



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



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



RIGHTS RESPECTING SCHOOLS FOCUS

February 2026

Article 23 (children with a disability)

A child with a disability has the right to live a full and decent life with dignity and, as far as possible, independence and to play an active part in the community. Governments must do all they can to support disabled children and their families.

March 2026

Article 39:

(recovery from trauma and reintegration)

I have the right to help to get better if I have been hurt or badly treated.

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 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 February our monthly value was **Fairness**.

Classes	Endeavour Award	Fairness
P1KG	Mason Donaldson	Cyrus McCrum
P1/P2SN	Leia Daskute	Harper Diffin
P2KS	Noah Wallace	Hollie McCombe
P3KT	Caleb Salisbury	Laith McWilliams
P3/P4RC	Millie McRoberts	Nasi Hristova
P4EE	Isla Young	Matthew Weller
P5HS&RS	Hannah Shaw	Jonah Graham
P6PMcC	Brody O'Neill	Adrianna Kennish
P6AA/LP	Reuban Graham	Ben Stinson
P7KQ	Ben Kearns	Daniela Ruska
P7RCh	Edie McCrum	Susie Holubowicz

Monthly Award for March...

Empathy

 Well done!



...to everyone who received an Endeavour or Be Fair Award at our February Celebration Assembly.



Celebration Assembly

February was the turn of the P7 boys and girls in Mr Qua's class to lead the Celebration Assembly. Their theme was 'Fairness' which links to our February monthly value. The P7 boys and girls shared lots of ways of how we can be fair to others. Well done to everyone who took part in a very enjoyable assembly.



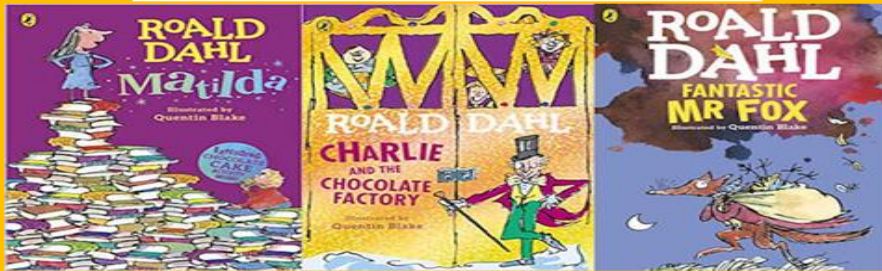
Rights Respecting Schools

On Thursday 26 February 2026 we were delighted to welcome Mr J Nicholson MEP, Mr J Burrows MLA & Leader of the Ulster Unionist Party, Alderman G Kennedy and Mr James Spiers to MPS for a Question and Answer session with our Rights Respecting Schools Committee and our School Council. We were also delighted to have Dungannon Primary School's Rights Respecting Committee and School Council back with us again for this event. The boys and girls asked some very pertinent questions to our guests and following the session they certainly had a much better understanding of how human rights features in the roles of our local representatives.



World Book Day - Thursday 5 March 2026

Come to school dressed as a character from your favourite Roald Dahl book.



WBD 2026 in Markethill Primary School will be all about Roald Dahl. The children will have the opportunity to find out facts about Roald Dahl, listen to some of their favourite Roald Dahl stories and participate in a Roald Dahl parade of his famous characters.

The Hub is organising a Golden Ticket competition! Chocolate bars will be on sale and some of these will contain a Golden Ticket, which will mean a prize of, for example, class night off homework, class popcorn and movie afternoon, class hot chocolate or extra Golden Time.

All pupils will be receiving a WBD voucher which they can use to buy one of the specially published books, or to reduce a purchase of a different book by £1.00.

WONKY

Golden
Ticket

DEAR CHILDREN OF MARKETHILL PS

I, MR WONKY, HAVE VERY KINDLY DECIDED TO SHARE MY GOOD FORTUNE WITH THE CHILDREN OF MARKETHILL PRIMARY SCHOOL.

GOLDEN TICKETS HAVE BEEN HIDDEN UNDERNEATH THE ORDINARY WRAPPING PAPER OF ORDINARY WONKY BARS. THESE CANDY BARS MAY BE ANYWHERE - IN ANY SHOP, IN ANY STREET, IN ANY TOWN, IN ANY COUNTRY IN THE WORLD - BUT MORE THAN LIKELY FOR SALE BY THE HUB IN MARKETHILL PRIMARY SCHOOL.

THESE LUCKY CHILDREN SHALL RECEIVE SPECIAL PRIZES BEYOND ANYTHING YOU COULD EVER IMAGINE. GOOD LUCK TO ALL AND HAPPY HUNTING!

WONKY



Wear Green be Green Day Wednesday 4 March 2026

On Wednesday 4 March 2026 MPS is holding a 'Wear Green be Green Day' in Markethill Primary School. This is to continue highlighting with our school community how we can help the environment by carrying out some simple activities. We were awarded our Green Eco Schools Flag in 2024 and are now in the process of getting this revalidated. MPS wants to maintain its commitment to this initiative. Going green also links with other initiatives in Markethill Primary School, such as Rights Respecting Schools, Forest Schools and Sustrans Active Travel.

On Wednesday 4 March 2026, the following **green actions** will take place to emphasise how each one of us can help the environment in which we live. Some of these activities can also be used within the home.

- Wear an item of green clothing
- Walking Bus
- Power down day in school
- Litter picks
- Daily Mile
- Forest School Activities
- A paper free lesson
- A waste free lunch
- Turn off the lights for 1 hour

We are asking for a £1.00 donation per family to support the environmental charity, *Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful*. This charity runs the Eco-Schools Programme in Northern Ireland and by raising money through our green-themed non-uniform day, we are helping to support schools throughout Northern Ireland to engage with environmental education.



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 4 March 2026

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.



Walk Wheel
Cycle Trust

Headline sponsor
SCHWALBE ➔



bigwalkandwheel.org.uk

We are taking part in Big Walk and Wheel, the UK's largest inter-school cycling, walking, wheeling and scooting challenge. The challenge runs from 16 - 27 March 2026. It's free to take part and we would love everyone to be involved.

What do you need to do?

Encourage your child(ren) to walk, use a wheelchair, scoot or cycle to school on as many days as possible during the event.

We want to make sure that everyone can get involved in Big Walk and Wheel. We know it may be more difficult for some pupils to take part than others. If you want to discuss more about your child(ren)'s specific needs, please contact Mrs George and we will make sure to look into how your child(ren) can take part.

Why we are taking part

Big Walk and Wheel is a great way to build physical activity in children's daily routine which is important for their physical health and mental wellbeing.

Active school runs also help to reduce congestion and air pollution outside the school gate. A 2021 YouGov study showed nearly half of UK children worry about air pollution near their school. And that children thought active travel was the best away to bring down these pollution levels.

Useful resources

To help you prepare, Walk Wheel Cycle Trust has developed a handy Parent/ Caregiver page on the challenge website. It is packed with advice to help you have a hassle-free journey to school.

For more information about the event go to www.bigwalkandwheel.org.uk.



Special Visit to MPS

On Friday 27th March 2026 MPS Mrs Emma Little-Pengelly MLA, Deputy First Minister of Northern Ireland is visiting Markethill Primary School. Mrs Little-Pengelly was a past pupil of Markethill Primary School so we are delighted to welcome her back to her old school. Mr Charlie Hill has kindly donated hedgerows for the P7 boys and girls to plant in our Conservation Area. Mrs Little-Pengelly will be assisting with the planting.

The hedgerows will be a great addition to the Conservation Area in terms of them being a vital ecological, agricultural, and environmental asset that boost biodiversity by providing food and shelter for over 80% of UK farmland birds, pollinators, and mammals. The hedgerows act as wildlife corridors, reduce soil erosion, mitigate flooding by slowing water flow, and store significant amounts of carbon.

Full school uniform should be worn by all children on Friday 27 March 2026.



Guess the Easter Eggs in the Jar Competition

Only 50p per guess. Guess as many times as you want. Pupils can enter by bringing money into school. Taking place Monday 23rd - Thursday 26th March 2026.

The winner takes the jar home for Easter.



Break the Rules Day

Friday 20 March 2026 will be our Break the Rules Day in Markethill Primary School. This year P1 - P7 can participate in the fun and can choose to break as many school rules as possible from the list below. The Break the Rules form will be sent home nearer the time, with your donations and rules to be broken to be returned by **Wednesday 18 March 2026**. A donation of 50p for each school rule broken will be collected by the class teacher.

50P	I will not wear my school uniform - I will wear my own clothes
50P	I will wear my hair in a messy or fancy style
50P	I will not sit in my seat - I will choose where I wish to sit in class.
50P	I will change my name for the day.
50P	I will call my teacher and the principal by their first name.
50P	I will bring sweets/juice (not fizzy) for my snack instead of fruit/water.
50P	I will write the teachers' family a note about their behaviour.



We were delighted to welcome Jill, from the TIDCAT diabetes charity, to Markethill Primary School to accept a cheque from our Christmas Charity Appeal. TIDCAT is a locally based charity and all proceeds go to support local children and teenagers in the area who have a diagnosis of diabetes. Thank you to our parents who contributed to our Christmas Appeal to support local charities. The cheque was presented to Jill by Lydia and Sophia.



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

MARCH 2026

Mon 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">PATHS Parent Session 9am – 9.30am – breakfast providedWonky bars – final day to get orders in to class teachers
Wed 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Walking Bus @ 8.45am Rainbow Stop Car ParkGreen Day see information above
Thur 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none">World Book Day – see information above
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
Mon 16	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Online Safety Parent Session – 9am – 10am – breakfast provided
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
Mon 23	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Guess the Easter Eggs competition commences
Wed 25	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Celebration Assembly – Empathy P5HS
Thur 26	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Winner of the Guess the Easter Eggs competition announced
Fri 27	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Special visit by Mrs Emma LittleSchool 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

APRIL 2026

Mon 13	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Staff Development Day for TransformED – school closed to pupils
Tue 14	<ul style="list-style-type: none">School reopens
Wed 15	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Eco Council School Assembly
Wed 29	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Celebration Assembly – Compassion P7RCh

MAY 2026

Mon 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Bank Holiday 1
Tue 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Assessments commence
Wed 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Walking Bus
Mon 18	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Sports Day P1 – P4 9.30am MUGA
Tue 19	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Sports Day P5 – P7 MHS 9.45am
Wed 20	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Celebration Assembly Creativity P1KGP1 Induction
Thur 21	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Tattoo at MPS 6.30pm – 8.30pm – special school event
Fri 22	<ul style="list-style-type: none">School closed - SDD
Mon 25 – Fri 29	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Bank Holiday 2

JUNE 2026

Mon 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">School reopens
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If you require any information or would like clarification on any issue, please contact me via email or phone.

Dr H McLernon

SAVE THE DATE!



MARCHING BAND TATTOO

THURSDAY 21ST MAY

6:30 to 8:30 PM @ MPS

