



## MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

# MARCH

28

2025



### Rights Respecting Schools Focus – April 2025

#### *Article 12 (respect for the views of the child)*

Every child has the right to express their views, feelings and wishes in all matters affecting them, and to have their views considered and taken seriously. This right applies at all times, for example during immigration proceedings, housing decisions or the child's day-to-day home life.

### Monthly Award

During March our monthly value was **Be Cheerful.**

Classes	Endeavour Award	Be Loving	Handwriting Award
P1KG	Sawyer Kerr	Lily Henry	Hollie McCombe
P1/P2SB	Caleb Salisbury	Harper Dawson	Eliza Lipton
P2KS	Lola Potts	Maisie McIlwaine	Arthur Wilson
P3KT	Olivia Law	Ellie-May Farrell Montgomery	Scarlet Kerr
P3RC	Darcy Gass	Harris Downard	Harry Wilson
P4EG	Oliver McCartney	Maya Rusek	Amelia Irvine
P5HS&SM	Lewis McNiece	Eloise King	Nathan Gardiner
P5/P6PMcC	Archie Ferguson	Jack Irvine	Rebecca Hobson
P6AA/LP	Zevy Spence	Amelia Rose Bell	Katelyn Law
P6/P7KQ	Oscar McKinney	Lydia Parr	Lilly-Ana Dougan
P7Rch	Oscar Hyde	Amelia-Lily Conn	Lola Young

### Monthly Award for April - **Be Honest**



to everyone who received an Endeavour, Be Cheerful or Handwriting Award at our March 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 April monthly class assembly was led by Mrs Black and her P1/P2 class. Their theme was 'Be Cheerful' which links to our March monthly value. The P1/P2 boys and girls shared a great assembly about being cheerful. Their fabulous singing certainly made everyone in assembly feel very cheerful indeed, with the whole school joining in. Thank you to Mrs Black and Mrs Dougan for leading the assembly with the children.





Dear Parents/Carers,

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](https://www.sustrans.org.uk/sign-up-to-receive-your-free-school-run-guide)

For more information about the event go to [www.bigwalkandwheel.org.uk](http://www.bigwalkandwheel.org.uk) . Enjoy the challenge!

Best wishes  
Mrs K George  
Active Travel Champion



## **Walking Bus Day** **Wednesday 2 April 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.

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.



## **Wear Green be Green Day** **Wednesday 2 April 2025**

On Wednesday 2 April 2025 MPS is holding a 'Wear Green be Green Day' in Markethill Primary School. This is to continue highlighting with our school community how we can help the environment by carrying out some simple activities. Last year we were awarded our Green Eco Schools Flag and we want to maintain our commitment to this initiative. Going green also links with other initiatives in Markethill Primary School, such as Rights Respecting Schools, Forest Schools and Sustrans Active Travel.

On Wednesday 2 April, the following **green actions** will take place to emphasise how each one of us can help the environment in which we live. Some of these activities can also be used within the home.

- Wear an item of green clothing
- Walking Bus
- Power down day in school
- Litter picks
- Daily Mile
- Forest School Activities
- A paper free lesson
- A waste free lunch
- Turn off the lights for 1 hour

We are asking for a £1.00 donation per family to support the environmental charity, *Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful*. This charity runs the Eco-Schools Programme in Northern Ireland and by raising money through our green-themed non-uniform day, we are helping to support schools throughout Northern Ireland to engage with environmental education.

## **World Book Day (WBD) 2025**

This year we returned to dress-up for WBD. The pupils (and staff) made a super effort and were thrilled to have local author Suzanne Hull there to judge the competition, a very difficult task.

Suzanne also visited the junior classes and shared some of her favourite stories with

them. Primary 6 and 7 pupils enjoyed a Q&A session where Suzanne spoke about her ideas for writing and told the children about the process from writing to publishing. The pupils engaged really well and asked some super questions during the session.

During the week of WBD, P1 parents visited and read stories to the class – the pupils loved this and felt very special!!

All in all, a great day, which was enjoyed by all.





## World Maths Day

On Friday 21<sup>st</sup> March, we celebrated, World Maths Day. The children got to visit the MPS Jumble Sale. Everyone had so much fun and it was a great success. We raised an incredible **£597.47**, which will go towards our Numeracy Playground markings.

Thank you so much to everyone who donated items for the Jumble Sale and for taking part. Your contribution will go a long way in developing our Numeracy Outdoors.

Many thanks, Mrs Cromie



## Safer Internet Day News

As part of our celebration of Safer Internet Day, all classes in MPS participated in a poster competition. Each class had to design a poster based on '**Spotting A Scam**' and the challenge this year was to create the poster online. The digital leaders collected and viewed every entry and voted for the winning pupils. The winners and prizes will be revealed in our next school assembly in April.



## Sensory Room at MPS



Markethill Primary School was delighted to welcome back, Sebastian, a past pupil, and his mum to help open the new Sensory Room. Last year, during Autism Acceptance Week, Sebastian and his family cycled, scooted and walked 98 laps of The Mall over a 7-day period to help raise money for the new Sensory Room. Markethill Primary School is extremely grateful to Sebastian and his family for completing this challenge and supporting the school. The new Sensory Room is a great addition to the facilities at Markethill Primary School and the children are benefiting from the various items in the room, such as the infinity mirror, bubble tube, fibre optics strands, interactive mirror ball kit, aura projector and slides.

## The Hub News



The Hub is running an Easter Egg Hunt for P1-P3 on Wednesday 16 April 2025. The cost is £1 per child and every child will receive an Easter egg. This will also be a non-uniform day.



A consent form will be sent home nearer the time and should be returned by Monday 14 April 2025.



Wednesday 16 April 2025 is **Break the Rules Day** in Markethill Primary School for P4-P7 children.

A donation of 50p for each school rule broken will be collected by your teacher.

The Break the Rules form will be sent home nearer the time, with your donations and rules to be broken to be returned by Monday 14 April 2025.

## 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 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

## APRIL 2025

Wed 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Be Seen Be Green Day – everyone to wear green to school</li> <li>Walking Bus at 8.45am – Bunker Hill</li> </ul>
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 P1 – P3</li> <li>Break the Rules Day (50p per rule to be broken) P4 – P7</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>
<b>MAY 2025</b>	
Mon 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bank Holiday 1</li> </ul>
Tue 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assessments commence</li> </ul>
Wed 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Walking Bus</li> </ul>
Thur 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Remembering VE Day 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary</li> </ul>
Tue 20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sports Day P1 – P4 9.30am – 12 noon at MPS MUGA</li> </ul>
Wed 21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Celebration Assembly Be Well Mannered P4EG</li> <li>P1 Induction 10.45am &amp; 1.30pm</li> </ul>
Thur 22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sports Day P5 – P7 at Markethill High School 9.45am – 12.15pm</li> </ul>
Fri 23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>HOME-TIME</b></li> <li>P1 – P3: 1.50pm</li> <li>P4 – P7: 2.00pm</li> <li>School buses and 123 Club will not be available.</li> </ul>
Mon 26 – Fri 30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>May Bank Holiday 2</li> </ul>

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

*Wishing our Markethill community a Happy Easter.*

