



Monthly Newsletter



19th

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 – 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

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 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.

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 December our monthly value was **Be Kind**.

Classes	Endeavour Award	Be Kind
P1KG	Sam Rountree	Nikita Gudelyte
P1/P2SN	Freddy Gass	Miray Mustafa
P2KS	Poppy Gass	Freddie Morrow
P3KT	Ryan Warnock	Lily Ferguson
P3/P4RC	Maverick Ferguson	Molly Potts
P4EE	Hunter McBurney	Kyla McStay
P5HS&RS	Harry McKinney-Drewett	Sophie Gillespie
P6PMcC	Tilly Bell	Emelia Graham
P6AA/LP	Emily Hartley	Ollie Mackle
P7KQ	Archie Ratcliffe	Nikolay Hristov
P7RCh	Lydia Parr	Mia Shanks

Monthly Award for January...

enjoyment



 Well done!

...to everyone who received an Endeavour or Be Kind Award at our December Celebration Assembly.



Remembering Aileen, our friend and colleague

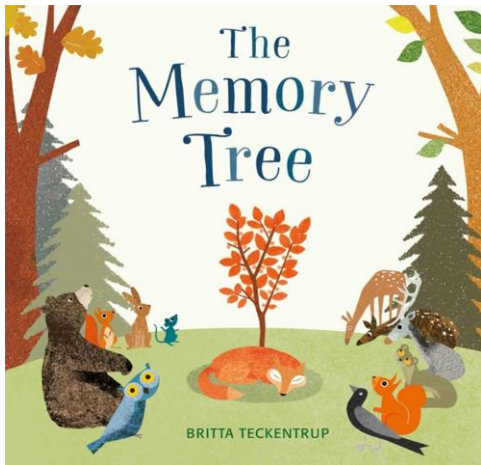


Markethill Primary School held a special assembly to remember, Aileen, who had worked in MPS for approximately 12 years. Everyone within MPS was so sorry to hear of Aileen's sad passing on Thursday 4 December 2025.



Aileen was a much-loved member of the Markethill Primary School community. She entered school, always with a smile and a cheery hello. Nothing was ever a bother to Aileen, who willingly put her hand to whatever she was asked to do. The help and support Aileen offered to the Foundation Stage classes will be greatly missed. All of the boys and girls, as well as the staff, adored Aileen. We thank God for Aileen's contribution to the life of Markethill Primary School. We will remember Aileen with love and affection.

At our special assembly the children listened to the story of 'The Memory Tree'. This story emphasised how important it is to share memories of people who have passed away to keep them alive in our hearts. We hope to create our own 'memory tree' of Aileen that will be a lasting reminder to everyone of the contribution she made to MPS.



Our thoughts and prayers continue to be with Aileen's brothers and sister, Rodney, Jeffrey, and Hazel, also her nieces and nephews, at this very sad time. We pray that Christ's peace will surround them in the days ahead.

Celebration Assembly

December was the turn of the P3 boys and girls in Miss Todd's class to lead the Celebration Assembly. Their theme was 'Be Kind' which links to our December monthly value. The P3 boys and girls shared lots of ways that we can be kind. Well done to everyone who took part in a very enjoyable assembly.



Special Christmas Assembly with CEF

MPS was delighted to welcome Lindsay and Gareth from CEF to lead a special Christmas story. The children enjoyed learning a new Christmas song and hearing the Christmas story, as well as taking part in a quiz which was great fun.



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.



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 7 January 2026



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.

Early School Closure - Monday 12 January 2026

On Monday 12 January 2026, school will finish at 1.15pm for pupils in P1 - P3 and 1.20pm for pupils in P4 - P7. This is to facilitate the second part of the PATHS training for teachers. 123 Club will be available from 1.15pm. Each session costs £3.00.



Movie Afternoon

Our Movie Afternoon for our boys and girls in P4 - P7 was a great success. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the movie, 'Migration', and the afternoon treats. We raised a total of £463.50 which will go towards school resources. Thank you to everyone who supported this event.

Christmas Charity 2025

Our Christmas charity appeal has raised £702.10 for T1DCAT (Type 1 Diabetes, Children and Teenagers), the Vibe Church and Reach Mentoring. A big thank you to everyone who supported these very worthwhile causes.



The Hub News

A big 'Thank You' to everyone who supported our Hub fundraising during the run up to Christmas. The Jingle Bell Jog raised an amazing £2,528.78, the raffle tickets raised £615.10 and Guess the Name of the Elf and Penguin raised £196. The overall total is a fabulous £3,339.88, which will be a great help towards replacing the climbing bars in the Hall. Thanks to the Hub members for organising the fund raisers and to the staff for helping with the roll out of these in school. **Well done to our winners of Guess the Name of the Elf and Penguin.**



Ditch the Dark Day – Friday 30 January 2025



As part of the Sustrans Active Schools Travel programme we are holding a 'Ditch the Dark Day' on Friday 30 January 2026.

This is a day where we are encouraging our pupils to walk, scoot or cycle to school and to raise awareness of safe travel to school, we are encouraging children to *actively* travel to school wearing the **BRIGHTEST** clothing they can (e.g. hi vis vests, hats, socks, scarfs, leg warmers, gloves, wigs etc). Children can decorate any bikes and scooters in a safe manner.

Children will learn about the importance of being bright and seen on darker days when out and about. Prizes will be awarded to some pupils who make a special effort.

Parents and staff are more than welcome to join the fun, so please feel free to dress to impress in your best neon clothing and travel to school actively with your child on the day!

We understand that it might not be possible for everyone to actively travel to school the *whole* way, particularly if you live some distance from the school. In this case, we'd encourage you to consider a 'Park n Stride' option, where you are encouraged to park along your way and walk the final bit to school with your child. In doing so we hope we'll reduce the number of cars around school and have lots of active kids!

Children who avail of school transport are also encouraged to wear bright clothing to emphasise the importance of being seen when getting on and off school transport.

This will be a fun day while highlighting the importance of being seen while travelling to school.

Be Bright, Be Seen

Pupil Resources January 2026

When we commence our new term on Monday 5 January 2026, 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.

Happy Christmas to all our pupils and their families.





Dates to Remember

DECEMBER 2025	
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
Wed 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Waling Bus @ 8.45am Rainbow Stop Car Park• P1 application procedure opens via the EA online portal at 12 noon (GMT) and closes on Wednesday 21 January 2026 at 12 noon (GMT).
Fri 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Friday Clubs recommence
Mon 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• PATHS staff training: school closes at 1.15pm for P1 – P4 & 1.20pm for P5 – P7. 123 Club is available from 1.15pm.
Mon 19 – Fri 23	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Assessment Week
Wed 21	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• P1 application procedure closes at 12 noon (GMT).
Sat 24	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• SEAG results
Wed 28	Celebration Assembly: Enjoyment P3/P4CL
Fri 30	Sustrans Ditch the Dark Day – wear bright clothing to school.
FEBRUARY 2026	
Mon 2 – Fri 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Parent-Teacher interviews: school will finish at 1.15pm for pupils in P1 – P4 and 1.20pm for pupils in P5 – P7 to facilitate interviews commencing at 2.00pm.• 123 Club is available from 1.15 – 4.15pm.• 123 Club – £3.00 per session.
Wed 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Walking Bus @ 8.45am Rainbow Stop Car Park• Valentine's Social: 5.00 – 5.45pm P1 – P4 & 6.00 – 7.00pm P5 – P7.
Tue 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• P1 – P4 finish at 1.50pm and P5 – P7 finish at 2.00pm.• 123 Club available.• No school buses.
Wed 11 – Fri 13	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mid-term holidays
Mon 16	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• School reopens
Tue 17	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• P6 Parent Information Session for SEAG
Wed 18	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Safer Internet Day Assembly – K Todd
Wed 25	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Celebration Assembly P7RCh
MARCH 2026	
Wed 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Walking Bus @ 8.45am Rainbow Stop Car Park
Wed 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pupil literacy, numeracy and WAU books sent home
Thur 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pupil books returned to school
Tue 17	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• School closed – St Patrick's Day
Wed 18	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• SEAG Club commences at 8.45am
Wed 25	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Celebration Assembly – Empathy P5HS
Fri 27	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Non-uniform Day £1.00 per child / £2.00 per family• School finishes at 11.50am P1 – P3 & 12 noon P4 – P7
Mon 30 – Fri 10 April	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Easter Holidays – school closed

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

Dr H McLernon