



*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

I hope this message finds you well after another successful week here at school.

I want to extend a huge thank you to all of you who attended the Parents' Evening. It was genuinely useful to share where your children are in their learning journey and to discuss the progress they have made. We value this partnership greatly.

Please note that next week is the final week for swimming this year. Make sure your child has everything they need for their last session on Monday!

We were incredibly proud of the students in Oak Class who visited the Arboretum this week. Their behaviour and engagement were truly exemplary. We even had members of the public commend their excellent conduct, which is a fantastic achievement. A special thank you to Mr. Buckley for driving, as his help significantly reduced the cost of the trip for all of our families.

Looking Ahead to Next Week

Next week is shaping up to be an exciting one!

* Willow Class will be heading off to Whittington Barracks, and once again, we are grateful that Mr. Buckley will be driving them.

* On Friday, our wonderful Friends of Mary Howard (FOMH) have organised a fantastic Lego workshop for every class! The children are in for a treat.

Thank you for your ongoing support. I wish you all a wonderful and restful weekend.

"A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed." – Proverbs 11:25

Warm regards,

Rachel Mills,
Executive Headteacher

What's coming up this week...

Monday 13th October

PE Kit Oak & Willow

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

*Parents can now start to order Meals, Snacks, Wraparound Care via your Arbor Parent Portal.

Tuesday 14th October

Whittington Barracks - Willow - Both Schools

Wednesday 15th October

Thursday 16th October

PE Kit Maple

Friday 17th October

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...

October

- 13th October - *Parents can now start to order Meals, Snacks & Wraparound Care via your Arbor Parent Portal.
- 14th October - Whittington Barracks trip - Willow (Class 2)
- 16th October - Parent Forum 2:45pm
- 16th October- PJs and Movie Night- 5:30pm-7:30pm
- 17th October- Lego Workshops
- 17th October - Library Bus
- 22nd October - Mental Health & Wellbeing day, Children to be dropped at St. Andrews
- 23rd October - Let your light shine worship 9am

November

- Class 2 - Willow - PE will be on Thursdays and Fridays
- 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
- 14th November - Children in need - non uniform day (wear spotty clothes)
- 14th November - Anti bullying show and share
- 17th November - Flu Vaccination Programme

December

- Friday 5th December - Rock up and Read
- Wednesday 10th December Christingle at Church - 6pm to 7pm
- Thursday 11th December - Stay & Play 9.30 to 10.30
- Friday 12th December Library Bus
- Friday 12th December All Pupils will be at St Andrews the whole day
- Wednesday 17th December at 9:15am - Nativity at Church

Dinners for Week Commencing 13th October 2025 - Week 1

Parents can now start ordering meals for their children on Arbor -
Option A will always be the Meat option and Option B will always be the veggie option
Please start giving this a go and let the office know if you are having any troubles with this.
We will still be checking meals ordered with the children in the mornings.

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

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

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

CHICKEN THURSDAY

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

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

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

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

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

FISH FRIDAY

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

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

Friends of Mary Howard

Mental Health & Wellbeing Day - 22nd October at St Andrews

Please remember to drop your child/children at St Andrews 8.45am and collect them at 3pm from St Andrews. All children arrive in their PE Kits.

If your child is absent on that day, please contact the Mary Howard Office by 9am.

Thank you for your continued support.



Wednesday 22nd October 2025

Mental Health and wellbeing day with... ZACTIV!

On 22nd October, all children will be taking part in lots of activities all centred around positive mental health and wellbeing. We are very excited to announce that the gladiator STEEL will be joining us for the morning!

The day will be held at St Andrews. Mary Howard children will need to be dropped at St Andrews in the morning at 8:45am and collected at 3pm please to avoid congestion. Wraparound club is still available for all children on this day until 5.15pm and will be based at St Andrews. Children need to come in PE kits please. If your child has school dinners this will be available as normal.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

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>

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



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