



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

27th



2026

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

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.

April 2026

Article 14

(freedom of thought, belief and religion)

Every child has the right to think and believe what they choose and also to practise their religion, as long as they are not stopping other people from enjoying their rights. Governments must respect the rights and responsibilities of parents to guide their child as they grow up.

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



Tomorrow's Success Begins Today



Monthly Award

During March our monthly value was **empathy**.

Classes	Endeavour Award	Empathy
P1KG	Harley Nimmons	Poppy Woods
P1/P2SN	Paige Dawson	Kimberly Wilson
P2KS	Alice McCabe	Sienna Conn
P3KT	Martha McClure	Hugh Graham
P3/P4RC	Freya Smyth	Lydia McCrum
P4EE	Poppy Dawson	Jake Smyth
P5HS&RS	Sienna Hartley	Jude Andrews
P6PMcC	Seb McCartney	Hanna Anderson
P6AA/LP	Katie-Lee Kerr	Bella Martin
P7KQ	Bethany Wilson	Katelyn Law
P7RCh	Michael McAlinden	Lilly-Ana Dougan

Monthly Award for April... **Compassion**

 Well done!



...to everyone who received an Endeavour or Empathy Award at our March Celebration Assembly.



Celebration Assembly

March was the turn of the P5 boys and girls in Mrs Smyth's class to lead the Celebration Assembly. Their theme was 'empathy' which links to our March monthly value. The P5 boys and girls shared lots of ways of how we can show empathy to others. Well done to everyone who took part in a very enjoyable assembly.



Specialist Provision in Mainstream Schools (SPiMS)

Work has started on the SPiMS unit at MPS. We are all very excited about this and hope that it will be open for pupils in September 2026. Due to work at the lower part of the school next to the play park, there will be disruption to the entry and exit of pupils and I ask for your support with this. All pupils should enter school via the main entrance, the upper playground gate or the gate at Bunker Hill. These are the gates that should also be used at home time.

Tattoo at MPS

MPS is running a Tattoo on Thursday 21 May 2026. The event will commence at 6.30pm and end at 8.30pm. We will have marching bands, our school choir, local musicians, drum major demonstrations, scottish dancing and much more at this event. A food stall and ice-cream van will be available. Our Hub will be selling tea, coffee and sweet treats, as well as running a tuck shop. Please put this event into your diary as we hope it will be a great community event. Tickets cost £10.00 for adults and free for children of primary school age and under.

MARKETHILL PRIMARY SCHOOL
MARCHING BAND
TATTOO

21ST MAY 2026 **6:30 - 8:30 PM**

Singers, musicians and dancers from MPS
| County Armagh Accordion | Boys'
Brigade Band | Kilted Dance Company |
Drum Major Display | Tie-The-Note Band

Festival food and refreshments available
See link for tickets (£10 for adults, free admission
for those of primary school age and under)

Special Visit to MPS

On Friday 27th March 2026 MPS Mrs Emma Little-Pengelly MLA, Deputy First Minister of Northern Ireland visited Markethill Primary School. We had a special assembly for Mrs Little-Pengelly, who was a past pupil of Markethill Primary School so we were delighted to welcome her back to her old school. Our school band and choir performed for Mrs Little-Pengelly and she spoke to the children about her time at MPS as well as her role as Deputy First Minister of NI. The children thoroughly enjoyed her visit and hearing about her job at Stormont.

Mrs Little-Pengelly, planted an oak tree in our Conservation Area, along with the P7 children who all planted hedgerows. Our sincere thanks to Mr Charlie Hill who kindly donated the hedgerows for the P7 boys and girls to plant. We were delighted that Mrs Little-Pengelly launched our Tattoo event (see above) during her visit.





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 6 May 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.

Guess the Easter Eggs in the Jar Competition

Well done to George and Tillie, the winners of the Guess the Easter Eggs in the Jar competition. Both had exactly the correct number of 44 eggs.





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 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	• Tattoo at MPS 6.30pm – 8.30pm – special school event
Fri 22	• School closed – TransformED Staff Day
Mon 25 – Fri 29	• Bank Holiday 2
JUNE 2026	
Mon 1	• School reopens
<p><i>If you require any information or would like clarification on any issue, please contact me via email or phone.</i></p> <p><i>Dr H McLernon</i></p>	

