

Monthly Newsletter



24th

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



nxfsa
FOREST SCHOOL FAMILY

Rights Respecting Schools Focus – October 2025

Article 3 (best interests of the child) The best interests of the child must be a top priority in all decisions and actions that affect children.

MPS Monthly Values

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

MEET OUR SAFEGUARDING TEAM



Dr McLernon
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.

Markethill PS - School Development Plan: Summary for Parents and Pupils

The Learner and Learning Context

Play

In P1-P4, play isn't just fun – it helps us learn and grow!

While we're playing, we're also: Building new skills, exploring exciting ideas, and learning about the world around us.

Our play activities link to our World Around Us topics, so every game, role play, and adventure helps us understand more about people, places, and nature.

ICT - E -Safety

We use devices to learn and have fun - but it's important to be safe.

Pupils will learn how to: Use devices responsibly, Take care of their wellbeing, Respect the law, themselves, and others online.

History

Discovering about the past and learning about history is exciting!

We'll explore timelines, artefacts, and different stories from the past. With some topics we may even go on fun trips or have workshops in school!

Creative and Expressive

MPS pupils are full of talent! Over the next 3 years, we'll grow our skills in:

Music – using Charanga, joining festivals, and enjoying specialist lessons

Art & Craft – exploring colours, textures, and creativity

PE – building strength, teamwork, and confidence

Let's have fun while learning and creating!

The Environment

Friday clubs have refreshed, P6 – P7 pupils can look forward to embracing practical activities, involving the outside environment; Forest Schools and gardening.

A chicken coop is the newest addition to our Conservation area.

Our playground is getting a colourful upgrade with bright paths and trails – perfect for play and learning outdoors!

Wellbeing and Care

PATHS

Pastoral PATHS (Promoting Alternative Thinking Strategies)

We'll learn to:

- ♥ Treat others the way we want to be treated
- 😊 Understand our feelings and how to manage them
- 🌟 Celebrate the Pupil of the Day with compliments from friends and staff!

Let's grow kind hearts and strong minds together!

Principles of Nurture

Staff are learning about the 6 Principles of Nurture to support pupils' social, emotional and mental health.

Our staff are learning about the Six Principles of Nurture to help support every pupil's social, emotional, and mental health.

This helps us create a caring, safe, and supportive school for everyone.

Professional Learning Community

We are all learners in MPS. Our staff are taking part in training for:

- 🧠 PATHS ♥ Six Principles of Nurture
- 🌲 Forest Schools 🌟 SEN procedures

This helps us support every pupil's learning and wellbeing.



School Development Plan

What we are working on and how we are going to improve our school



Monthly Award

During October our monthly value was **Honesty**.

Classes	Endeavour Award	Be Honest Award
P1KG	Poppy Woods	Mervyn Nesbitt
P1/P2SN	Jack Wilson (P1)	Jack Wilson (P2)
P2KS	Georgina McCall	Lucy Brown
P3KT	Reuben Irvine	Ella Gillespie
P3/P4RC	Arthur Wilson	Scarlett Kerr
P4EE	Kelsie Kerr	Adam Murphy
P5HS&RS	Matthew Ross	Scarlett Pickering
P6PMcC	Hannah Boyce	Olly Thompson
P6AA/LP	Thomas Black	Rebecca Hobson
P7KQ	Archie Ferguson	Matthew Parr
P7RCh	Noah Laverty	Emily Ross



Monthly Award for November...

 Well done!



...to everyone who received an Endeavour or Be Honest Award at our October Celebration Assembly.



Celebration Assembly

October was the turn of the P4 boys and girls in Mrs Evans' class. Their theme was 'Be Honest' which links to our October monthly value. The P4 boys and girls shared lots of ways that we can be honest. Well done to everyone who took part in a very enjoyable assembly.



Harvest Assembly and Foodbank 2025

Our Harvest Assembly was held on Thursday 23 October 2025. Miss Todd's P3 class and Miss Lockhart's P3/P4 class led the assembly by sharing a great assembly on farming and harvest time. It was great to see so many family members join us for the Harvest Assembly.





Thank you to everyone who donated items to Armagh Foodbank and Noeleen's Helping Hands.



P6 Residential Adventure at Shannaghmore

P6 had an unforgettable 3-day, 2-night residential at Shannaghmore, Newcastle, packed with adventure, teamwork, and fun! Pupils took part in a wide range of on-site and off-site activities that challenged and excited them.

Highlights included an exhilarating adventure walk in Tollymore Forest, where they crawled through tunnels, splashed through mud, and even dipped in the lake. Wet bouldering at Bloody Bridge was a firm favourite, offering thrills and laughter in equal measure. On the final day, the group explored Castlewellan, tackled the famous maze, and enjoyed the park. Back on site, pupils pushed themselves to climb the ladder, telegraph pole, and climbing wall, and bravely took on the epic 40ft fan drop! Evenings were just as memorable, with campfires, s'mores, singalongs, and a team challenge on the nightline. The final night was a chance to relax with a movie and snacks.

The food was delicious and kept everyone fuelled for the busy days ahead. We are incredibly proud of P6 for their excellent manners, teamwork, and determination to try new things. What a fantastic trip with memories to last a lifetime—well done, P6! Thanks to Mrs McCool, Mrs Atkinson, Miss Stewart and Mrs Hamilton for accompanying the children on their Shannaghmore trip.







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.

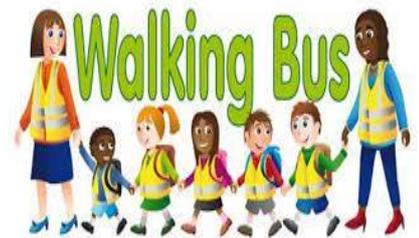


Walking Bus Day



Wednesday 5 November 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/carers' responsibility to ensure children arrive at school safely.



The Hub News

On Friday 28 November 2025, we will be having a sponsored 'Jingle Bell Jog'. The children will have the opportunity to run, walk and jog around the school, as well as navigate a few obstacle challenges along the way. This event will herald the start of Christmas celebrations at MPS. Look out for sponsor forms, which will be sent home in November 2025. We appreciate any donations which will go towards replacing the climbing bars/frames in the Hall and which are used for PE.



The Hub has also organised a 'Guess the Name' of the Elf (P1 - P4) and the Penguin (P5 - P7). The Elf and Penguin will be visiting the classrooms in December, so start thinking about names.

The Hub will also be putting together their amazing Christmas Hamper and tickets for this will be available at the office or on the mornings of the Christmas Concert.

Thanks to the Hub for organising these events. The Hub is a great group of our parents who raise much needed funds for MPS.



Music Tuition @ MPS

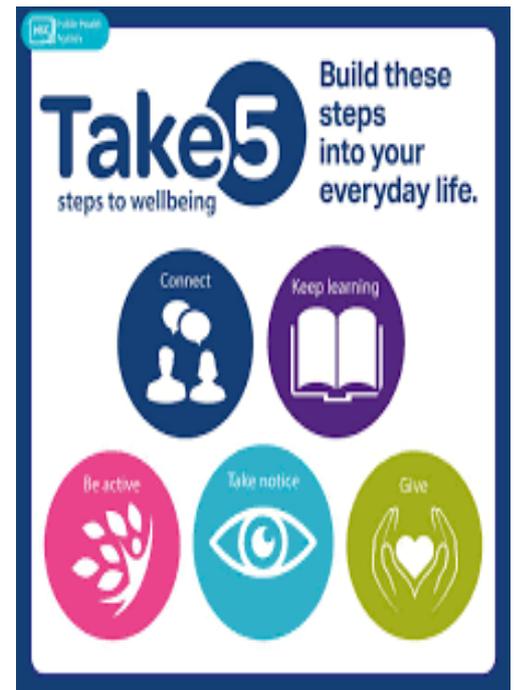
The first payment of EA music tuition fees should now be paid (due 1 October 2025). The second and final payment is due on 2 December 2025. Payments should be paid through the school app.



World Mental Health Day 2025

On Friday 10 October 2025, MPS acknowledged World Mental Health Day by wearing yellow to help raise awareness and show support for young people struggling with their mental health.

World Mental Health Day gave MPS the opportunity to talk about mental health and consider how, together, we can help everyone have better mental health. The children were made aware of the Take 5 steps to wellbeing - Connect, Keep Learning, Be Active, Take Notice and Give - and how following these can help us feel better.





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 for Mrs Whiteside.

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.



Dates to Remember

OCTOBER 2025

Mon 27 – Fri 31 • Mid-term holiday

NOVEMBER 2025

Mon 3 • School reopens

Wed 5 • Walking Bus @ 8.45am – Rainbow Stop car park

Fri 7 • Autumn 2 Friday Clubs commence

Mon 10 – Fri 14 • Anti-Bullying Week – 'Power for Good'

Mon 10 • Odd Socks Day

Wed 12 • BLUE (Be Loving Unto Everyone) Day. Wear blue to school.

Wed 19 • Safeguarding Assembly

Sat 15 • SEAG Paper 1

Sat 22 • SEAG Paper 2

Wed 26 • Celebration Assembly – Be Well Mannered P1/P2SN

DECEMBER 2025

Tue 2 • Open Morning – new pupils for September 2026

Wed 4 • Walking Bus @ 8.45am

Mon 8 • Final week of spellings, tables and reading – no written homework

Tue 9 • Christmas Concert at 9.30am in the Hall – P1KG, P1/P2SN, P2KT, P4EE, P5HS&RS, P6PMcC and P6AA.

Wed 10 • Christmas Concert at 9.30am in the Hall – P1KG, P1/P2SN, P2KT, P4EE, P5HS&RS, P6PMcC and P6AA.
• Pupil literacy, numeracy and WAU books sent home

Thur 11 • Pupil books returned

Fri 12 • Final Autumn 2 Friday clubs

Tue 16 • CEF Christmas Assembly

Wed 17 • Celebration Assembly – Be Kind P3KT

Thur 18 & Fri 19 • Christmas Jumper Days - £1.00 to school funds or £2.00 per family to contribute to fund - thank you!

Fri 19 • School finishes for Christmas Holidays: P1 – P3 finish at 11.30am and P4 – P7 finish at 11.40am.

Mon 22 Dec –
Fri 2 Jan

- Christmas Holidays

JANUARY 2026

Mon 5

- 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