

Monthly Newsletter

26th

SEPTEMBER

2025

MPS – School Vision

Our vision is to develop and nurture, in a stimulating, safe and supportive environment the potential of every child to ensure that 'Tomorrows Success Begins Today'.

MPS – Mission Statement

Our mission is to promote excellence in child centred education in a safe, nurturing, inclusive, happy and caring school, where the dignity of all is valued and where everyone can aspire, achieve and experience success through the collaborative working of entire school community.

2025 – 2028



Rights Respecting Schools

UNITED KINGDOM

unicef



Gold Rights Respecting



Sustrans School Mark Silver

Excellence in Sustainable Travel



Eco-Schools



nfsa FOREST SCHOOL FAMILY

Rights Respecting Schools Focus – September 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.

MEET OUR SAFEGUARDING TEAM



Dr McLemon
Principal



Mr Wilson
Safeguarding Governor



Mrs McCool—
Designated teacher for
Child Protection.



Mr Qua—Deputy
designated teacher for
Child Protection.



Mrs Nicholson —Deputy
designated teacher for
Child Protection.

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.

Welcome to our first monthly newsletter of the 2025 - 2026 school year. Everyone has settled back into life at MPS very well. We extend a special welcome to our P1 children and to new pupils and parents who have joined us. We also welcome Miss C Lockhart, who will be teaching P3/P4 during Mrs Cromie's maternity leave and Mrs E Black, who has joined our team of classroom assistants. We hope that they will be very happy with us at Markethill Primary School. The school looks extremely well and I would like to thank our cleaning staff and building supervisor for their hard work over the summer in preparing the school for the new academic year. I wish all our staff success as we embark on another busy year of activities and curriculum developments.

Our School Development Plan (SDP) 2025 - 2028 is nearing completion and details of our priority areas will be provided in our October newsletter. Our vision and mission statement were reviewed for the new SDP during 2024 - 2025. The vision statement for Markethill Primary School targets our core purpose of the school. It focuses on the 'tomorrow' aspect in our school motto, 'Tomorrow's Success Begins Today', and on what we want to become.

Our vision is to develop and nurture, in a stimulating, safe and supportive environment, the potential of every child to ensure that 'Tomorrows Success Begins Today'.

Following consultation with all staff, some small amendments were made to the mission statement for Markethill Primary School. The mission statement focuses on the 'today' part of our school motto, 'Tomorrow's Success Begins Today.

Our mission is to promote excellence in child centred education in a safe, nurturing, inclusive, happy and caring school, where the dignity of all is valued and where everyone can aspire, achieve and experience success through the collaborative working of entire school community.

When preparing the new SDP, an important element was reviewing the core values at MPS. These values linked to our monthly awards and celebration assemblies, such as being respectful, enthusiastic, loving, honest. Everyone within the school community, all staff, pupils, parents and governors, contributed to the review of values. From a list of 30 important values for a primary school, the following were our top 10.

Respect September	Honesty October	Well mannered November	Kindness December	Enjoyment January
Fairness February	Empathy March	Compassion April	Creativity May	Community June

Our school website, along with the school app, school Facebook page and monthly newsletters will keep you updated on school activities. If there is an item you consider useful to include on the website or newsletter, please speak to one of the teachers or to myself.

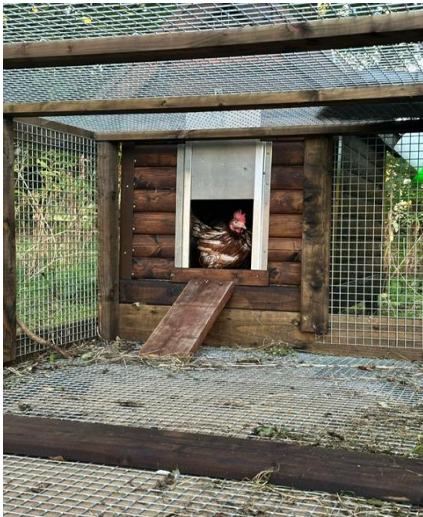
If you have any queries or require clarification on any aspect of school life, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Please take a look at our school website and school Facebook page for photographs of school events and class activities: www.markethillps.co.uk

Welcome to MPS ~ we hope you will be very happy in our school.



Just arrived - we now have chickens at MPS and so far the girls have settled in very well!



Monthly Award

During September our monthly value was **Respect**.

Classes	Endeavour Award	Be Respectful Award
P1KG	Lydia McDonald	Jacob Scott
P1/P2SN	Emily Weller	Luke Buckley
P2KS	Eliza Lipton	Jacob Kirkland
P3KT	Hannah Kirkland	Lily Whiteside
P3RC	Jacob Black	Maxsim Jolkins
P4EE	Lewis Dougan	Austin McNiece
P5HS&RS	Freddie Graham	Sophie Gillespie
P6PMcC	Eliana Foster	Noah McEvoy
P6AA/LP	Mia Okeke	Hannah Weller
P7KQ	Molly Conn	Tilly McCrum
P7RCh	Mary-Anne Potts	Jasmine Wilson



Monthly Award for October...



 Well done!

...to everyone who received an Endeavour or Be Respectful Award at our September Celebration Assembly.



Celebration Assembly

Our monthly class assemblies have started again. September was the turn of our Mrs McCool and Mrs Atkinson's P6 boys and girls. Their theme was 'Be Respectful' which links to our September monthly value. The P6 boys and girls shared lots of ways that we can be respectful inside and outside of school. Well done to everyone who took part in a very enjoyable assembly.



Active Wednesday Challenge
Be part of our Active Wednesday Challenge. Starting 1 October and every Wednesday during the year, we are keeping a record of the number of children who walk, cycle or scoot to school.



Walking Bus Day

Wednesday 1 October 2025

New Meeting Point
The car park at Rainbow Stop



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.

BIG WALKING BUS DAY

Join A Walking Bus To Your School
WEDNESDAY 22ND OCTOBER



We will have an extra
Walking Bus Day on
Wednesday 22 October
202 - 8.45am at Rainbow
Stop car park.



The Hub News

Thanks to parents who attended the AGM on Thursday 25 September 2025. We were encouraged to see new members but would love to see more parents help with The Hub. The Hub is a great group who raise much needed funds for our school. This year we will be raising funds for a new set of bars/climbing frame for the Hall which is used during PE.



Music Tuition @ MPS

The first payment of EA music tuition fees should be paid by 1 October 2025. The second and final payment is due on 2 December 2025. Payments should be paid through the school app.



World Mental Health Day 2025

World Mental Health Day is on Friday 10 October 2025. **At MPS we are asking children to wear something yellow** as the YoungMinds' #HelloYellow campaign uses yellow to raise awareness and show support for young people struggling with their mental health.

World Mental Health Day is an opportunity for us all to talk about mental health and consider how, together, we can help everyone have better mental health.

This year's theme set by the World Federation for Mental Health is access to services - mental health in catastrophes and emergencies. The theme highlights the importance of people being able to protect their mental health whatever they're going through, because everyone deserves good mental health.



Harvest Assembly and Foodbank 2025

Our Harvest Assembly is being held on **Thursday 23 October 2025 at 9.30a.m.** in the school hall. Miss Todd's P3 class and Miss Lockhart's P3/P4 class will be leading the assembly this year. Parents of children who are in these classes are welcome to attend the assembly. Please note, that due to numbers only 2 members per child may attend.

Every year we give parents the opportunity to 'help others' by donating non-perishable foodstuffs which we forward to Armagh Foodbank for distribution (Armagh.foodbank.org.uk). A three-day food parcel includes items such as breakfast cereals, soup, pasta, rice, pasta sauce, tinned vegetables, tinned meat, tinned fruit, tea, coffee, sugar, biscuits and snacks. Items which are urgently needed include tinned meat, teabags (80s), coffee and UHT milk (1 litre). If you would like to support Armagh Foodbank, we would be grateful if you would send one item, which is well dated and undamaged, into school with your child by **Thursday 23 October 2025**.



Parent-Teacher Interviews October 2025

Interviews have been arranged in school on Monday 20, Tuesday 21, Wednesday 22 and Thursday 23 October 2025. The meeting will offer you the opportunity to discuss your child's progress and answer any queries you may have.

Staff will use Microsoft Teams to conduct the meetings or if you wish to meet with your child's teacher face-to-face, this can be arranged. Please note, face-to-face interviews cannot be booked online. You must contact the school office to arrange face-to-face meetings.

If you would like to meet with your child's class teacher via Microsoft Teams, please book your slot on the school app. Under the 'Bookings' tab you will find a form, 'Parent-Teacher Meetings'. Please complete the form, entering your name, your child's name and email address. Click on the 'Class' arrow to select your child's class teacher and then select a time. It would be useful to download Microsoft Teams prior to the meeting to either your phone, tablet, iPad or computer. Please ensure your device has a camera/microphone. Teachers will send, via your email address, an invitation to 'join the meeting' at the time you have selected. At your allocated time, please click the link and join the meeting, making sure that your microphone and camera are on. ***If you do not receive an email from your child's teacher, please contact them via Seesaw or Google Classroom. You can also contact the School Office on 028 3755 1589***

All bookings must be completed by 2.00pm on Wednesday 15 October 2025.

Please ensure that you conduct the meeting somewhere private and free from interruption. I understand many of you have work commitments, but the meeting should last no longer than 10 minutes, which I hope will not inconvenience your workplace too much. Thank you for your support regarding our parent-teacher meetings.

School will finish at 1.10pm for pupils in P1 - P4 and 1.15pm for pupils in P5 - P7 to facilitate interviews commencing at 2.00pm. 123 Club is available from 1.15 - 4.15pm. If you wish to avail of 123 Club, bookings should be made on the school app by 9.00am on Friday 17 October 2025.

1.15pm - 2.15pm: £3.00

2.15pm - 3.15pm: £3.00

3.15pm - 4.15pm: £3.00

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.

COVID-19

Please do not send your child to school if he / she is unwell with the symptoms of COVID-19.

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 12 mid-night each Sunday. 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.

SCHOOL BOOK FAIR



9TH OCTOBER – 16TH OCTOBER



★ JOIN US FOR THE FUN!



Markethill Primary School

Autumn Social

Wednesday 22 October 2025



P1 - P4 @ 5.00 - 5.45pm

ENTRANCE: The FRONT DOOR will open at 5.00pm.

EXIT: Parents should wait at the front door (5.45pm) and children will be handed over at this location.



P5 - P7 @ 6.00 - 7.00pm

ENTRANCE: Children should enter via the SIDE DOOR (upper playground), which will be opened at 6.00pm.

EXIT: Parents should wait at the front door and children will be handed over at this location (7.00pm)

Entry to Social is £2.00



Dates to Remember

OCTOBER 2025	
Wed 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Walking Bus @ 8.45am – Rainbow Stop car park
Wed 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Pupil literacy numeracy and WAU books sent home
Thur 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Pupil books returned to schoolWorld Mental Health Day – wear yellow
Thur 9 – Wed 15	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Scholastic Book Fair in school
Fri 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none">NSPCC visit MPS – Speak Out Stay Safe
Fri 17	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Final Autumn 1 Friday clubs
Mon 20 – Thur 23	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Parent-Teacher Interviews – please see information above
Wed 22	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Celebration Assembly – Be Honest P34EESchool Social (see above for details)
Thur 23	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Harvest Assembly P3KT & P3/P4RC@ 9.30am. Parents of P3KT AND P3/P4RC children can attend.
Fri 24	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Non-uniform Day - £1.00 or £2.00 per family to contribute to school funds - thank you! Money is going towards new PE bars in the hall.No school buses are available and no 123 Club.P1 – P3 pupils finish at 1.50pm and P4 – P7 pupils finish at 2.00pm.
Mon 27 – Fri 31	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Mid-term holiday
NOVEMBER 2025	
Mon 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">School reopens
Wed 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Walking Bus @ 8.45am – Rainbow Stop car park
Fri 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Autumn 2 Friday Clubs commence
Mon 10 – Fri 14	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Anti-Bullying Week – ‘Power for Good’
Mon 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Odd Socks Day
Wed 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none">BLUE (Be Loving Unto Everyone) Day. Wear blue to school.
Wed 19	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Safeguarding Assembly
Sat 15	<ul style="list-style-type: none">SEAG Paper 1
Sat 22	<ul style="list-style-type: none">SEAG Paper 2
Wed 26	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Celebration Assembly – Be Well Mannered P1/P2SN
DECEMBER 2025	
Tue 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Open Morning – new pupils for September 2026
Wed 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Walking Bus @ 8.45am
Mon 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Final week of spellings, tables and reading – no written homework
TBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Christmas Carol Service
Wed 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Pupil literacy, numeracy and WAU books sent home
Thur 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Pupil books returned
Fri 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Final Autumn 2 Friday clubs
Tue 16	<ul style="list-style-type: none">CEF Christmas Assembly
Wed 17	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Celebration Assembly – Be Kind P3KT
Thur 18 & Fri 19	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Christmas Jumper Days - £1.00 to school funds or £2.00 per family to contribute to fund for -thank you!
Fri 19	<ul style="list-style-type: none">School finishes for Christmas Holidays: P1 – P3 finish at 11.30am and P4 – P7 finish at 11.40am.
Mon 22 Dec – Fri 2 Jan	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Christmas Holidays
JANUARY 2026	
Mon 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none">School reopens for the new term

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

H McLernon