

# Markethill Primary School

Tomorrow's Success Begins Today...



## Monthly Newsletter

29<sup>th</sup>

November

2024

Please take a look at our school website and school Facebook page for photographs of school events and class activities: [www.markethillps.co.uk](http://www.markethillps.co.uk)



Rights Respecting Schools Focus – November & December 2024

Article 4 (implementation of the Convention): Governments must do all they can to make sure every child can enjoy their rights by creating systems and passing laws that promote and protect children's rights.

Article 42 (knowledge of rights): Governments must actively work to make sure children and adults know about the Convention.

### Monthly Award

During November our monthly value was **Be a Good Friend.**

| Classes   | Endeavour Award  | Be Helpful Award              | Handwriting Award             |
|-----------|------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| P1KG      | George McCall    | Riley Teggart                 | Lucy Brown                    |
| P1/P2SB   | Lily Whiteside   | Alice McCabe                  | Ryys Crozier                  |
| P2KS      | Ryan Warnock     | Miliakere<br>Cerecerevakalagi | Maxim Jolkins                 |
| P3KT      | Ted Martin       | Sophie Teggart                | Oliver Alexander              |
| P3RC      | Victoria Dougan  | Sophia Harrison               | Eliza Blake                   |
| P4EG      | Lily Brookes     | Joel Parr                     | Scarlett McKinney-<br>Drewitt |
| P5HS&SM   | Olly Thompson    | Emelia Graham                 | Lydia Annett                  |
| P5/P6PMcC | Lucille Clarke   | Jamie Andrews                 | Eliana McCall                 |
| P6AA/LP   | Amelia-Rose Bell | Ruby Whiteside                | Eva Jennett                   |
| P6/P7KQ   | Piper McParland  | Jordy Hazley                  | Sophie Dickson                |
| P7Rch     |                  |                               | Boris Tsnoev                  |

**Monthly Award for December - Be a Good Listener**



...to everyone who received an Endeavour, Be a Good Friend or Handwriting Award at our November Celebration Assembly.



During 2024 – 2025 we are focusing on handwriting across the school. We have purchased new resources to help with this. We have added a handwriting award to our monthly celebration assembly. Top marks to our Handwriting Award winners.



### **Celebration Assembly**

Our November monthly class assembly was led by Mr Qua's P6/P7 class. Their theme was 'Be a Good Friend' which links to our November monthly value. The P6 and P7 boys and girls shared a super assembly about what makes a good friend. P6 and P7 finished with the song 'You've got a friend in me' which the whole school joined in with. Well done to P6/P7KQ for a very thoughtful and enjoyable assembly on friendships.





*Thank you to our ministers who help us out each week at assembly. The children really enjoy their contribution to assemblies at MPS.*

At our Celebration Assembly on Tuesday 26 November we were delighted to welcome two members of the T1DCAT diabetes charity. This 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 everyone who contributed to our BLUE Day fundraising event for this charity. We raised £236.00 and a cheque was presented by Lydia to Jill and Freesia from T1DCAT.





On Tuesday 19 November 2024 MPS was delighted to offer support to our local farmers by wearing wellies. Our P1 – P4 children posed for the camera to alert our school community of the important role farmers play in our local area.





## Pupil Voice at MPS

At MPS we have 4 pupil groups who contribute to various aspects of school life. These groups gather class opinions on various issues and report back at monthly meetings. It is great to see the interest these pupils have in enhancing what already goes on in MPS. Congratulations to those pupils who have been voted on to the various pupil voice committees.



Sienna, Mia, Tilly, Ben, Noah, Austin, Lucy, Ronan and Jacob. The Eco-Committee will plan and deliver environmental projects and inspire their schoolmates and wider school community.



Tilly, Freddie, Isaac, Lily-Ana, Eliza, Lewis, Reese and Ronan will lead our school to achieving the RRS Gold Award



Boris, Emily, Charlie, Dylan, John, Reuben, Ava, James and Noah help Miss Todd with the school ipads and in delivering important online safety messages to the whole school.



Freya, Dylan, Joey, Oscar, Elianna, Charlotte and Micah are helping with preparations for our new School Development Plan.

## P1 APPLICATION PROCESS 2025 – 2026 - IMPORTANT DATES

- P1 Application Forms are completed online.
- Forms can be accessed through the Education Authority website: [www.eani.org.uk](http://www.eani.org.uk).
- Information about the P1 admissions procedure and admissions criteria for schools will be published on the EA website on **Thursday 5 December 2024**. 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 Friday 10 January 2025 at 12 noon (GMT) and closes on Friday 24 January 2025 at 12 noon (GMT)**.
- An application received **after 12 noon on Friday 24 January 2025 will be treated as late**.



MARKETHILL PRIMARY SCHOOL

# OPEN MORNING

FOR CHILDREN COMMENCING SCHOOL IN SEPTEMBER 2025

**Tuesday 3 December 2024**

**TIME: 9.30AM**

We would like to invite parents of children starting P1 in September 2025 to our Open Morning. The Open Morning will commence with a talk by the Principal, Dr McLernon, about what Markethill Primary School has to offer your child. Following this, parents will have the opportunity to visit the Foundation Stage area, view our outdoor resource and play area, see our children at work and chat to the P1 staff.

A school video is available for parents to view on the school website.

If you would like to attend the Open Morning, please contact the school secretary, Mrs Freeburn, to book a place.

Telephone: 028 3755 1589  
[www.markethillps.co.uk](http://www.markethillps.co.uk)

*Tomorrow's Success Begins Today*

The poster features a red and blue background with a school crest in the top right. It includes several circular inset photos of children engaged in various activities: playing with dolls, using a magnifying glass, and working with sand in a tray. A large red pencil graphic is positioned on the right side.

## Choirs at MPS



Our Honey Bees and Harmony Bees choirs will be busy during December performing at different events. A selection of the choirs travelled to Mountnorris Presbyterian Church to sing at their Christmas Tree Festival. Their performance certainly got everyone into the Christmas spirit.



# The Honey Bees and Harmony Bees Choirs – On Tour, Christmas 2024

Friday 29 November 2024 - Mountnorris Christmas Tree Festival 12 noon

Thursday 5 December 2024 – The Palace, Armagh – 6.30pm

Friday 6 December 2024 – St Mark's CoI, Armagh Christmas Tree Festival 6.00pm

Thursday 12 December 2024 Mullabrack CoI Dinner 2.00pm

Wednesday 18 December 2024 Markethill Presbyterian Church, Bright Hour 2.00pm

Thursday 19 December 2024 – Keady Day Care Centre 10.30am



## Journey to Santa!



How can **YOU** get to Santa??

Make **15 active journeys** to school to get you to Santa and a chance to win a prize from Santa's workshop!

So get walking, cycling and scooting!

**sustrans**  
with the Environment Agency



We are encouraging children to stay active on the journey to school this winter with our **Journey to Santa Challenge!** Children taking part in the challenge will have received a special Journey to Santa stamp card to keep track of their active journeys to school.

Walking, cycling or scooting to school helps us to get our daily exercise and protects the air quality where we travel. Teachers will keep track of the numbers on a daily basis.

### **How does it work?**

- ✓ Each day you cycle, scoot or walk to school gets you closer to Santa!
- ✓ The challenge begins on **Monday 2 December 2024** and finishes on **Wednesday 18 December 2024**.

- ✓ Keep your Journey to Santa stamp card in your school bag and make sure you get your journey marked off each day you cycle, scoot or walk to school.
- ✓ **18 active journeys** to school will get you to Santa and a chance to win a prize from Santa's workshop!



### Some advice...

- ✓ Please consider travelling actively with your child – join the fun!
- ✓ Please use a helmet and bright clothing. Please use bike lights on the dark mornings.
- ✓ The night before, please check that the bike tyres are pumped up and both front and back brakes are working.
- ✓ Leave plenty of time to get to school so your child isn't rushed.
- ✓ Consider getting a bike lock so that the bike can be secured within school property.
- ✓ If you have to start your journey by car, why not park up 15 minutes from school and do a park'n'stride.

Cycling, scooting or walking to school is an excellent form of exercise, helps children do better in the classroom and is great fun! Thank you for supporting us in this initiative.

### The Daily Mile



The Daily Mile Network is inviting schools from across Northern Ireland to get moving on the same day to celebrate The Daily Mile. MPS will be joining lots of other schools by participating in The Daily Mile, Santa Run on Friday 6 December 2024.

Children can wear their Christmas jumper and/or a Santa hat/hairband as part of their school uniform on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2024 for the Santa run

### Movie Afternoon



The Hub are organising a Movie Afternoon for our boys and girls in P5 – P7. The film is **'That Christmas'** PG (coming to Netflix 4th December.) This will take place on Monday 16 December 2024 from 1.30 – 3.15pm. The cost is £3.00 per child and this includes a 'Treat Bag' to enjoy while watching the movie. Permission slips have been sent home and should be returned to school to clarify numbers by Friday 6 December. Thanks to The Hub for organising this event for our older children.

### Christmas Concert 10 & 11 December

Preparations for our Christmas Concert are well underway. The boys and girls in P1KG, P1/P2SB, P2KS, P3KT, P3RC, P4EG, P6AA and P6KQ are really excited to be performing in school.

Please note the following details regarding this:

- Our concert will be staged on Tuesday 10 December 2024 at 9.30am and on Wednesday 11 December 2024 at 9.30am and 11.15am in the school hall.
- Tickets for the show will go on sale from Monday 2 December 2024 – Friday 6 December 2024, priced £3 per adult and £2.00 per child (4 – 16 years). Please note that children under 4 are free but will not be allocated a seat.

- Tickets will be sold on a first come, first served basis.
- Due to health and safety regulations, tickets are limited to 2 per family. If seats are available after 6 December 2024, you will be notified and will have the opportunity to purchase additional tickets.
- Please complete the slip below and return with the correct money, **in an envelope marked with name and class**, to your child's class teacher.
- Tickets will be sent home with your child, so please ensure to check your child's school bag for them.

We are all very excited about our forthcoming concert and look forward to welcoming our parents into the school for the performances. We would like to thank you in advance for your support

### Class Christmas Party Days December 2024

**Children can wear a Christmas jumper on their class party day.**



- **Thursday 12 December - P1KG, P1/P2SB and P2KS**
- **Friday 13 December -, P6AA, P6/P7KQ & P7RCh**
- **Monday 16 December - P3RC, P3KT & P4EG**
- **Tuesday 17 December - P5HS & P5/P6PMcC**

Christmas dinner is on Thursday 12 December 2024. Children can wear Santa hats or Christmas hair bands.

Thanks to our kitchen staff who will be busy preparing our delicious dinner.



### Christmas Charity 2024

Over the past number of years, it has been the practice in Markethill Primary School that rather than parents buying Christmas presents for staff, they kindly make a donation to a particular charity. As a result of this, we have been able to support a number of charities such as Air Ambulance NI, the Southern Area Hospice, Mission Christmas and the Sepsis Trust.

This Christmas we are supporting Belfast Health and Social Care Trust Charitable Funds. Some members of our MPS school community have benefitted from the expert care offered within The Royal Victoria Hospital for Sick Children. Donations will be made to the Paediatric Intensive Care Unit and the Regional neonatal Intensive Care Unit.

If you wish to make a donation to the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust Charitable Funds in lieu of teacher presents, an envelope (1 per family) will be sent home the week beginning 9 December 2024. Please return the envelope by Wednesday 18 December 2024.

The staff would like to thank you for supporting this very worthwhile cause.

## Pupil Resources January 2024

When we commence our new term on Thursday 4 January 2024, 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!



## Walking Bus Day



Wednesday 4 December 2024

Meeting point  
Rear entrance to school at  
Bunker Hill



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.

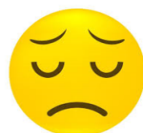
If you are late and miss the Walking Bus, it is the parent's/carer's responsibility to ensure children arrive at school safely.

## 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.

### MPS CHILD PROTECTION / SAFEGUARDING TEAM

|                                    |                                  |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <b>DESIGNATED TEACHER:</b>         | Mrs Pamela McCool                |
| <b>DEPUTY DESIGNATED TEACHERS:</b> | Mrs Sandra Black<br>Mr Kenny Qua |
| <b>GOVERNOR:</b>                   | Mr Timothy Wilson                |
| <b>PRINCIPAL:</b>                  | Dr Helen McLernon                |



If you need to talk to someone  
you can talk to...

Mrs McCool  
Mr Qua  
Mrs Black  
Dr McLernon





## 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.

### 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 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 9.00am the Friday before. Please note that after the Friday 9.00am deadline, no further bookings can be accepted for the incoming week. 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.*

**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.*



## Important Dates

| DECEMBER 2024 |  |
|---------------|--|
| Tue 3         | • Open Morning @ 9.30am  |
| Wed 4         | • Walking Bus @ 8.45am   |
| Thur 5        | • The Honey Bees and Harmony Bees Choirs singing at The Palace, Armagh – 6.30pm  |
| Fri 6         | • The Honey Bees and Harmony Bees Choir singing at St Mark's Col 6.00pm  |
| Mon 9         | • Final week of spellings, tables and reading – no written homework  |
| Tue 10        | • Christmas Concert@ 9.30am  |
| Wed 11        | • Christmas Concert @ 9.30am & 11.15am<br>• Pupil literacy, numeracy and WAU books sent home   |
| Thur 12       | • Christmas Dinner<br>• Pupil books returned<br>• The Harmony Bees Choir singing at Mullabrack Col<br>• Class Christmas Parties - P1KG, P1/P2SB and P2KS |
| Fri 13        | • Class Christmas Parties - P6AA, P6/P7KQ & P7RCh  |
| Mon 16        | • Class Christmas Parties - P3RC, P3KT & P4EG  |
| Tue 17        | • Class Christmas Parties - P5HS & P5/P6PMcC   |
| Wed 18        | • Celebration Assembly – Be a Good Listener P5HS/SM  |

|                            |   |
|----------------------------|---|
|                            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 12 Days of Christmas at assembly</li> <li>• The Harmony Bees and Honey Bees Choirs singing at Bright Hour, Markethill Presbyterian Church</li> </ul> |
| Thur 19 & Fri 20           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Christmas Jumper Days - £1.00 to school funds or £2.00 per family to contribute to fund - thank you!</li> </ul>                                      |
| Fri 20                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• School finishes for Christmas Holidays: P1 – P3 finish at 11.30am and P4 – P7 finish at 11.40am.</li> </ul>  |
| Mon 23 Dec –<br>Thur 2 Jan | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Christmas Holidays</li> </ul>  |
| <b>JANUARY 2025</b>        |   |
| Fri 3                      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• School reopens for the new term.</li> <li>• <b>PLEASE NOTE: NO BREAKFAST CLUB OR 123 CLUB AVAILABLE ON FRIDAY 3 JANUARY 2025.</b></li> </ul>         |

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

*H McLernon*