

Monthly Newsletter

28th



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.



Rights Respecting Schools Focus – November & December 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.

Article 27 (food, clothing and a safe home) Children have the right to food, clothing and a safe place to live so they can develop in the best possible way. The government should help families and children who cannot afford this.

MPS Monthly Values

Respect
September
Fairness
February

Honesty
October
Empathy
March

Well Mannered
November
Compassion
April

Kindness
December
Creativity
May

Enjoyment
January
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 November our monthly value was **Be Well Mannered.**

| Classes | Endeavour Award | Be Well Mannered |
|---------|-------------------|-------------------|
| P1KG | Freddie Millar | Thomas Compston |
| P1/P2SN | Jack Douglas | Zach Diffin |
| P2KS | Esmae Hodson | Riley Teggart |
| P3KT | Hannah Kirkland | Jonathan Kennedy |
| P3/P4RC | Mpaj Trueman | Olivia Law |
| P4EE | Jacob Cully | Victoria Dougan |
| P5HS&RS | Archie Kilpatrick | Amelia Irvine |
| P6PMcC | Ava McDowell | Ruan Parker |
| P6AA/LP | Jaxson Morrow | Annabelle Moffett |
| P7KQ | Daxter Heath | Eliana McCall |
| P7RCh | Miley McStay | Ollie Dickson |

Monthly Award for December...



...to everyone who received an Endeavour or Be Well

Mannered Award at our November Celebration Assembly.



Celebration Assembly

November was the turn of the P1 and P2 boys and girls in Mrs Nicholson's class. Their theme was 'Be Well Mannered' which links to our November monthly value. The P1 and P2 boys and girls shared lots of ways that we can be well mannered. Well done to everyone who took part in a very enjoyable assembly.



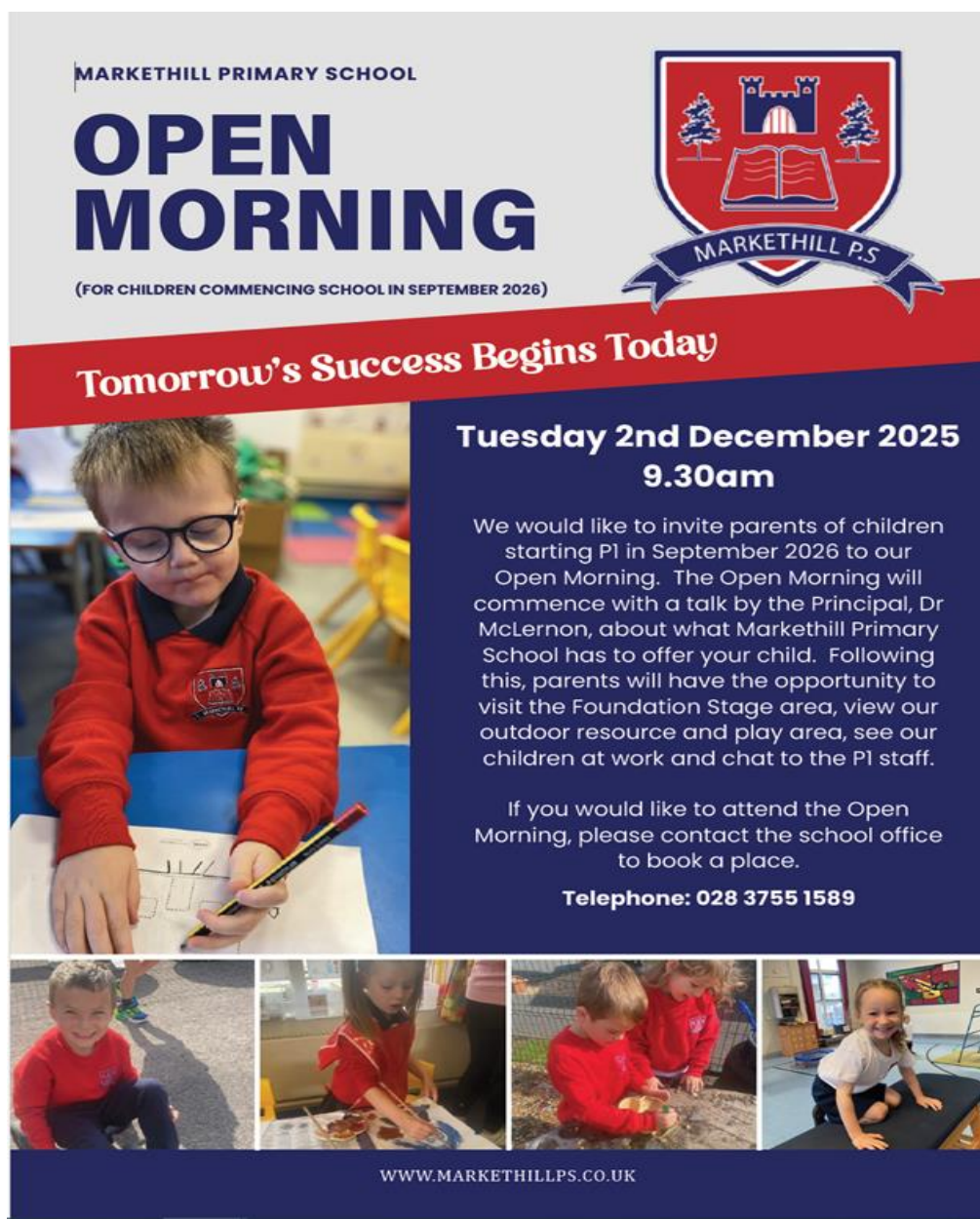
Safeguarding Assembly 2025

We had our annual Safeguarding Assembly on Wednesday 19 November 2025. Mrs McCool, our DTCP and Pastoral Care Lead, along with her class led the assembly. The focus was on the worries and concerns that can weigh us down each day. The boys and girls explored ways to support one another and lighten each other's load. They were also reminded of the trusted adults they can turn to for help, when needed. Mr Wilson, the Designated Governor for Child Protection joined us for the assembly. Thank you to him for taking time from work to be with us. Thanks also to Mrs McCool and the P6 boys and girls for a very thought-provoking assembly.



P1 APPLICATION PROCESS 2026 – 2027 - IMPORTANT DATES


- P1 Application Forms are completed online.
- Forms can be accessed through the Education Authority website: www.eani.org.uk.
- Information about the P1 admissions procedure and admissions criteria for schools will be published on the EA website on **Wednesday 10 December 2025**. The Admissions Criteria for MPS is available on the school website and school app, which can be downloaded.
- The P1 application procedure opens via the EA online portal on **Wednesday 7 January 2026 at 12 noon (GMT)** and closes on **Friday Wednesday 21 January 2026 at 12 noon (GMT)**.
- An application received after 12 noon on Wednesday 21 January 2026 will be treated as **late**.
- **Monday 26 January 2026**: Deadline date/time an applicant can provide for any preference listed, documents in support of their application.
- **Monday 23 March 2026**: Applicants receive notification of outcome of application by email where one is held or by letter. EA Online Portal open.



MARKETHILL PRIMARY SCHOOL

OPEN MORNING

(FOR CHILDREN COMMENCING SCHOOL IN SEPTEMBER 2026)





Tomorrow's Success Begins Today

**Tuesday 2nd December 2025
9.30am**

We would like to invite parents of children starting P1 in September 2026 to our Open Morning. The Open Morning will commence with a talk by the Principal, Dr McLernon, about what Markethill Primary School has to offer your child. Following this, parents will have the opportunity to visit the Foundation Stage area, view our outdoor resource and play area, see our children at work and chat to the P1 staff.

If you would like to attend the Open Morning, please contact the school office to book a place.

Telephone: 028 3755 1589



WWW.MARKETHILLPS.CO.UK



Pupil Voice at MPS

At MPS we have 4 pupil groups who contribute to various aspects of school life. These groups gather class opinions on various issues and report back at monthly meetings. It is great to see the interest these pupils have in enhancing what already goes on in MPS. Congratulations to those pupils who have been voted on to the various pupil voice committees.



Eco / Sustrans

School Council



Rights Respecting School

Digital Leaders





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.



BE COOL
WALK TO SCHOOL



Walking Bus Day

Wednesday 3 December 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.

The Daily Mile



The Daily Mile Network is inviting schools from across Northern Ireland to get moving on the same day to celebrate The Daily Mile. MPS will be joining lots of other schools by participating in The Daily Mile, Santa Run on Friday 5 December 2025.

Children can wear their Christmas jumper and/or a Santa hat/hairband as part of their school uniform on Friday 5th December 2025 for the Santa run.

Movie Afternoon



We are organising a Movie Afternoon for our boys and girls in P4 - P7. This will take place on Wednesday 10 December 2025 from 1.30 - 3.15pm. The cost is £3.00 per child and this includes treats to enjoy while watching the movie. Permission slips have been sent home and should be returned to school to clarify numbers by Friday 5 December 2025. Details regarding the movie will be sent home week beginning 1 December 2025.

Christmas Concert 10 & 11 December

Preparations for our Christmas Concert are well underway. The boys and girls in P1KG, P1/P2SN, P2KS, P4EG, P5HS/RS, P6AA and P6PMcC are excited to be performing in school.

Please note the following details regarding this:

- Our concert will be staged on Tuesday 9 December 2025 at 9.30am and on Wednesday 10 December 2025 at 9.30am in the school hall. Our Honey Bees and Harmony Bees choirs will be performing at the Christmas concerts.
- Tickets for the show will go on sale from Monday 1 December 2025 - Friday 5 December 2025, priced £3 per adult and £2.00 per child (4 - 16 years). Please note that children under 4 are free but will not be allocated a seat.
- Tickets will be sold on a first come, first served basis.
- Due to health and safety regulations, tickets are limited to 2 per family. If seats are available after 5 December 2025, you will be notified and will have the opportunity to purchase additional tickets.
- Please complete the consent slip sent home and return with the correct money, **in an envelope marked with name and class**, to your child's class teacher.
- Tickets will be sent home with your child, so please ensure to check your child's school bag for these.

We are all very excited about our forthcoming concert and look forward to welcoming our parents into the school for the performances. We would like to thank you in advance for your support.



Class Christmas Party Days December 2025
Children can wear a Christmas jumper on their class party day.

- Friday 12 December - P1KG, P1/P2SN and P2KS
- Friday 12 December - P6AA & P6PMcC
P7KQ & P7RCh
- Monday 15 December - P3KT & P3/4EE
P4EE & P5HS

Christmas dinner is on Thursday 11 December 2025. Children can wear Santa hats or Christmas hair bands.

Thanks to our kitchen staff who will be busy preparing our delicious dinner.



Christmas Charity 2025

Over the past number of years, it has been the practice in Markethill Primary School that rather than parents buying Christmas presents for staff, they kindly donate to a particular charity. As a result of this, we have been able to support a number of charities such as Air Ambulance NI, the Southern Area Hospice, Mission Christmas, the UK Sepsis Trust and the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust Charitable Funds (Paediatric Intensive Care Unit and the Regional Neonatal Intensive Care Unit).

This Christmas we are supporting some local charities: T1DCAT (Type 1 Diabetes, Children and Teenagers), the Vibe Church and Reach Mentoring.

We have had and continue to have some children with diabetes in our school community. T1DCAT is a local diabetes charity which support children with diabetes in our local area.

Caroline Poore from the Vibe Church, Armagh, visits our school to lead some assemblies. Money from our Christmas appeal will help to fund Christmas food hampers. The Vibe church is putting together 400 hampers to give to local families, and our support will make a meaningful difference to this.

Some members of our MPS school community are benefiting from Reach Mentoring, a valuable resource which offers weekly support sessions in MPS.

If you wish to donate to our charity appeal in lieu of staff presents, an envelope (1 per family) will be sent home the week beginning 1 December 2025. Please return the envelope by Friday 12 December 2025. The staff would like to thank you for supporting these very worthwhile groups.



The Hub News

On Friday 28 November 2025, we had our sponsored 'Jingle Bell Jog'. The children had a great time running, walking, jogging and singing around the school. They loved the wrist bells that the Hub purchased for the event. These added to

the festivities at MPS. Mrs McCool organised a super obstacle course which put the boys and girls through their paces. Dr McLernon even got a special 'Jingle' jumper for the 'Jingle Bell Jog'. What a great event to start our Christmas celebrations at MPS. Please send donations into school in an envelope with your child's name, Jingle Bell Jog and the amount written on the envelope. We appreciate any donations which will go towards replacing the climbing bars/frames in the Hall and which are used for PE. Please send in sponsor forms and donations by Friday 5 December 2025.



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 from Monday 1 December - Friday 12 December 2025. Each guess costs 50p. The winning names will be announced the week beginning 15 December 2025.

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 - Tuesday 9 and Wednesday 10 December 2025.

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 final payment of EA music tuition fees should be paid by Tuesday 2 December 2025. Payments should be paid through the school app.

Pupil Resources January 2025

When we commence our new term on Thursday 4 January 2024, we would be grateful if you could kindly replenish the following items:

- Hand wash
- Tissues
- Pencil case items such as pencils, pens, ruler, rubber (please name items).

Thank you!



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.

Please do not send your child to school if he/she is unwell with cold/flu symptoms.

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

DECEMBER 2025

| | |
|---------------------------|---|
| Tue 2 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Open Morning 9.30am – new pupils for September 2026 |
| Wed 3 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Walking Bus @ 8.45am |
| Fri 5 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Santa Daily Mile – Christmas jumpers, hats and hair accessories can be worn to school.Choir singing at the Senior Citizen Christmas dinner, the Masonic Hall (1.45pm) and the Mart Carol Service (7.15pm). |
| Mon 8 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Final week of spellings, tables and reading – no written homework.Christmas Concert – dress rehearsal |
| Tue 9 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Christmas Concert at 9.30am in the Hall – P1KG, P1/P2SN, P2KT, P4EE, P5HS&RS, P6PMcC and P6AA. |
| Wed 10 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">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 homeP4 – P7 Christmas Movie 'TBC' |
| Thur 11 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Pupil books returnedP5 – P7 to attend 'Oliver' at MHSChristmas dinner – Christmas hat or hair accessories |
| Fri 12 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Final Autumn 2 Friday clubsClass Christmas parties: P1KG, P1/P2SN & P2KS; P6AA & P6PMcC; P7KQ & P7RCh |
| Mon 15 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Class Christmas parties: P3KT & P3/P4CL; P4EE & P5HS |
| Tue 16 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">CEF Christmas AssemblySanta Claus visits MPS |
| Wed 17 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Celebration Assembly – Be Kind P3KTThe Choir singing at Buttercrane Shopping Centre 6.30pm. |
| Thur 18 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Christmas Jumper Day - £1.00 to school funds or £2.00 per family to contribute to fund - thank you!The 12 Days of Christmas AssemblyThe House Team Talent Show |
| Fri 19 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Christmas Jumper DaySchool 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