governors and project manager got to meet Kier Starmer and Ed Miliband recently. Off camera she chatted to him about school funding. She hopes to have secured visits to parliament for some of our older children across our Trust.

As we continue to develop as a Google Trust and expand our strategy, I was the last of the leadership team to attend 'Google's leaders in education conferences'. We look forward to our **INSET day on Monday 3rd November** where we review our use of AI and all of our school and trust development plans include Google for teaching, learning and administration, IT infrastructure and cyber security.



In September schools and our Trust will share our development plans for 2025/2026.



As I write this the children are at Borth - half way through! We are sure that the Borth residential will be as fantastic as ever and am grateful to all the staff for giving their time for such an amazing opportunity, especially Mr Wynn for organising such a mammoth event with a large amount of logistics and risk assessments!

Some Goodbyes

Before I close, we are saying a sad goodbye to Anna Hylton, Megan Cox and Julie Smith at Richard Crosse, and Melissa Rackham from Anson. On behalf of the entire school trust and your collective colleagues, we extend our deepest gratitude and heartfelt farewell to an exceptional group of staff. With unwavering dedication, innovative passion, and a profound impact on our children, as cherished colleagues in our collaborative spirit and shared commitment, we wish you all the very best for your next roles! Additionally, a temporary goodbye goes to Harriet Jennings at The Howard who will be leaving us on maternity leave - we wish you love and happiness and we can't wait to hear all about your new arrival.

Additionally, our Co Chair of Directors, Kev Borg and Mrs Anna Freeman, the Chair of Anson's Governing committee are leaving us. Here are a few words of gratitude for their tireless volunteering positions. Thank you.

#### Kev Borg

It is with a great deal of sadness that we say goodbye to our Co Chair of Directors, Mr Kev Borg.



It is with a profound sense of gratitude that we mark Kev's departure from the Trust. In his role as Director of Christian Distinctiveness and Trust Leadership and Strategy, he has been so much more than a title; he has been our anchor.

His unwavering presence across our family of schools set a standard for what true involvement looks like, a constant, reassuring figure standing with us in the eye of every SIAMS and OFSTED storm. In those high-pressure moments, he had an unparalleled gift for finding the right words - a calming influence that was never passive, but always purposeful and vocal when it mattered most. His ability to lead us in impromptu prayer, grounding us in our shared mission, was a quiet but powerful testament to his faith and leadership.

While his strategic insight will be a significant loss to our leadership discussions, it is perhaps the more earthly contributions we will also miss: his well-documented appreciation for a good croissant with jam, and a belief in the restorative power of a bacon butty, brought a wonderful humanity to our work.

We offer our thanks to Kev for his immense dedication, wisdom, kindness, and time freely given. We wish him every blessing, happiness, and success in his next chapter in Chaplaincy.

**Anna Freeman** - On behalf of the entire governing board, we want to extend our sincerest gratitude to Anna as she steps down from her role as Chair of Governors.

Anna's tenure has been defined by her unwavering dedication and hard work. Her calm and measured approach has been a source of strength for us all, providing invaluable support and guidance through every challenge and success. Stoic and supportive, she created an environment where considered decisions could be made for the benefit of our students and staff.

Her exceptional ability to grasp the detail of policy and papers was crucial in steering the school forward. Anna skillfully managed the team, holding meetings together with purpose and clarity. She not only led our board but also represented Anson at the wider Chair of Governors meetings, generously sharing the highs of our Ofsted and SIAMS successes and navigating challenges with other leaders. Above all, Anna has been a true champion for the work of our school and the trust. Her passion and commitment have left a lasting mark on our community.

We thank her for everything and wish her the very best for the future. She will be greatly missed.

**I do hope you all enjoy any final events and thank you to all the staff who have made these opportunities and continued excellent learning possible. It just leaves me to say a huge thank you for a tremendous 2024/2025 to our staff, children, families and friends and wish you the summer you would like whether it be peaceful and restful or full of family filled energy (or a bit of both) and I hope it is safe and loving. We**

wish all of our Year 6s and any leavers from our schools a bright, happy and healthy future and we look forward to seeing everyone else again in the new academic year ready for 2025/2026! Thank you.



Kind regards,

Charlene Gethin and *Ralph*.



The LORD will keep you from all harm—  
he will watch over your life;  
the LORD will watch over your coming and going  
both now and forevermore.

**Psalms 121:7-8**



*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. To ensure a smooth transition, please make sure all outstanding payments on our current systems are up to date.

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<sup>th</sup> 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 adult or child (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**

### **\*\*Parentpay - Outstanding Payments\*\***

**Please could you check your Parentpay accounts for any outstanding payments.**

**All outstanding payments will need to be cleared by 11am on 18th July. In September all meals will be processed through Arbor and we will no longer have Parentpay. Further information regarding the Parent App for Arbor will be available shortly.**

Thank you for your continued support.

## *Term Dates 2024-2025*

### **Summer Term 2025**

**Term Ends:** Friday 18th July

**Inset:** Monday 21st July

**Holiday** Monday 21st July - Friday 29th August



## *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