

# Markethill Primary School

Tomorrow's Success Begins Today... 

## Monthly Newsletter

31<sup>st</sup>

# January

2025



### Rights Respecting Schools Focus February 2025

**Article 2** (non-discrimination): The Convention applies to every child without discrimination, whatever their ethnicity, sex, religion, language, abilities or any other status, whatever they think or say, whatever their family background.

### Monthly Award

During January our monthly value was **Be Enthusiastic.**

Classes	Endeavour Award	Be Enthusiastic	Handwriting Award
P1KG	Gabriel Gardiner	Ellianna Dalzell	Riley Teggart
P1/P2SB	Lily Ferguson	Teodor Mihaylov	Eden McCrum
P2KS	Ella Gillespie	Millie McRoberts	Reuben Irvine
P3KT	Jacob Cully	Raina Black	Jacob Black
P3RC	Isaac Dickson	Brody McCandless	Poppy Dawson
P4EG	Isabella McCall	Freddie Graham	Joel Parr
P5HS&SM	Charlie McGaughey	Tilly Bell	Hannah Kilpatrick
P5/P6PMcC	Bethany Wilson	Ben Stinson	Katie Lee Kerr
P6AA/LP	Sam McMullan	Katelyn Law	Jenson Gass
P6/P7KQ	Michael McAlinden	Mary-Ann Potts	Phoebe Alexander
P7RCh			Sadie Cain

### Monthly Award for February - Be Loving



to everyone who received an Endeavour, Be Enthusiastic or Handwriting Award at our January Celebration Assembly.





During 2024 – 2025 we are focusing on handwriting across the school. We have purchased new resources to help with this. We have added a handwriting award to our monthly celebration assembly. Top marks to our Handwriting Award winners.

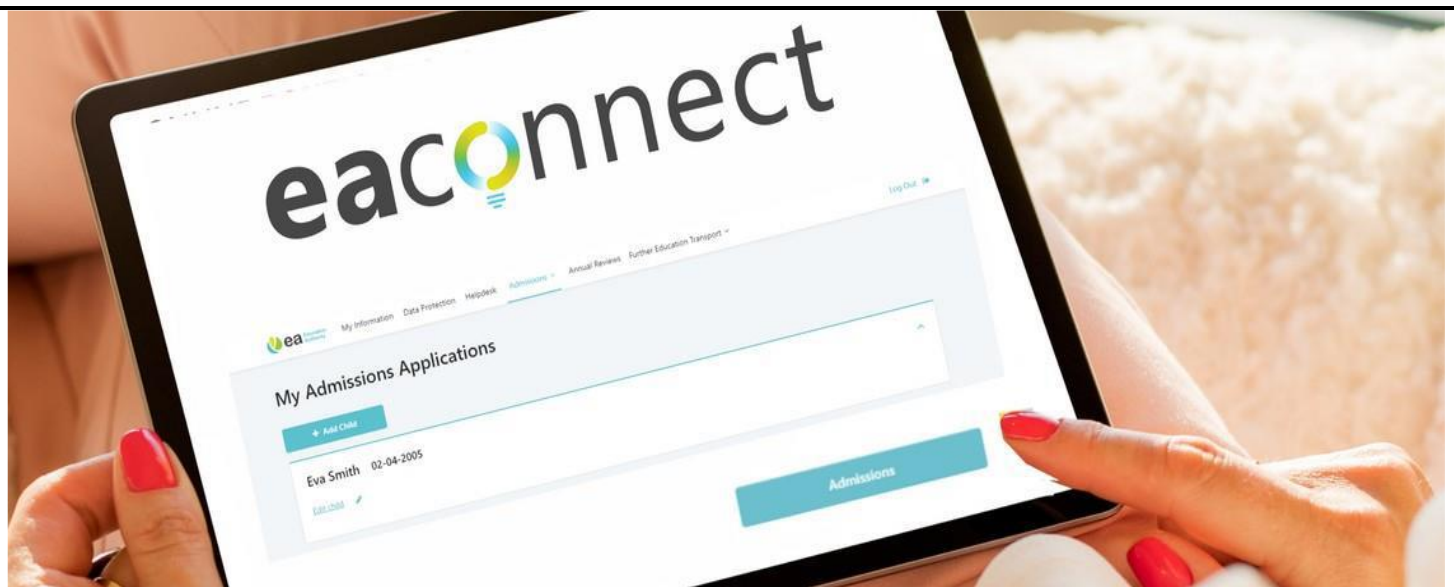


### **Celebration Assembly**

Our January monthly class assembly was led by Mrs MrCool's P5/P6 class. Their theme was 'Be Enthusiastic', which links to our January monthly value. The boys and girls challenged everyone to show their enthusiasm by being like a banana! Bananas are bright and shaped in a smile, they grow together in bunches and provide us with lots of energy! The P5/6 boys and girls reminded us that we can be enthusiastic in school by having a cheerful positive attitude, caring for everyone in our school and approaching each new day with energy and enthusiasm. They finished the assembly by thinking of the fruits of the Spirit, which is found in Galatians, and giving a very enthusiastic rendition of a MPS assembly favourite – 'The Fruits of the Spirit'.



Thank you to our ministers and to Ruth Lavery who help us out each week at our assemblies. The children really enjoy their contribution to assemblies at MPS.



## Applying for a Post Primary school place

The process of pupils transferring to Post Primary schools will commence shortly. The 'Apply Now' link for Post Primary application will be live on the EA website [www.eani.org.uk/admissions](http://www.eani.org.uk/admissions) from 12.00 noon on Tuesday 28 January 2025. Applications will close at 12 noon on Thursday 20 February 2025.

The EA has provided the information to assist parents with the Post Primary Application process. Please read this leaflet carefully and contact the EA with any queries.

- Applications **are not** considered on a first come, first served basis. It is important to **submit** your applications by 12 noon on 20 February 2025 as an application received after this time will be treated as 'late' by the school. This may affect the chance of being offered a place in the school.
- It is recommended that parents use a supported internet browser e.g. Google Chrome, Microsoft Edge, Safari etc. The application **will not** work on Internet Explorer.
- It is the responsibility of parents to check that all relevant information is included on their child's application before submitting it.
- A number of resources are available online including tutorial videos, FAQs and quick reference guides, in multiple languages, to support parents with the Post Primary application process via **EA Connect**.
- Parents can check if their child would be **eligible for transport** assistance to school on the EA website - Check Transport Eligibility.
- Parents have the right to express school preferences, but no child can be guaranteed a place at any particular school. More than half of Post Primary schools are oversubscribed and not all children who apply will receive a place at an oversubscribed school. To ensure a child has the best chance of being offered a Post Primary school place of their choice, it is strongly recommended that **at least four schools** are listed in the order of preference, including at least one non-grammar school. Up to 12 schools can be listed on the application and if more are needed these may be emailed to the EA Post Primary Admissions mailbox at [postprimaryadmissions@eani.org.uk](mailto:postprimaryadmissions@eani.org.uk)
- It is important that parents **read the admissions criteria** of the schools they are considering. This will help them to assess if their child is likely to be offered a place. The criteria inform how the school will decide which children will be selected if the school is oversubscribed. Parents should think about how well their child meets the criteria which can be found on the EA website. If parents have queries on a school's criteria they should contact the school for clarification. Information on the number of applications the school received in previous years and the number of pupils who were accepted are included in the school's criteria to let parents know if the school is usually oversubscribed.

The Parent-Teacher meetings (3 – 6 February 2025), will provide you with the opportunity to discuss options with your child's teacher.

# Children's Mental Health Week (3 – 7 February 2025)



Markethill Primary School will be participating in Children's Mental Health Week once again this year. We are combining this with our focus on 'Active School Travel' and the 'Take 5 Steps to Wellbeing'.

## **Monday 3 February: Take Notice - Rainbow Quest.**

On your journey to school find something of each colour – red, orange, yellow, green, blue, purple or lots of one colour.

Find something of each colour...



Red, Orange, Yellow, Green, Blue, Indigo, Violet



Or lots of one colour...

**Tuesday 4 February: Be Active - Daily Mile activity in school.**

**Wednesday 5 February: Connect – Walking Bus 8.45am.**

**Thursday 6 February: Keep Learning – Take 5 Sensory Discovery.**

On your way to school and in school take time to look and admire the world around us and learn about it through our senses. Things we can see, hear feel and smell. The children can participate in a taste test at home and in school.

Take your time to look around and admire the world around you and learn about it through your senses. Slowly work your way through the list in your own time counting off items for each sense before moving onto the next.

NAME..	
5	things you can <b>see</b>
4	things you can <b>hear</b>
3	things you can <b>feel</b>
2	things you can <b>smell</b>
1	thing you can <b>taste</b>


Print this sheet out and take the list with you, you might want to take a pencil to list your answers on the back or even a class iPad or tablet to take some photographs


When noticing things you can **feel**, it's best to wash your hands with soapy water as soon as possible after. We recommend **thinking about the textures** you can see such as prickly leaves or the rough bark of a tree. Can you **notice the feeling of your feet** standing on the ground, or the breeze on your face?

\*For 'TASTE', we recommend teachers or parent/guardians take a mystery piece of fruit cut up to sample. Pupils close their eyes and see if they can work out what it is by using their sense of taste. Always check pupil allergy info prior.

You can do this exercise at **anytime, anywhere** to help focus your mind on the positive world around you.


Friday 7 February: Give – Do something nice for someone in school and at home.





**We know when we are mentally and physically well but sometimes we need a little extra support.**


**Here are five simple steps to practise every day:**



**Connect**

**Connect**


Connect with the people around you: family, friends, colleagues and neighbours at home, work, school or in your local community. Think of these relationships as the cornerstones of your life and spend time developing them. Building these connections will support and enrich you every day.



**Be active**

**Be active**


Go for a walk or run, cycle, play a game, garden or dance. Exercising makes you feel good. Most importantly, discover a physical activity that you enjoy; one that suits your level of mobility and fitness.



**Take notice**

**Take notice**


Stop, pause, or take a moment to look around you. What can you see, feel, smell or even taste? Look for beautiful, new, unusual or extraordinary things in your everyday life and think about how that makes you feel.



**Keep learning**

**Keep learning**

Don't be afraid to try something new, rediscover an old hobby or sign up for a course. Take on a different responsibility, fix a bike, learn to play an instrument or how to cook your favourite food. Set a challenge you will enjoy. Learning new things will make you more confident, as well as being fun to do.



**Give**

**Give**

Do something nice for a friend or stranger, thank someone, smile, volunteer your time or consider joining a community group. Look out as well as in. Seeing yourself and your happiness linked to the wider community can be incredibly rewarding and will create connections with the people around you.

Adapted from work by the New Economics Foundation commissioned by the Foresight Project on Mental Capital and Wellbeing ([www.neweconomics.org](http://www.neweconomics.org)). Artwork designed in association with Belfast Strategic Partnership.

[www.mindingyourhead.info](http://www.mindingyourhead.info)

Public Health Agency, 12-22 Linenhall Street, Belfast BT2 8BS. Tel: 0300 555 0114 (local rate).

BE COOL  
WALK TO SCHOOL



## **Walking Bus Day**

Wednesday 3 February 2025

**Meeting point**  
**Rear entrance to school at**  
**Bunker Hill**



Staff will meet the children

at 8.45am to supervise them on their journey to school.

The Walking Bus will provide a valuable opportunity to reinforce the importance of road safety. We ask that children do not bring scooters or bicycles as the emphasis is on walking to school.

Parents / carers are welcome to walk with the children to school.

If you are late and miss the Walking Bus, it is the parent's/carer's responsibility to ensure children arrive at school safely.



### Decorate a Pebble

We are delighted to be taking part in Number Day on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2025.

To celebrate Number Day at MPS, we are kindly asking each child to decorate a pebble at home, with a 'Special Number' they are given in school. We will be using these as part of our Outdoor Numeracy so be as creative and bright as possible. We can't wait to see all the amazing ideas you come up with! Please send to school by Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> February.



## Parent-Teacher Interviews – February 2025

Interviews have been arranged in school on Monday 3, Tuesday 4, Wednesday 5 and Thursday 6 February 2025. The February interviews are optional. You can choose to meet the teacher via Microsoft Teams or face-to-face in school. Booking forms are now closed on the school app. If you would like to arrange an interview, please contact Mrs Freeburn.

School will finish at 1.15pm for pupils in P1 – P4 and 1.20pm for pupils in P5 – P7 to facilitate interviews commencing at 2.00pm. The 123 Club is available from 1.15 – 4.15pm. The 123 Club booking app is now closed. Please contact Mrs Freeburn to enquire if there are any slots available.



### Mission Farm @ MPS

On Wednesday 26 February 2025, Mission Farm will visit MPS. The Rural Chaplain, Kenny Hannah, and the Rural Farm Chaplaincy Team, will be speaking to all classes about the important issues surrounding farm safety. He will be bringing a tractor along to highlight some of the dangers surrounding machinery on farms. His talk will be bible based and this will be done outside, alongside the tractor, weather permitting. Children should bring a coat to be worn during the visit. Mission Farm Strong, is

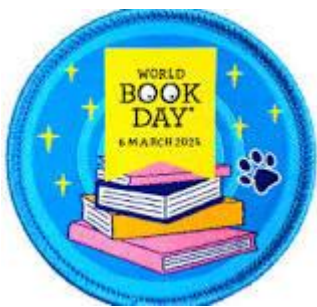
a 2-week event which is supported by the Ulster Farmers Union, the NI Agri-Rural Healthy Forum, the Health and Safety Executive and Farm Family Health Checks.

The NI Farm Charity for this year is Action Cancer. Action Cancer is a local cancer charity with lifesaving early detection and support services available all across NI. Primary Schools who are being visited by Rural Chaplain Kenny Hannah have been asked to take part in a colouring in activity and donate £1 per pupil to Action Cancer. MPS is pleased to support this very worthwhile charity and we kindly ask that children bring in £1.00 on Wednesday 26 February.

In return for our support for Action Cancer, SuperValu Centra NI has kindly agreed to donate a £50 gift voucher per participating school.



### World Book Day 2025



World Book Day will be held this year on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> March. All pupils will be receiving a WBD voucher which they can use to buy one of the specially published books, or to reduce a purchase of a different book by £1.00.

During the week we will be holding a Big Book Swap. Pupils are invited to bring in one pre-loved book they have perhaps 'grown out of'. In return they will receive a voucher which can be used to get a different book from the swap-shop. Please note – all books donated must be children's books and in very good condition. We'll be holding lots of reading opportunities during the week also, with visitors invited in to read to the pupils.

On World Book Day we will be asking pupils to come to school dressed as a character from a book and look forward to the parade to show these off. Can we encourage pupils to create costumes from resources and clothing already at home.

Local author, Suzanne Hull will be visiting the school on WBD to read to the younger children and to talk to KS2 pupils about ideas for stories and the process of writing and getting published. Looking forward to this great day!!



## The Hub News

Thank you to The Hub for organising the Christmas Raffle. We had a super hamper to give away and we are grateful for our local community who kindly donated prizes for the raffle. We raised £724.48 from the raffle and £966 from the tea towels. There are some tea towels left. If you would like to purchase these, please contact the school office. The money raised from these events will be used to purchase resources for the children.

## Child Protection / Safeguarding

If you have concerns regarding Child Protection, please contact Mrs McCool or a member of the Safeguarding Team. Children are made aware that there is always an adult in MPS who will listen to any worries they may have. Please remind your child of this. We are here to help and the sooner we know about a problem the sooner we can resolve this.

### MPS CHILD PROTECTION / SAFEGUARDING TEAM

**DESIGNATED TEACHER:** Mrs Pamela McCool  
**DEPUTY DESIGNATED TEACHERS:** Mrs Sandra Black  
Mr Kenny Qua  
**GOVERNOR:** Mr Timothy Wilson  
**PRINCIPAL:** Dr Helen McLernon



If you need to talk to someone  
you can talk to...

Mrs McCool  
Mr Qua  
Mrs Black  
Dr McLernon



## An Easy Way to Raise Funds

Do you shop online? Did you know that every time you buy something you could be raising money for MPS?

Over 2400 well known retailers including Amazon, M&S, Tesco, House of Fraser, Expedia and many more, will donate a percentage of what you spend to Markethill Primary School when you shop with them, via [Easyfundraising's Page](#) Each purchase generates a donation.



Instead of going directly to a retailer's website, go to [easyfundraising](#) first and choose the retailer you want to shop with – then everything you spend with that retailer earns a free donation for Markethill Primary School. It's completely free to use. On average, each retailer will donate 5% of the cost of your shopping - and those donations soon mount up.

Whatever you need to buy, groceries, clothes, travel, mobile phones, buy it via [easyfundraising](#) and raise money for MPS at no extra cost to you!

Please register to support us when you shop online.

## Health

If a child has been ill during the night, it is in the child's best interest to stay at home. If your child requires medication during the school day, the form *Procedure for the Administration of Medication* **must** be completed by the parent/guardian. **Please note, medication e.g. antibiotics, cough bottles etc will not be given to your child unless this form has been completed.** Forms can be obtained at the School Office. Inhalers and all medication must be clearly labelled with your child's name. If your child is absent from school, a note or the Absence Notification Form (see school website) must be sent to the teacher when he/she returns. It is also essential that you inform the school beforehand if a child has to leave school early or may be in late due to attendance at medical or other appointment.

## Nut Free School and Birthday Cakes /Treats

Please remember that Markethill PS strives to be a NUT FREE ZONE. We are very grateful for your support in helping us keep our children safe and well. **Should your child have an EpiPen for an allergy, please keep a note of the expiry date so that a replacement can be obtained from your G.P. and sent into school.** Due to some children having nut and gluten allergies, cakes, buns and biscuits are not permitted in school to celebrate birthdays or special events.



### Early Bird Club and 123 Club

Breakfast Club opens at 8.00am in the School Hall and costs £2.00 for supervision and breakfast.



Parents should collect their child / children from the 123 Room. Please wait outside the room and Mrs Whiteside will meet you at the door.

**PLEASE NOTE: CANCELLING A SESSION AT 123 CLUB MUST BE DONE THE DAY BEFORE IN ORDER TO GET A REFUND.**

**Parents must book places for these clubs on the school app. The school is no longer receiving cash for the provision of clubs.**

**Children should not attend these clubs without pre booking on the school app or contacting the secretary to enquire if spaces are available.**

Breakfast Club and 123 Club places for the week must be booked by 9.00am the Friday before. Please note that after the Friday 9.00am deadline, no further bookings can be accepted for the incoming week. If you require a place during the week you must contact the school office to check for availability. Spaces are limited so we advise booking early.

If you have booked a slot at either club and your child does not avail of this, for example, due to sickness, you will be refunded via the app. It is not possible to carry over sessions.

*Thank you to our breakfast and 123 club staff, Mrs McKelvey, Miss Stewart, Mrs Davidson and Mrs Whiteside*

### PLEASE NOTE

**PARKING IN THE BUS BAYS IS NOT PERMITTED. THESE MUST BE KEPT CLEAR AT ALL TIMES. PLEASE KEEP ENTRANCES TO ESTATES AND ROADS CLEAR TO ENABLE RESIDENTS TO ACCESS THEIR HOMES AND TO HELP PREVENT ACCIDENTS.**

*We ask that caution is exercised in the car park when reversing out of spaces. Children who come by bike or scooter should dismount at the school gates and walk along the path to enter the playground areas.*

*Parents should not drive into the staff car park to drop their child off. This car park is for staff use only. There is ample parking available in the bottom car park and we would appreciate if parents used this area.*

**PLEASE NOTE: PARKING IN THE BUS BAYS IS NOT PERMITTED. THESE MUST BE KEPT CLEAR AT ALL TIMES. PLEASE KEEP ENTRANCES TO ESTATES AND ROADS CLEAR TO ENABLE RESIDENTS TO ACCESS THEIR HOMES AND TO HELP PREVENT ACCIDENTS.**

**We ask that caution is exercised in the car park when reversing out of spaces. Children who come by bike or scooter should dismount at the school gates and walk along the path to enter the playground areas.**



# Important Dates

## FEBRUARY 2025

Mon 3 – Fri 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Childrens' Mental Health Week (see activities above)</li> </ul>
Mon 3 – Thur 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parent-Teacher Interviews</li> </ul>
Wed 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Walking Bus @ 8.45am</li> <li>• Safer Internet Day Assembly</li> </ul>
Fri 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No school buses are available and no 123 Club. P1 – P3 pupils finish at 1.50pm and P4 – P7 pupils finish at 2.00pm.</li> </ul>
Mon 10 – Fri 14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mid-term holiday</li> </ul>
Mon 17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• School reopens</li> </ul>
Wed 19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SEAG Information Session @ 2.30pm in the Hall</li> </ul>
Wed 26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mission Farm @ MPS</li> </ul>
Thur 27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Celebration Assembly – Be Loving P1KG</li> </ul>
Fri 28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Final week of Spring 1 Friday clubs</li> </ul>

## MARCH 2025

Wed 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Walking Bus @ 8.45am</li> </ul>
Thur 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• World Book Day – 'Changing lives through a love of books and reading'</li> </ul>
Fri 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Spring 2 Friday clubs commence</li> </ul>
Fri 14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• St Patrick's Day Holiday</li> </ul>
Mon 17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• St Patrick's Day Holiday</li> </ul>
Wed 19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SEAG Club commences at 8.45am</li> <li>• Pupil books sent home – Literacy, Numeracy &amp; WAU</li> </ul>
Thur 20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pupil books returned to class</li> </ul>
Fri 21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• World Maths Day – 'The creativity in mathematical discovery and art'</li> </ul>
Wed 27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Celebration Assembly – 'Be Cheerful' P1/P2SB</li> </ul>

## APRIL 2025

Mon 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Final week of spellings, tables and reading (no written homework)</li> </ul>
Fri 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Final week of Spring 2 Friday clubs</li> </ul>
Wed 16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Non-uniform Day (£1.00 per child / £2.00 per family)</li> <li>• Easter Egg Hunt</li> <li>• Break the Rules Day</li> <li>• School finishes at 11.50am P1 – P3 &amp; 12 noon P4 – P7</li> <li>• School closed – Easter Holidays</li> </ul>
Thur 17 – Fri 25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Easter Holidays</li> </ul>
Mon 28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• School reopens</li> </ul>
Wed 30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Celebration Assembly – Be Honest P2KS</li> </ul>

*If you require any information or would like clarification on any issue, please contact me via email or phone.*

*H McLernon*