



# Markethill Primary School *Tomorrow's Success Begins Today...*

[hmclernon567@c2kni.net](mailto:hmclernon567@c2kni.net)

028 3755 1589

[www.markethillps.co.uk](http://www.markethillps.co.uk)

## MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



30

2025

2024 - 2027



Rights Respecting Schools

UNITED KINGDOM

unicef



Silver Rights Aware



Sustrans School Mark Silver  
Excellence in Sustainable Travel



Rights Respecting Schools

UNITED KINGDOM

unicef



Silver Rights Aware

### Rights Respecting Schools Focus - May 2025

Article 29 (goals of education)

Education must develop every child's personality, talents and abilities to the full. It must encourage the child's respect for human rights, as well as respect for their parents, their own and other cultures, and the environment.

### Monthly Award

During April our monthly value was **Be Honest.**

Classes	Endeavour Award	Be Honest	Handwriting Award
P1KG	Lucy-Vienna McStay	Luke Buckley	Caleb Shaw
P1/P2SB	Dzulija Ruska	Rhys Crozier	Sienna Conn
P2KS	Natalie Hobson	Laith McWilliams	Emma Jasinauskaite
P3KT	Jake Smyth	Lily Shanks	Olivia Law
P3RC	Haley Retel	Poppy Dawson	Harris Downard
P4EG	Lily Casey	Hannah Shaw	Jude Andrews
P5HS&SM	Toby Morgan	Sebastian McCartney	Chloe Gray
P5/P6PMcC	Emily Hartley	Matthew Parr	Lucille Clarke
P6AA/LP	Jessie Park	Joella Nyakana	Isaac McClure
P6/P7KQ	Phoebe Alexander	Sophie Dickson	Lydia Parr
P7Rch	Oscar McCrum	Luke Watt	Gabriel Torrens

### Monthly Award for May - **Be Well Mannered**



to everyone who received an Endeavour, Be Honest or Handwriting Award at our April 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 Miss Stewart and her P2 class. Their theme was 'Be Honest' which links to our April monthly value. The P2 boys and girls shared a great assembly about being honest. Thank you to Miss Stewart, Mrs Hamilton, Mrs McNeilly and Mrs Davidson for leading the assembly with the children.





## Remembering VE Day at Markethill Primary School



The 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Victory in Europe (VE) Day is on 8 May 2025. To mark this very special event, Markethill Primary School is holding a number of events to help our children understand the importance of this date and what it meant for our country.

On **Wednesday 7 May**, there will be a special **VE Day assembly** and on **Thursday 8 May**, we are having a **Celebratory VE Day Parade**. The parade will start at the upper playground, at 10.00am, with the children parading to the roundabout and back to the school. We would like the children to dress up in 1940s fashion for the parade. Ideas for costumes can be found on the internet e.g. evacuees, land girls, military, 1940s costumes. We hope that you will come along to support our children at their VE Day Parade.

On Thursday 8 May, children will be engaging in various lessons related to VE Day. Weather permitting, we hope to have all the children outside for a picnic/party lunch. A party lunch will be provided by the kitchen staff or children can bring a packed lunch.

## Armagh Speech Festival and Portadown Music Festival

The boys and girls from MPS did extremely well at the recent speech and music festivals. After an absence of a few years, we returned to both competitions, where the children performed extremely well. The choir, featuring children from P4 – P7, won the Spinning Shield and were placed third in the hymn singing class. A big thank you to Mr Furphy from MHS for taking the time to accompany our choir! Soloists also competed in both singing and recorder, as well as poetry classes at Armagh Speech Festival. Well done to all those who had the courage to stand alone on a stage to do this and special congratulations to those medal and certificate winners at both festivals. We are so proud of you all! One pupil had the honour of being asked to return to festival and sing her solo, "The Frog" at the Prize Winners' concert. Well done Bella, what an achievement! The ice-cream treat was well deserved after all that work. **A big** thank you to the staff who worked so hard in preparing the children for the festivals.





### 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. Well done to our winners who created some amazing posters.





BE COOL  
WALK TO SCHOOL



## **Walking Bus Day** Wednesday 7 May 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.

## Eco Schools



A huge well done to our amazing school community for participating in five daily energy-saving tasks during Energy Saving Week. Did you know? Our carbon emission savings weighed the same as a saltwater crocodile (900kg-1000kg worth of CO<sub>2</sub>). A massive thank you to everyone who took part - your efforts did make a difference! We are so happy to announce that we have received our 'Energy Saving Hero Status' certificate. What a fantastic achievement for our school!

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



On Wednesday 2 April 2025 MPS had its first 'Wear Green be Green Day'. This helped to highlight with our school community how we can help the environment by carrying out some simple activities. Miss Gilliland, our Forest School Lead, planned some great activities for the children in our forest area. Big thanks to Miss Gilliland for this, the children loved their forest school tasks.





## Gosford Forest Park – Whole School Trip Wednesday 25 June 2025

On Tuesday 25 June, we are taking the children to Gosford Forest Park for a fun, feel good outdoor learning day to mark the end of our school year at MPS. The outdoor learning aspect ties in well with our whole school focus on learning outdoors.

Pupils should wear their **PE uniform and trainers** to school. A **sun hat** may also be advisable. Hopefully, the weather will be good so we would ask that all children come to school with **sun cream** already applied.

Children should bring a suitable **break-time snack** and **packed lunch**, in a **named** food bag. Pupils should also bring a **named bottle of water**.

If your child is in receipt of free school meals and would like a packed lunch from school, please order this with the class teacher by Monday 23 June 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?

Support us through

easyfundraising

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.

easyfundraising  
feel good shopping  
Raise **FREE** donations  
when you shop online

amazon.co.uk ebay John Lewis Argos Booking.com M&S  
Viking Expedia AVIVA Sainsbury's next sky

Whatever you need to buy, groceries, clothes, travel, mobile phones, buy it via [easyfundraising](https://www.easyfundraising.com) 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

<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> <li>• VE Day 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Assembly</li> </ul>
Thur 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Remembering VE Day 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary</li> <li>• Celebratory VE Day Parade – 10am</li> <li>• Whole school VE Day party lunch outside - weather permitting</li> </ul>
Sat 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Outcome of post-primary school placements</li> </ul>
Tue 20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sports Day P1 – P4 9.30am – 12 noon at MPS MUGA</li> <li>• Parent Information Session – P7 trip to London at 2.30pm</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> P1 – P3: 1.50pm 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>
<b>JUNE 2025</b>	
Mon 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• School reopens</li> </ul>
Wed 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Walking Bus @ 8.45am</li> </ul>
Mon 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Final week of homework</li> <li>• P7 pupils home time 1.30pm</li> </ul>
Tue 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• P7 trip to London</li> </ul>
Fri 13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• P7 return from London</li> </ul>
Wed 18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Celebration Assembly – Be a Good Sport P6AA</li> </ul>
Mon 23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• House Team Event</li> <li>• Pupil Annual Reports sent home to parents + Education Plans and pupil Targets</li> </ul>
Tue 24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• P7 Leavers' Assembly at 9.30am in the Hall</li> </ul>
Wed 25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Whole school trip to Gosford Forest Park. Farewell picnic for the P7 boys and girls.</li> <li>• P7 – Final day at MPS</li> </ul>
Thur 26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Moving On Morning 9.30 – 11.30am - pupils will be visiting their new classroom and meeting their new teacher</li> </ul>
Mon 30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Non-uniform day (£1.00 per child or £2.00 per family for school funds.</li> <li>• School closes for the summer holidays</li> <li>• P1 – P3 @ 11.50am</li> <li>• P4 – P7 @ 12 noon</li> </ul>

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