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

Monthly Newsletter



23rd 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 – October 2026

Article 3 (best interests of the child) The best interests of the child must be a top priority in all decisions and actions that affect children.

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 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.

This year, how we engage in our play activities will be observed and assessed by the teachers who will be using a new approach to make sure everyone is meeting their potential.

ICT - E -Safety
We use devices to learn and have fun - but it's important to be safe.Pupils will continue to learn how to: use devices safely and responsibly, take care of their wellbeing, respect the law, themselves, and others

The New Curriculum – TransformED
The staff will be preparing for the new curriculum by focusing on literacy, numeracy, WAU and ICT.
Everyone will be using peer and self-assessment tools to reflect on our learning.

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

Our Gardening Club and Forest School Club will be creating zones in our Conservation Area such as a Fairy Zone and a Well-being Zone.

Our Gardening Club will maintain the Conservation Area.



School Development Plan - Year 2

What we are working on and how we are going to improve our school



Wellbeing and Care

PATHS
We will embed our Pastoral PATHS Programme (Promoting Alternative Thinking Strategies) and focus on:
making the PATHS messages more visible around the school.
Evaluating how well the PATHS Programme is helping us in our daily activities.
★using restorative practices during our play times and when interacting with others.





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.

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.

Tomorrow's Success Begins Today

Monthly Award

During October our monthly value was **Honesty**.

Classes	Endeavour Award	Be Honest Award
P1KG	Jack Wallace	Jemesa Cerecerevakalagi
P1/P2CL	Eddie Woods	Jude Johnston
P2/P3KS	Jacob Scott	Drew Dougan
P3/P4KT	George Worton	Freddie Morrow
P4RC	Arthur Andrews	Lily Whiteside
P5HS&NMcD	Ted Martin	Freya Smyth
P5PMcC	Maverick Ferguson	Harris Downard
P6AA/LP	Sammy Davis	Lily Brookes
P7KQ	Noah McEvoy	Toby Morgan
P7RCh	Sadie Martin	Jessica Kirkland





Monthly Award for November...



...to everyone who received an Endeavour or Be Honest Award at our October Celebration Assembly.







P6AA September

MARKETHILL PRIMARY SCHOOL

County Armagh · The Orchard County

Classrooms named for the townlands of County Armagh

In Markethill Primary School, we have renamed our classrooms based on historic townland names around Markethill. A townland is the smallest traditional division of land, and most townland names often describe a feature of the landscape, a family name, vegetation, animals, or a local historical feature.

We believe that teaching townland names is important as it helps children connect with their local heritage, geography, and community. Our children will learn where they live and how their local area is organised. Many townland names are hundreds of years old, and they provide a link to Markethill's past. Our children will discover that grandparents, relatives, or classmates live in different townlands, helping them understand the wider community around Markethill Primary School. Townlands form an important part of our cultural identity and understanding them will help our children appreciate our local traditions and history.

Rooms 1–3

1 KG Clady More (great Clady – *after the Clady River*)

2 SN Enagh (meeting place or damp marsh)

3 KS Kilmachugh (church of Hugh)

Rooms 4 & 5

4 KT Kilcluney (church of the meadow)

5 RC Kilbracks (speckled woods)

Rooms 6, 7 & 8

6 PMcC Dinnahorra (hill of the eel weir)

7 HS/NMcD Dunnesmullan (the fort of the low, rounded hill)

8 RCh Corhammock (the round hill of the winding stream)

Rooms 9, 10 & 11

9 KQ Coolmillish (sweet corner with honey flowers)

10 Seaboughan (the soft/boggy woodland)

11 AA Carricklane (the broad rock)

Specialist Provision Rooms 12 & 13

12 EE Gosford

13 Mullaghbrack (hill of the speckled summit)

Offices and Assembly Hall

Dr McLernon Marlacoo Mor (the lake of the swans –large)

Mrs Freeburn Marlacoo Beg (the lake of the swans –small)

Hall Edenkennedy (the brow of Kennedy's Hill)



Harvest Assembly and Foodbank 2025

Our Harvest Assembly was held on **Thursday 22 October 2026.** The P5 classes, Mrs Smyth, Mrs McDonald and Mrs Cool, led the assembly by sharing a great assembly on how important it is to be kind and helpful to one another which emphasises how team work can make such a difference. It was lovely having parents join us for the Harvest Assembly.

See our Facebook page for photographs.

Thank you to everyone who donated items to Armagh Foodbank and Noeleen's Helping Hands.

Active Wednesday Challenge

Be part of our Active Wednesday Challenge. 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 November 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



On Friday 27 November 2026, we will be having our annual sponsored 'Jingle Bell Jog'. The children will have the opportunity to run, walk and jog around the school, as well as navigate a few obstacle challenges along the way. This event will herald the start of Christmas celebrations at MPS. Look out for sponsor forms, which will be sent home in November 2026. We appreciate any donations which will go towards replenishing school resources. Due to the current budget crisis within education, your support with our fundraising events is very much appreciated.

The Hub will also be putting together their amazing Christmas Hamper. Tickets for the Hamper will be available at the office or on the mornings of the Christmas Concert.

Thanks to our wonderful team of parents who make up The Hub. Their fund raising efforts make a big difference to MPS.

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.

COVID-19

Please do not send your child to school if he/she is unwell with the symptoms of COVID-19.

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

OCTOBER 2026	
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 16 – Fri 20	• Anti-Bullying Week – 'Break the Silence'
Mon 16	• Odd Socks Day
Wed 18	• BLUE (Be Loving Unto Everyone) Day. Wear blue to school. • Safeguarding Assembly • PMcC & Mr Wilson, Safeguarding Governor
Sat 14	• SEAG Paper 1
Sat 21	• SEAG Paper 2
Wed 25	• Celebration Assembly – Be Well Mannered P7KQ
Fri 27	• Jingle Bell Jog @ MPS – start of the Christmas celebrations
DECEMBER 2026	
Tue 1	• Open Morning – new pupils for September 2026
Wed 2	• Walking Bus @ 8.45am
Mon 7	• Final week of spellings, tables and reading – no written homework
Tue 8	• Christmas Concert at 9.30am in the Hall – P1KG, P1/P2CL, P2/P3KS, P3/P4KT, P4RC, and P6AA.
Wed 9	• Christmas Concert at 9.30am in the Hall – P1KG, P1/P2CL, P2/P3KS, P3/P4KT, P4RC, and P6AA. • Pupil literacy, numeracy and WAU books sent home
Thur 10	• Pupil books returned • Christmas Dinner @ MPS – Santa Hats & Christmas hair accessories to 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 - thank you!
Fri 18	• School finishes for Christmas Holidays: School finishes for Christmas Holidays: P1 – P3 finish at 12 midday and P4 – P7 finish at 12.05pm.
Mon 22 Dec – Fri 2 Jan	• Christmas Holidays
JANUARY 2027	
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