Markethill Primary School *Tomorrow's Success Begins Today....*

Monthly Newsletter

30th SEPTEMBER 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.

Rights Respecting Schools Focus – September 2026

Article 1 (definition of the child): defines a child as anyone who is under 18 years old.
Article 12 (respect for the views of the child): Every child has the right to express their views, feelings and wishes in all matters affecting them, and to have their views considered and taken seriously. This right applies at all times, for example during immigration proceedings, housing decisions or the child's day-to-day home life.

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.

Welcome to our first monthly newsletter of the 2026 – 2027 school year. Everyone has settled back into life at MPS very well. We extend a special welcome to our P1 children and to new pupils and parents who have joined us. We also welcome Miss C Lockhart, who will be teaching P1/P2 during Mrs Nicholson's maternity leave and Mrs N McDonald, who is working in P5, alongside Mrs Smyth. We hope that they will be very happy with us at Markethill Primary School. The school looks extremely well and I would like to thank our cleaning staff, Mr Potts and Mr Morgan for their hard work over the summer in preparing the school for the new academic year. I wish all our staff success as we embark on another busy year of activities and curriculum developments.

Our new specialist provision classroom for P1 pupils with social and communication difficulties is completed and we welcome our new children to Markethill Primary School.

We are in Year 2 of our School Development Plan (SDP) 2025 – 2028. Our targets for 2026 – 2027 will be shared in our October 2026 newsletter.

The vision statement for Markethhill Primary School targets our core purpose of the school. It focuses on the 'tomorrow' aspect in our school motto, 'Tomorrow's Success Begins Today', and on what we want to become.

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'.

The mission statement focuses on the 'today' part of our school motto, 'Tomorrow's Success Begins Today.

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.

Core Values at MPS.

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

Welcome to MPS ~ we hope you will be very happy in our school.









Monthly Award

During September our monthly value was **Respect**.

Classes	Endeavour Award	Be Respectful Award
P1KG	Emmy Irvine	Maddie Lowry
P1/P2CL	Daisy Ross	Coen Mackle
P2/P3KS	Freddie Gass	Harper Diffin
P3/P4KT	Riley Teggart	Harper Dawson
P4RC	Arthur Wilson	Ada Scott
P5HS&NMcD	Eliza Blake	Sophie Teggart
P5PMcC	Gracie Foster	Austin McNiece
P6AA/LP	Jude Andrews	Sienna Hartley
P7KQ	Olly Thompson	Tilly Bell
P7RCh	Nathan Shaw	Katie-Lee Kerr





Monthly Award for October…

Well done!

…to everyone who received an Endeavour or Be Respectful Award at our September Celebration Assembly.







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 October 2026

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 Hub News

Thanks to parents who attended the AGM on Wednesday 23 September 2026. We would love to see more parents help with The Hub. The Hub is a great group who raise much needed funds for our school. This year we will be raising funds for various educational resources for the school. This year, we are fundraising for various school resources, so watch this space for different events.

We are extremely grateful to The Hub for buying our new climbing frames. The children and staff are delighted with these and they have been put to good use since the start of the term.









World Mental Health Day 2026

World Mental Health Day is on Friday 9 October 2026. At MPS we are asking children to wear something yellow as the YoungMinds' #HelloYellow campaign uses yellow to raise awareness and show support for young people struggling with their mental health.

World Mental Health Day is an opportunity for us all to talk about mental health and consider how, together, we can help everyone have better mental health.

This year's theme set by the World Federation for Mental Health is

Every voice matters.

When we listen to each other, we can help everyone feel understood, supported and valued.



Harvest Assembly and Foodbank 2026

Our Harvest Assembly is being held on **Thursday 22 October 2026 at 9.30a.m.** in the school hall. Mrs Smyth/Mrs McDonald's P5 class and Mrs McCool's P5 class will be leading the assembly this year. Parents of children who are in these classes are welcome to attend the assembly. Please note, that due to numbers only 2 members per child may attend.

Every year we give parents the opportunity to 'help others' by donating non-perishable foodstuffs which we forward to Armagh Foodbank for distribution (Armagh.foodbank.org.uk). A three-day food parcel includes items such as breakfast cereals, soup, pasta, rice, pasta sauce, tinned vegetables, tinned meat, tinned fruit, tea, coffee, sugar, biscuits and snacks. Items

which are urgently needed include tinned meat, teabags (80s), coffee and UHT milk (1 litre). If you would like to support Armagh Foodbank, we would be grateful if you would send one item, which is well dated and undamaged, into school with your child by **Thursday 22 October 2026.**



Christmas Family Box Appeal 2026

Supporting Romania and Others in Need

Noeleen's Helping Hands Charity, Markethill is providing 'Family Boxes' for Romania to be given out to families in time for Christmas. Noeleen's Helping Hands Charity will be making up these family boxes and would be grateful for assistance with the donation of **'NEW'** items for the boxes.

These items would include:

- Hat, scarf, gloves, pants socks, blankets.
- Baby items such as nappies, wipes, baby bottles, bibs, clothing, toys.
- School supplies such as notebooks, pencils, rulers, sharpeners, rubbers, pencil cases, colouring books and pencils etc.
- Personal care items such as facecloths, sponge, hand towels, soap, shower gel, toothpaste, shampoo, deodorant.
- Games such as simple jigsaws, outdoor toys such as Frisbee, items suitable for teenagers.
- Household items such as sewing kits, wool, pegs, dishcloths, tea towels etc.

We realise that you may already be supporting churches and organisations in this way but if you feel able to contribute 1 or 2 items, we would be grateful. Items should be left in school by **Thursday 22 October 2026** for collection on Friday 23 October 2026.

Parent-Teacher Interviews October 2026

Interviews have been arranged in school the week beginning 19 October 2026. The meeting will offer you the opportunity to discuss your child's progress and answer any queries you may have.

A new system is in place to book your time slot. Please complete the following:

- Log into the school app
- Click on Parent-Teacher meetings
- Click class teacher
- Select time slot and choose either 'Face-to-Face' or 'Video' (Microsoft Teams)
- If you choose 'Video', the class teacher will set up a Microsoft Teams Meeting and send parents the link to join this

Please note: Bookings will open on Thursday 8 October 2026 and close on Thursday 15 October 2026 at 5pm. Bookings are only possible via the app and parents should not phone the school to organise meeting times.

If you would like to meet with your child's class teacher via Video (Microsoft Teams) it would be useful to download Microsoft Teams prior to the meeting to either your phone, tablet, iPad or computer. Please ensure your device has a camera/microphone. Teachers will send, via your email address, an invitation to 'join the meeting' at the time you have selected. At your allocated time, please click the link and join the meeting, making sure that your microphone and camera are on. ***If you do not receive an email from your child's teacher, please contact them via Seesaw or Google Classroom. You can also contact the School Office on 028 3755 1589***

Please ensure that you conduct the meeting somewhere private and free from interruption. I understand many of you have work commitments, but the meeting should last no longer than 10 minutes, which I hope will not inconvenience your workplace too much. Thank you for support regarding our parent-teacher meetings.

Reminder: The Booking Form will be available from Thursday 8 October until Thursday 15 October 2026. Please note bookings need to be made by 5pm on Thursday 15 October 2026.

School will finish at 1.10pm for pupils in P1 – P4 and 1.15pm for pupils in P5 – P7 to facilitate interviews commencing at 2.00pm. 123 Club is available from 1.15 - 4.15pm. If you wish to avail of 123 Club, bookings should be made on the school app by 9.00am on Friday 16 October 2026.

1.15pm – 2.15pm: £3.00
2.15pm – 3.15pm: £3.00
3.15pm – 4.15pm: £3.00



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 by 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.

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 and Mrs Whiteside will meet you at the door.



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 2026	
Wed 7	• Walking Bus @ 8.45am – Rainbow Stop car park • Puil literac, numeracy and WAU books sent home
Thur 8	• Pupil books returned to school
Fri 9	• World Mental Health Day – wear yellow to school
Thur 8 – Wed 14	• Scholastic Book Fair in school
Fri 16	• Final Autumn 1 Friday clubs
Mon 19 – Thur 22	• Parent-Teacher Interviews – please see information above
Wed 21	• Celebration Assembly – Be Honest P3/P4KT
Thur 22	• Harvest Assembly P5HS&NMcD & P5PMcC @ 9.30am. Parents of P5 children can attend.
Fri 23	• Awesome Autumn @ MPS - £3.00 per child for a fun-filled day packed with Autumn activities and Autumn treats. This school fund raiser will go towards purchasing books which are part of our Handwriting Scheme. • No school buses are available and no 123 Club. • P1 – P3 pupils finish at 1.50pm and P4 – P7 pupils finish at 2.00pm.

Mon 26 – Fri 30	• Mid-term holiday
NOVEMBER 2026	
Mon 2	• School reopens
Wed 4	• Walking Bus @ 8.45am – Rainbow Stop car park
Fri 6	• Autumn 2 Friday Clubs commence
Mon 9 – Fri 13	• Anti-Bullying Week – 'Break the Silence'
Mon 9	• Odd Socks Day
Wed 11	• BLUE (Be Loving Unto Everyone) Day. Wear blue to school.
Wed 18	• Safeguarding Assembly - Mrs McCool (Designated Teacher)
Sat 14	• SEAG Paper 1
Sat 21	• SEAG Paper 2
Wed 25	• Celebration Assembly – Be Well Mannered P7KQ
DECEMBER 2026	
Tue 1	• Open Morning – new pupils for September 2027
Wed 2	• Walking Bus @ 8.45am
Mon 7	• Final week of spellings, tables and reading – no written homework
Tue 8 & Wed 9	• Christmas Concert 9.30am - P1KG, P1/P2CL, P2/P3KS, P3/P4KT, P4RC & P6AA
Wed 9	• Pupil literacy, numeracy and WAU books sent home
Thur 10	• Pupil books returned • Christmas Dinner in school – Christmas hats, hair accessories can be worn
Fri 11	• Final Autumn 2 Friday clubs
Wed 16	• Celebration Assembly – Be Kind P7RCh
Thur 17 & Fri 18	• Christmas Jumper Days - £1.00 to school funds or £2.00 per family to contribute to fund for -thank you!
Fri 18	• School finishes for Christmas Holidays: P1 – P3 finish at 12 midday and P4 – P7 finish at 12.05pm.
Mon 21 Dec – Fri 1 Jan	• Christmas Holidays
JANUARY 2026	
Mon 4	• Staff Development Day – school closed to pupils
Tue 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