

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

Welcome Back!

It has been wonderful to welcome all our pupils back to school this week for the start of the new academic year. The first few days have been a resounding success, with our children settling in beautifully and quickly getting back into the swing of school life.

Across the school, we have been incredibly impressed by the way our pupils have demonstrated our core values of Love, Wisdom and Perseverance which are underpinned by Koinonia. From holding doors open for one another to looking after our new children, their exemplary behaviour has been a joy to see.

A particular highlight has been welcoming our new Reception class, who have transitioned to 'big school' with confidence and enthusiasm. They have already made a wonderful impression, and we know they are going to have a fantastic year ahead.

We would also like to extend a warm welcome to our new staff members, who have hit the ground running and are already making valuable contributions to our school community.

To launch the new school year, all classes will have enjoyed our whole-school reading of the book "In Our Hands" by Lucy Farfort. This uplifting story follows a group of children as they work together to make a positive difference in their local area.

Pupils will have the opportunity to discuss the themes of the book and explore the characters,. We can't wait to see the insights and ideas our children come up with.

As the Bible says in Proverbs 22:6, "Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it." We are committed to guiding our pupils along the right path, instilling in them the values and habits that will serve them well both in and out of the classroom.

We're looking forward to an exciting and productive term ahead. Thank you for your continued support - here's to a great year!

Best wishes

Miss Mills

Dinners for Week Commencing 9th September 2024

This week is: Week 2

YOUR SCHOOL MENU

WEEK 1



MONDAY

CHOOSE FROM
① Plant-based burger in a bap with diced potatoes
Spaghetti bolognese
ON THE SIDE
Vegetables of the day
TO FINISH
Yoghurt, fruit and freshly baked mini shortbread biscuit

TUESDAY

CHOOSE FROM
① Tomato pasta
Italian style chicken goujons with diced potatoes
ON THE SIDE
Vegetables of the day
TO FINISH
Chocolate brownie

WEDNESDAY

CHOOSE FROM
① Handmade margherita pizza with crinkle cut wedges
Chicken and oriental style vegetable rice
ON THE SIDE
Vegetables of the day
TO FINISH
Fruit and jelly

THURSDAY

CHOOSE FROM
① Quorn chicken pieces in a Yorkshire pudding
Sliced beef and Yorkshire pudding
ON THE SIDE
Vegetables of the day, roast potatoes and gravy
TO FINISH
Lemon drizzle sponge

FRIDAY

CHOOSE FROM
① Sweet potato and lentil curry with a blend of brown and white rice
Baked fish fingers and chips
ON THE SIDE
Vegetables of the day
TO FINISH
Ice cream topped with cream

WEEK 2

Our primary school menus comply with the Government's food and nutritional standards, meeting an average of 530 calories for each meal

MONDAY

CHOOSE FROM
① Meat-free hotdog with diced potatoes
Cottage pie
ON THE SIDE
Vegetables of the day
TO FINISH
Yoghurt, fruit and freshly baked mini shortbread biscuit

TUESDAY

CHOOSE FROM
① Roasted vegetable lasagne
Chicken nuggets with diced potatoes
ON THE SIDE
Vegetables of the day
TO FINISH
Apple flapjack

WEDNESDAY

CHOOSE FROM
① Handmade margherita pizza with crinkle cut wedges
Ham carbonara with penne pasta
ON THE SIDE
Vegetables of the day
TO FINISH
Fruit and jelly

THURSDAY

CHOOSE FROM
① Vegetable pastry crown
Roast chicken and Yorkshire pudding
ON THE SIDE
Vegetables of the day, roast potatoes and gravy
TO FINISH
Victoria sponge

FRIDAY

CHOOSE FROM
① Somerset cheddar cheese and potato frittata
Baked battered fish and chips
ON THE SIDE
Vegetables of the day
TO FINISH
Homemade cookies

WEEK 3



MONDAY

CHOOSE FROM
① Somerset cheddar cheese and tomato quesadilla with diced potatoes
Pork sausage roll with diced potatoes
ON THE SIDE
Vegetables of the day
TO FINISH
Yoghurt, fruit and freshly baked mini shortbread biscuit

WEDNESDAY

CHOOSE FROM
① Handmade margherita pizza
Bubble salmon
ON THE SIDE
Vegetables of the day and crinkle cut wedges
TO FINISH
Fruit and jelly

FRIDAY

CHOOSE FROM
① Vegetable and bean burrito
Baked fish fingers and chips
ON THE SIDE
Vegetables of the day
TO FINISH
Freshly baked marble shortbread biscuit

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

All menu items are subject to change, based upon availability and in the event of unforeseen circumstances.

Vegetarian
Vegan

Please Note: Tuesday 10th September we will have a picnic lunch-

If you haven't done so already, and if you require a lunch from school on Tuesday, please order using this link: <https://forms.office.com/e/Z9R5VuADm7>

What's Coming Up This Week

Monday 9th September

- PE Kits
- St Andrew's Gymnastics Club- 3:30-4:30
- <https://www.premier-education.com/parents/venue/courses/3774-898904/>

Tuesday 10th September

Wednesday 11th September

- St Andrew's photographs for the new website

Thursday 12th September

- Guitar lessons start at Mary Howard- we are awaiting confirmation for St Andrew's.

Friday 13th September

- PE kits

**What's
Happening
This Week**

Dates to Note

DATES TO NOTE

September

- 18.09. Mary Howard Photographs for the new website
- 25.09 School Photographs (both schools)
- 27.09 Macmillan Coffee morning (both schools)
- 27.09 Pep the Poet visit (both schools)

October

- 04.10 Rock up and Read- 8:45-9:15
- WC 14.10- Harvest Festival- dates TBC
- 15.10- St Andrews Parent Forum- 2:45pm-3:30pm
- 17.10- Mary Howard Parent Forum 2:45pm-3:30pm
- 25.10- Let your Light Shine- Values Assembly-
Mary Howard 9am and St Andrew's 3pm

Please note that we have a TSSMAT Staff training day

(INSET) on Monday 4th November 2024



For Information

Temporary Disruption to Office Support

We regret to inform our families that our school office is currently experiencing a temporary disruption in service due to health issues.

We understand this may cause some inconvenience, and we appreciate your patience and understanding during this time.

To ensure continuity of communication, we kindly request that you speak to us on the gate or use Class Dojo and email as your primary means of reaching out to us. Our telephone lines may have limited availability, so these digital channels will be the most reliable way to connect with us.

Rest assured, our team is working diligently to keep the office running. In the meantime, please feel free to reach out via Class Dojo or email if you have any urgent matters that require our attention. We will respond as quickly as we are able.

Thank you for your continued support of our school community. We look forward to returning to our normal level of service in the near future.

Staffing Update–Mary Howard School

We are delighted to welcome some new members to the staff team at Mary Howard School this year.

Joining us as the Class 2 teacher is Miss Arrowsmith. She brings passion and enthusiasm to the role, and we know our pupils in Class 2 will thrive under her guidance.

In addition, we are pleased that Miss Brownhill will be continuing in her role, providing one-to-one support for individual pupils. Miss Brownhill also runs Care Club in the mornings.

Finally, we welcome Mrs Aston-Wright, who will be overseeing our afternoon Care Club sessions.

Staffing Update–St Andrew's School

Over at St Andrew's School, we are excited to introduce two new class teachers to our community.

Miss Leigh will be taking on Class 1, bringing her passion for early years education to our youngest pupils.

In Class 2, we welcome Mrs Porter, an experienced teacher who is sure to provide excellent learning opportunities for her new class.

We are thrilled to have these talented individuals join our staff, and we know they will make valuable contributions to our schools. Please join us in giving them a warm welcome!

For Information

IMPORTANT—Nut Allergy Update

As we have now joined TSSMAT, we will be adopting their directive on the management of nuts and nut based products in school which will now be extended to include products that may contain nuts/ traces of nuts.

It is important that you check the labelling of food products before sending your child into school with them - it is not always apparent that products contain nuts or traces of nuts but the consequences may be fatal.

If children require snacks at break-time, these **should only be fresh or dried fruit and healthy snack bars** that have been checked carefully. Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 pupils will continue to be provided with a piece of fruit, daily.

Thank you for your co-operation and understanding in the matter.



Healthy Break Time Snacks

At our school, we are committed to promoting healthy eating habits and ensuring our children have the energy and nutrition they need to learn and thrive throughout the school day.

To support this, we kindly ask that parents/carers do not send the following items for pupils to consume during break times:

- Crisps
- Biscuits
- Sweets
- Chocolate bars
- Cakes/cake bars

These types of snacks are high in sugar, fat and salt, which can negatively impact children's health and energy levels. Instead, we encourage pupils to bring in healthy, nutritious snacks such as:

- Fresh fruit
- Vegetable sticks (e.g. carrot, cucumber, pepper)
- Unsweetened dried fruit
 - Plain yoghurt
 - Wholegrain crackers
 - Cheese cubes

Providing healthy break time snacks helps our pupils develop good eating habits that will benefit them now and in the future. We appreciate your support in sending in nourishing options that will fuel our pupils' bodies and minds.

If you have any questions please don't hesitate to speak with your child's teacher.

Together, we can ensure all our pupils have a happy and productive school day.



Love your packed lunch!

Create a healthier packed lunch by choosing foods from the 5 main food groups below:



1 Starchy Carbohydrates

to re-fuel your body

Base your lunchbox on starchy carbohydrates.

Choose ONE EVERY DAY from:

- ✓ Bread, rolls, bagels, wraps, pitta or baguettes
- ✓ Pasta
- ✓ Couscous
- ✓ Noodles
- ✓ Potatoes

Choose wholegrain



2 Fruit and Vegetables

to keep you healthy

Pack one portion of fruit and one portion of veg every day

Choose TWO EVERY DAY from:

- ✓ Apple, banana, pear, orange, plums
- ✓ Small pot of mixed berries or grapes
- ✓ Prepared melon or mango
- ✓ Chopped vegetable sticks: carrots, cucumber, pepper, celery, mange tout, mini corn
- ✓ Salad vegetables
- ✓ Vegetable Soup



3 Dairy and Alternatives

for healthy teeth and bones

Don't forget the dairy!

Choose ONE EVERY DAY from:

- ✓ Milk
- ✓ Cheese – hard cheese, soft cheese, cheese spread
- ✓ Yoghurt or Fromage Frais
- ✓ Custard



4 Protein Foods

for growth and repair

Pack a protein punch!

Choose ONE EVERY DAY from:

- ✓ Meat
- ✓ Fish
- ✓ Eggs
- ✓ Non-dairy protein e.g. lentils, chick peas, beans



Choose oily fish like salmon once every 3 weeks



5 Drinks

to rehydrate your body

- ✓ A large glass of water
- ✓ Semi skimmed milk – or skimmed milk for children over 5 years.
- ✓ 150ml of fresh unsweetened fruit juice/smoothie



Occasionally!

Meat products such as sausage rolls, pies, sausages

Plain cakes/sponges and biscuits of appropriate portion sizes



For more healthy packed lunch ideas and recipes visit www.phunkyfoods.co.uk/recipes



Why is it important?

Attendance	Days absent	Weeks absent	Lessons missed
95%	9 days	2 weeks	50 lessons
90%	19 days	4 weeks	100 lessons
85%	29 days	6 weeks	150 lessons
80%	38 days	8 weeks	200 lessons
75%	48 days	10 weeks	250 lessons
70%	57 days	11.5 weeks	290 lessons



Across the TSSMAT we expect good attendance to ensure that all pupils are able to take full advantage of the education available to them. Good attendance matters.

Pupils who have good attendance: **Get better jobs in the future, Achieve better results, Make better friendships, Have good self-esteem and confidence**

We strive for every child to achieve 96% attendance or higher. Please do not be offended if you are told that we are concerned about your child's attendance or if you receive a letter of concern. Attendance falls under the category of safeguarding and it is our duty of care to challenge and support attendance. If we can help in any way please contact Miss Mills or the office. Thank you.

Medical Appointments

Could we kindly remind

parents, to try and book medical appointments outside of school times. We do understand that there are occasions when this is not always possible.

Thank you!

Little Heroes Attendance

We are excited to announce the return of our Little Heroes Attendance Initiative for the current academic year. You will see posters and other promotional materials displayed throughout the school to raise awareness of this programme.

In each classroom, there is a sticker chart where pupils' names are displayed. Every day a pupil attends school and arrives on time, they will receive a sticker next to their name on the chart. The "Hero" acronym stands for "Here Everyday Ready and On Time" - the key pillars of this initiative.

The Little Heroes Attendance Initiative will run throughout the year. Pupils who maintain 100% attendance and punctuality each half term will be rewarded with a certificate.

For more detailed information about the programme, please visit the dedicated webpage at Staffordshire.gov.uk/littleheroes.

We appreciate your continued support in encouraging strong attendance habits among our pupil community. Together, we can ensure all our pupils have the best possible start to their day and access the full benefits of their education.

For the TSSMAT Attendance policy, please click the link:

Mary Howard: <https://maryhoward.staffs.sch.uk/parents/attendance-absence>

St Andrew's: <https://st-andrews-cliftoncampville.staffs.sch.uk/parents/attendance-absence>

Academic Term Dates 2024/2025

Autumn Term 2024

Inset day: Monday 2 September & Tuesday 3 September

Term Starts: Wednesday 4 September

Holiday: Monday 28 October – Tuesday 5th November

TSSMAT Staff Training Day: Monday 4th November

Term Ends: Friday 20 December

Holiday: Monday 23 December – Friday 3 January

Spring Term 2025

Inset: Monday 6 January

Term Starts: Tuesday 7th January

Holiday: Monday 17 February – Friday 21 February

Term Ends: Friday 11 April

Holiday: Monday 14 April – Friday 25 April

Easter Sunday: Sunday 20 April

Summer Term 2025

Term Starts: Monday 28 April

May Day: Monday 5 May

Holiday: Monday 26 May – Friday 30 May

Inset: Monday 2nd June

Term Ends: Friday 18th July

Inset-Monday 21 July

Holiday: Monday 21 July – Friday 29 August