

Markethill Primary School

Tomorrow's Success Begins Today...



Monthly Newsletter

28th

FEBRUARY 2025



Rights Respecting Schools Focus March 2025

Article 6 (life, survival and development): Every child has the right to life. Governments must do all they can to ensure that children survive and develop to their full potential.

Monthly Award

During February our monthly value was **Be Loving**.

Classes	Endeavour Award	Be Loving	Handwriting Award
P1KG	Felicity Nesbitt	Leia Daskute	Henry Elliott
P1/P2SB	Lucas Whiteside	Primrose Graham	Sofija Uzulina
P2KS	Arthur Andrews	George Worton	Charles Gass
P3KT	Adam Murphy	Charlotte King	Raina Black
P3RC	Tommy Cully	Eliza Blake	Isla Young
P4EG	Matthew Ross	Harley Nesbitt	Molly George
P5HS&SM	Adrianna Kennish	Ava McDowell	Ollie Mackle
P5/P6PMcC	Daniel Barnard	Tilly McCrum	Nathan Shaw
P6AA/LP	Sam McMullan	Miley McStay	Daniela Sjomkane
P6/P7KQ	Dylan Foster	Lilly Davis	Tilly Pollock
P7Rch	Sadie Cain	Evie Kilpatrick	Ruby-Sue Wallace

Monthly Award for March - Be Cheerful



to everyone who received an Endeavour, Be Loving or Handwriting Award at our February 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

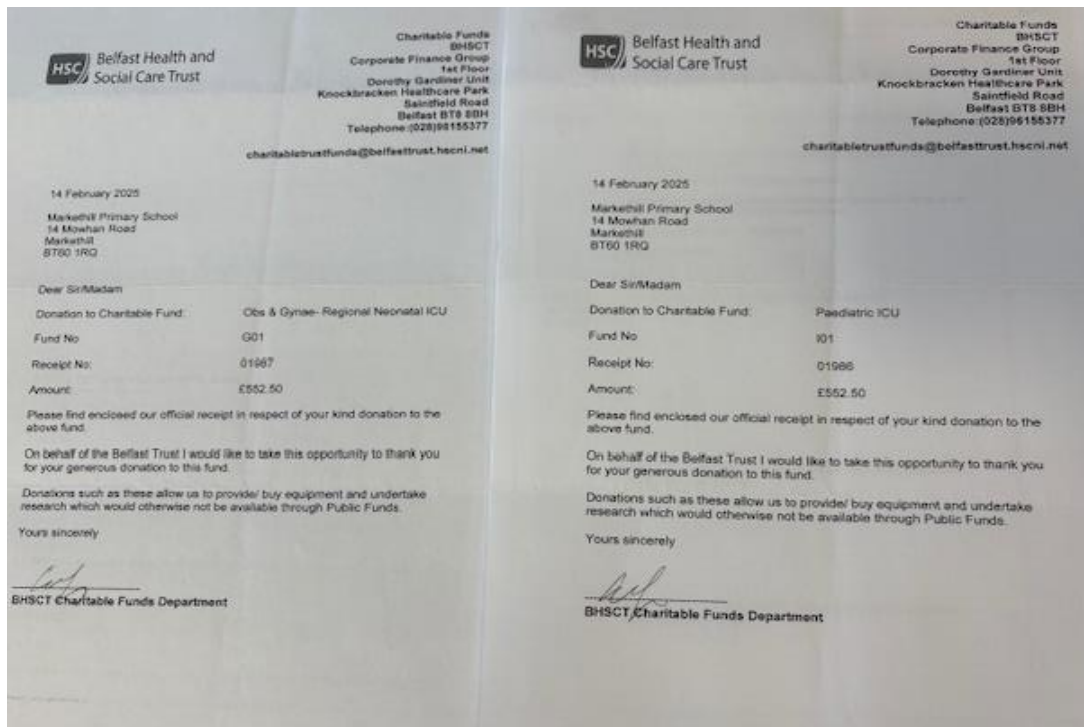
Our February monthly class assembly was led by Mrs George's P1 class. Their theme was 'Be Loving', which links to our February monthly value. The boys and girls led a very thoughtful assembly on how we can be loving to everyone by using the story of The Good Samaritan. Week done to P1KG.



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.

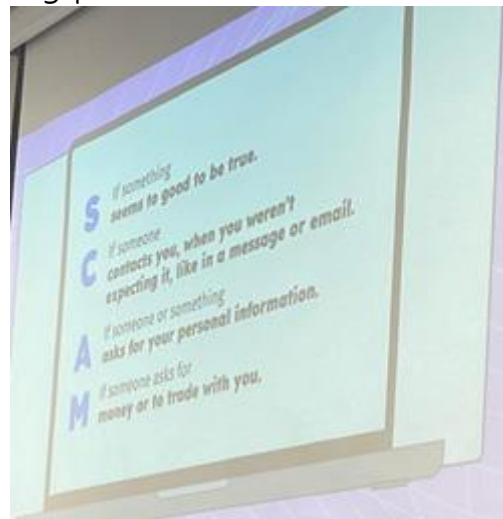
THANK YOU!

The staff of Markethill Primary School would like to thank all the parents who sent in donations in lieu of staff Christmas presents to The Belfast Health and Social Care Trust Charitable Funds: The Royal Victoria Hospital for Sick Children Paediatric Intensive Care Unit and the Regional Neonatal Intensive Care Unit. The sum of £1105 was raised and each ward received £552.50.



Safer Internet Day 2025

MPS celebrated Safer Internet Day on Tuesday 4th February. The digital leaders led a whole school assembly based on the theme 'Spot the Scam'. Each class then had the task of creating a Safer Internet Day Poster for this theme. Pupils also completed Online ICT Lessons with Just2Easy and Adobe Express based on spotting potential scams online.



World Book Day 2025



World Book Day will be held this year on Thursday 6th 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!!



Thank you to everyone who decorated a pebble at home, with a 'Special Number'. These are a super resource for our Outdoor Numeracy activities. The children are looking forward to using them for numeracy activities.





Markethill Primary School

A Good Old Fashioned Jumble Sale

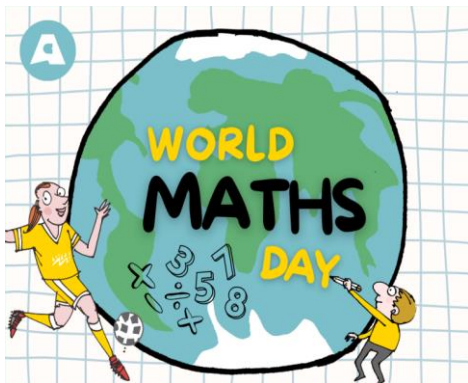
Friday 21st March

Childrens Toys, Jigsaws, Board Games, Laundered Cuddly Toys, Children's Books, Bric a Brac, and Jewellery.
If you have any items for our Jumble Sale please send them to school on Monday 17th March.

Please ensure that the items are in good condition, clean and

APPROPRIATE FOR PRIMARY SCHOOL CHILDREN

World Maths Day 2025



On Friday 21st March we will be celebrating World Maths Day in school. Each class will get the opportunity to visit the Markethill PS Jumble Sale. The theme for World Maths Day this year is, Creativity in Maths. All classes will be putting their creative skills to use to create some beautiful symmetrical, tessellating and repeating patterns.



Dear Parents/Carers,

We have some exciting news for you! We are taking part in Sustrans Big Walk and Wheel, the UK's largest inter-school cycling, walking, wheeling and scooting challenge. The challenge runs from 24 March- 4 April 2025. It's free to take part and we would love everyone to be involved.

What do you need to do?

Encourage your child(ren) to walk, use a wheelchair, scoot or cycle to school on as many days as possible during the event.

Including everyone

We want to make sure that everyone can get involved in Sustrans Big Walk and Wheel.

We know it may be more difficult for some pupils to take part than others. If you want to discuss more about your child(ren)'s specific needs, please contact Mrs George and we will make sure to look into how your child(ren) can take part.

Why we are taking part

Sustrans Big Walk and Wheel is a great way to build physical activity in children's daily routine which is important for their physical health and mental wellbeing.

Active school runs also help to reduce congestion and air pollution outside the school gate. [A 2021 YouGov study](#) showed nearly half of UK children worry about air pollution near their school. And that children thought active travel was the best way to bring down these pollution levels.

Plus, there are some great prizes to be won every day if we get enough children taking part!

Useful resources

To help you prepare, Sustrans has developed a handy free guide to walking, cycling or scooting to school. It is packed with advice to help you have hassle-free journey to school.

Download your free family guide using this link: [Sign up to receive your free school run guide - Sustrans.org.uk](#)

For more information about the event go to www.bigwalkandwheel.org.uk . Enjoy the challenge!

Best wishes
Mrs K George
Active Travel Champion

Rights Respecting Schools – Gold Award



Meet Rodney, the 'Rights Respecting Rhino'. He is our new MPS mascot and together with our RRS Steering Group and School Council, he will be helping the boys and girls learn more about their 'rights' and how to recognise when others need a helping hand with their rights also.

Rodney's first job is to help the boys and girls create a 'MUGA CHARTER'. This Charter will include lots of fair play and safety advice linked to Articles 2 and 31 (the right to fairness and the right to play and relax.) Once the charter's content and design has been agreed by each class a final version will be created and displayed in a prominent position in our school MUGA.

Mission Farm @ MPS

On Wednesday 26 February 2025, Mission Farm visited MPS. Everyone enjoyed the assembly, led by the Rural Chaplain, Kenny Hannah, and the Rural Farm Chaplaincy Team. The children learned about the importance of farm safety and having the tractor onsite really emphasised to the children how important it is to be careful around all farm machinery – both big and small. Kenny and Simon shared some bible stories related to farming and it was lovely to hear how knowledgeable our children are on stories from the bible.

Thank you to everyone who sent in a £1.00 donation for Action Cancer, which is the NI Farm Charity for 2025. MPS raised £116.00 for Action Cancer, which is a local cancer charity with lifesaving early detection and support services available all across NI. In return for MPS supporting Action Cancer, SuperValu Centra NI has kindly donated a £50 gift voucher for our school.





Hockey News at MPS

The girls' hockey team played in their regional NI qualifier in Banbridge on 26th February. They finished second in their group but with two convincing wins in the semi-final and final they came home with the gold medal. The girls now progress to play in the NI finals on Tuesday 8th April at Stormont where they will hope to go one stage further than last year's team who reached the semi-final! We wish the girls all the very best and hope that you have a great day!



BE COOL
WALK TO SCHOOL



Walking Bus Day Wednesday 5 March 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.



The Hub News

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.

Parents should wait inside the gate at the bottom of the playground to collect children. This will reduce the number of people standing in the vicinity of the car park and ensure the zebra crossing is clear for children to cross safely.



Important Dates

MARCH 2025

Wed 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Walking Bus @ 8.45am
Thur 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none">World Book Day – 'Changing lives through a love of books and reading'
Fri 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Spring 2 Friday clubs commence
Thur 13	<ul style="list-style-type: none">School will finish at 1.15pm for pupils in P1 – P4 and 1.20pm for pupils in P5 – P7.123 Club is available.
Fri 14	<ul style="list-style-type: none">St Patrick's Day Holiday
Mon 17	<ul style="list-style-type: none">St Patrick's Day Holiday
Wed 19	<ul style="list-style-type: none">SEAG Club commences at 8.45amPupil books sent home – Literacy, Numeracy & WAU
Thur 20	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Pupil books returned to class
Fri 21	<ul style="list-style-type: none">World Maths Day – 'The creativity in mathematical discovery and art'
Wed 27	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Celebration Assembly – 'Be Cheerful' P1/P2SB

APRIL 2025

Wed 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Be Seen Be Green Day – everyone to wear green to school
Mon 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Final week of spellings, tables and reading (no written homework)

Fri 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final week of Spring 2 Friday clubs
Wed 16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non-uniform Day (£1.00 per child / £2.00 per family) • Easter Egg Hunt • Break the Rules Day • School finishes at 11.50am P1 – P3 & 12 noon P4 – P7 • School closed – Easter Holidays
Thur 17 – Fri 25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Easter Holidays
Mon 28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School reopens
Wed 30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Celebration Assembly – Be Honest P2KS
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •
MAY 2025	
Mon 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bank Holiday 1
Tue 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessments commence
Wed 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walking Bus
Tue 20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sports Day P1 – P4 9.30am – 12 noon at MPS MUGA
Wed 21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Celebration Assembly Be Well Mannered P4EG • P1 Induction 10.45am & 1.30pm
Thur 22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sports Day P5 – P7 at Markethill High School 9.45am – 12.15pm
Fri 23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HOME-TIME P1 – P3: 1.50pm P4 – P7: 2.00pm • School buses and 123 Club will not be available.
Mon 26 – Fri 30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May Bank Holiday 2

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

H McLernon