



*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 head into the penultimate week of term, it's a wonderful time to reflect on the fantastic learning and enrichment activities our children have been involved in.

Our Maple class has been exceptionally busy, truly embedding their learning through practical, real-world tasks. They've been writing for genuine purposes, including crafting instructions linked to their engaging key text, Pumpkin Soup. This kind of hands-on application makes learning stick!

Willow class had an amazing opportunity to consolidate their historical knowledge with a trip to Whittington Barracks. By stepping into a trench and seeing genuine World War I memorabilia, they were able to make powerful, tangible links to their learning about the Great War. We were incredibly proud to receive praise for the impeccable behaviour and excellent manners of our children—they were truly a credit to the school and their families.

Similarly, Oak class continues to utilise their learning from their recent, successful visit to the National Memorial Arboretum. We are so fortunate to have such wonderful places to visit locally, and we're grateful for the use of the TSSMAT mini-bus which makes these enriching trips possible.

This week also marked the final swimming session for both Willow and Oak classes. Once again, the children were commended on their excellent behaviour, and it was genuinely lovely to witness them all grow in confidence in the water. Swimming lessons will now pause until next year.

Today, the children have all had the fantastic opportunity to take part in a Lego workshop! This engaging activity was paid for and organised by FOMH, and we are so grateful to them for continually helping us enrich the experiences for our children.

Finally, we held our Parent Forum this week. It is so valuable to have this opportunity to work together to ensure Mary Howard remains a truly special place for our children to learn and thrive.

Thank you to all the parents who support this vital group. The minutes are available on Dojo and the school website—please look out for the details of our next meeting!

"Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it." We strive every day to provide that grounding for your children.

Thank you for your continued support. I wish you all a restful and enjoyable weekend.

Warm regards,

Rachel Mills,
Executive Headteacher

What's coming up this week...

Monday 20th October

PE Kit Oak & *Willow

Tuesday 21st October

Wednesday 22nd October

Mental Health & Wellbeing day, Children to be dropped at St. Andrews

Thursday 23rd October

PE Kit Maple

Friday 24th October

PE Kit Willow Class & Maple Class

Music - Willow Class - Please remember Ukulele

9am - Values Certificates - parents of those children being awarded certificates are welcome to attend

***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

- 22nd October - Mental Health & Wellbeing day, Children to be dropped at St. Andrews
- 24th 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)
- 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 - Shine a Light - Values Certificates



Maple

Poppy - Perseverance

Henry Mc - Love

Willow

Piper - Perseverance

Evangeline - Love & Wisdom

Oak

Rhea - Love

Bradley - Perseverance

Parents of the children who are receiving the certificates are welcome to attend



Dinners for Week Commencing 22nd October 2025 - Week 2

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 Sponge

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

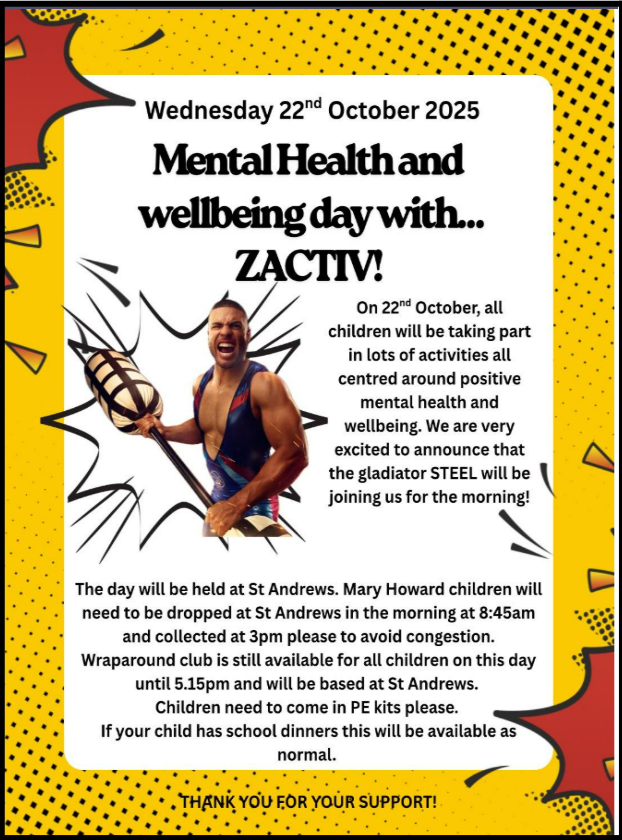
Light bite options available. Daily
 sandwiches, jacket potatoes with
 fresh daily fillings

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!

Information

Dear Parents/Carers,

We have been made aware that several titles in the *Spy Dogs*, *Spy Pup*, and *Spy Cat* series by Andrew Cope contain a weblink at the back of the book that no longer directs people to information about the books. Instead, the link has been compromised and now leads to inappropriate and unsafe material, containing pornographic content with no age restrictions.

We have removed copies of the book from our school library and classroom book corners.

Below are images of some of the front covers in the series to help you identify the books should you have any at home. We advise you remove them immediately. Should any be the property of the school, please return them and we will dispose of them accordingly.

Many Thanks



VISION FOOTBALL ACADEMY

OCTOBER FOOTBALL CAMP

AGES 7-14

EARLY BIRD RATE £10



MONDAY 27TH - FRIDAY 31ST

OCTOBER 9.00-3.00PM



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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.

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



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**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