



Monkton PS and EYC



August 2023 Newsletter

Our Vision

*At Monkton, we encourage and support every child to be the best they can be. Our ambition is to close the attainment gap by stretching and challenging all children. Children are encouraged to have high standards and be aspirational about their future. A school in the community as well as a community in the school. **At Monkton We Fly As High As The Sky!***

Prestwick Cluster Values

For a number of years the school has shared values with the other schools in the Prestwick Academy cluster. These are Honesty, Compassion, Respect, Responsibility and Equality. The cluster schools have also created 'Our Prestwick Promise' which is-

"We aim to work collaboratively across the cluster, supporting and challenging each other to improve outcomes for children and young people and to help raise attainment for all. We will work together across establishments to support equity and address gaps by sharing time, expertise and resources. By working collaboratively, we endeavour to reduce workload and provide consistent approaches, pedagogy and systems to promote high quality learning and teaching."

Each year, we create a Prestwick Cluster Action plan which we work together on throughout the school session.

Aims

Fantastic futures for all!

Learning life skills!

You have pride in the school!

Hard working children and helpful staff!

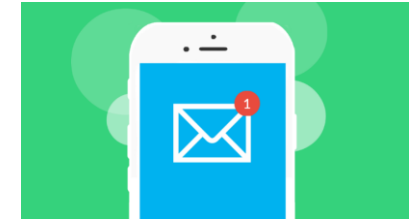
In Monkton, everyone is included!

Great learning experiences (including play)!

Heart of the Monkton community!



Message from Mrs Miller



Happy new school year! I hope that everyone is well and enjoyed the summer holiday break. The weather was not always in our favour but I hope that you were all able to enjoy some quality time with family and friends.

We are excited to start the 2023/24 school session and welcome our wonderful pupils back into the school and EYC. We are welcoming quite a few new children and families into our community including our new P1 children.

Staff have been in school in the last few days getting organised for our pupils returning on Monday. We will all work together to ensure that everyone settles well into the new academic year in our friendly, caring and nurturing environment.

We send good wishes to our former P7 pupils who are starting S1 next week – we wish them good luck!

If we can support in any way, please do not hesitate to get in touch. As always, we are here to help.

Mrs K Miller



Updates (UNCRC Article 17)



- We welcome Mrs Hosie, Miss Muir and Miss Whiteley to the school as class teachers and Mrs Nelson as our Additional Support for Learning teacher.
- At the Monkton Jubilee Gala, our school and EYC chocolate tombola stall raised £304 which will have gone into the school fund to help with activities / events. Thank you for all the donations of chocolate that we received for the stall.
- The Parent Council AGM is on Wednesday 13th September 2023 at 6:30pm in the school – all welcome including any new members who would like to join. The Parent Council support the school and plan events throughout the year – they already have a Bingo Night planned for early September!
- We encourage children to bring healthy snacks to school for break / lunch. No lollies please or items such as brain lickers etc. Children should bring a bottle of water (not juice) with them to drink throughout the day no fizzy juice or Prime please. Children should not bring gum to chew in class or school.
- Remember that we are a nut free school so please **do not** send your child to school with nuts (or products containing nuts).
- Remember all EYC, P1, P2, P3, P4 and P5 pupils are entitled to a Free School Meal so please make the most of this and encourage your child to try a school meal. The catering service is very good at Monkton and staff will go out of their way to ensure that children have a meal that they enjoy each lunch time. Please remember that if your child is having a school meal, then you should order their meal in advance via the Parent Pay app.
- If your child has a food allergy or dietary requirement, you are required to fill out a form to obtain a Medical Action Plan from the local authority so that the catering staff in the school are able to serve them a school meal. Please contact the school office.

- If your child has a Smart Watch and wears it to school, please ensure that it is on the **school mode setting for the full day** as no calls or texts should be made or received in school time for safety and GDPR issues.
- Any phones that come to school, should be handed into the office each morning and collected at the end of each day.
- For health and safety reasons, children should not wear their earrings on PE days. If they cannot remove them, please bring tape to cover them during PE lessons.
- On sunny days, please apply sun cream on your child before they come to the school and EYC.
- Children **should not** bring any personal items or toys to school e.g. Football cards, Pokemon cards or fidget toys in case they get lost or damaged.
- Wider achievements - we want to hear about anything special that your child has achieved out with school. Achievements will also be shared at assemblies each Friday morning. (UNCRC Articles 29 and 31).
- Prestwick Cricket Club are trying to get more girls and women playing cricket. Please contact David Haggio david.haggio@outlook.com for more information.
- NHS Ayrshire & Arran Health Improvement Team have created the following - <https://sway.office.com/LhZyU574mD2DOfD6?ref=Link> which contains information on Cost of Living Supports for people living in Ayrshire & Arran.

School Uniform

The wearing of school uniform is very much encouraged at Monkton and we would like every child to wear full uniform to school every day. Children should not wear casual clothes (unless there is a planned event), wear expensive, branded items and nor should wear football strips or colours to school. If a child does not wear their uniform to school, then they may be asked to borrow a spare item of uniform from the office to wear for the day.

Our uniform consists of:

- White or pale blue polo shirt or shirt and tie
- Black skirt, pinafore or trousers
- Blue tartan skirts or pinafores (if preferred)
- Royal blue sweatshirt or cardigan
- Black blazer or blue checked dresses (in summer)

Any items you may require during the year can be purchased from:

JW Brown, Shewalton Road Irvine Tel: 01294313863, Email:sales@jwbrownindustrial.com Website: jw-brown.co.uk

or

Trutex School Shop, 75 Dalblair Road, AYR KA7 1UQ Telephone: (01292) 291024

You may be eligible to apply for a school clothing grant - <https://beta.south-ayrshire.gov.uk/free-school-meals>

To avoid loss, please ensure that all your child's clothes and belongings are clearly labelled with their name.

Plan for this year



This school session, we will continue to open both gates in the morning and at the end of the day as the rear entrance is handy for those who live at the top of the village e.g. Fairfield Park and it reduces some of the congestion at the front of the school. Therefore, pupils will be able to enter the playground from whichever gate suits best from where they live / are dropped off.

The front and back gates will open at 8:50am each morning. All pupils will enter the school building at 9am each morning.

There will be one morning break for all P1-7 pupils from 10:30 am – 10:45 am. P1 pupils are going to go outside for a slightly later break when they first start until they get used to the school routines.

There will be one lunch time for all pupils from 12:30 pm - 1:15 pm. There will be a rota in operation with some classes going into the hall for lunch first and others going outside to play before being called in.

Home time will be 3pm each day. P1-3 pupils should be collected from front gates where possible (unless prior arrangement). P4-7 pupils can choose to leave via the front or back gate.

The EYC doors will open in the morning from 8:55-9:10am and be open for pick up between 2:45-3pm.

Respectful Relationships at Monkton

- We have a Respectful Relationships policy within the EYC and school. We have sent out a parent guide detailing this policy with this newsletter and ask that you read it and talk to your child about the expectations outlined in it before school starts.
- As a Gold Rights Respecting School, we will continue to embed our school charters and each class will create individual class charters to ensure that everyone has shared high expectations across the school and EYC.
- Our expectations will also be discussed and reinforced within classrooms, the playground and at weekly assemblies.
- This year as part of our School Improvement Plan, we will undertake a review of this policy and ask all stakeholders – pupils, parents and staff for their feedback on the policy – what is working and what is not. More details to follow.



Health and Safety

(UNCRC Articles 24 and 25)



Please remember the importance of playing your part in keeping us all safe and healthy. We respectfully remind everyone that:

- If possible, please bring your child / send your child to school / EYC for 9am (and not earlier). The **front and back gates** will open at **8:50am** and the **EYC doors** will open at **8:55am**.
- Please **do not double park, park on the pavement** or where there are **double yellow lines** at front of the school. Please be courteous to our neighbours and **do not park over their driveways**. Also please **do not park in the bus bay** which is clearly marked at the front of the school as buses use this. The police are continuing to monitor this.
- Please be aware that the **traffic is very congested** especially at pick up time when there are additional cars and buses around the school / up to the cross and main street. Please be extra vigilant and remind your child(ren) to be too.
- When you are dropping off / picking up your child from school / EYC, please **do not park in the school car park or drive down the back lane** unless you are a blue badge holder. Please remember that residents may be accessing the back lane therefore everyone should be extra vigilant if walking through that area and where possible, please walk down the path from Fairfield Park.
- Please **do not walk your child through the school car park** at any time.

Thank you!

Reporting to Parents this session

- This session the way that schools report to parents of P1-7 pupils has changed across the authority. The authority has specified that there should be two opportunities for parents to meet their child's class teacher and one detailed written report each school year. EYC children will have care plans written and shared with parents three times per year.
- As a school (and in line with the cluster schools), we have scheduled in our parents meetings for:-

Wednesday 11th October 2023 5:30-8pm or Thursday 12th October 2023 3:15-5:45pm

and

Wednesday 13th March 2024 – 3:15 – 5:45pm or Thursday 14th March 2024 – 5:30-8pm

As the school is now growing in size, we have decided to split parents meetings over two days. Also in response to feedback from parent / carers, we will offer afternoon and evening appointment options to try to help to accommodate work patterns and hours as well as childcare. In advance of these dates, you will be sent an email inviting you to book an appointment with your child's class teacher. On the day of your appointment, you will meet your child's class teacher(s) in the gym hall and then will have the chance to go along to your child's class to have a look at their work.

- At the beginning of June 2024, all Pre-school and P1-7 children will receive a written report from their key worker / class teacher which they will bring home to share with parent / carers. Again the information to be detailed in these has been specified by the authority – the format will be very similar to the final report from last session.
- In addition to the two formal parents meetings this session, we have decided to hold an informal 'meet the teacher' session on Friday 1st September 2023 where you can drop into your P1-7 child's classroom from 2:30-3pm to meet their class teacher and look at their classroom. Please note that teachers will not be able to discuss your child individually during this session. We will offer family learning opportunities throughout the year
- As always, we operate an open door policy so if you have any concerns or questions about your child's learning or progress throughout the year. please contact the school to make an appointment with their class teacher to discuss.



Items to bring to school

The school will provide all P1 pupils with a book bag to carry their reading book and any items of homework. They may wish to bring a school bag too but it is not a necessity. All children in P1-7 will receive a homework diary.

In class we do encourage the children to drink plenty of water, so please provide them each day with a filled water bottle. Children will not be permitted to drink flavoured water or juice throughout the day – only at break or lunch time. We do not allow fizzy juice, chewing gum or nuts (or nut products). Children can bring one small, healthy snack for break time – a piece of fruit, cereal bar or crisps would be best. We do not recommend sweets or sugary snacks.

Children do like to bring their own pencil case to school, but this is not compulsory as the school will provide stationery.

A gym kit should be provided for your child. This should include:

Slip on or Velcro black gym shoes , Shorts, White or pale blue t-shirt or polo shirt, Jogging trousers / leggings (for outdoors)

Children should keep their gym kit in a drawstring style, gym bag in August for them to keep their P.E. kit in. This bag can be left in the classroom, ensuring that the child has their kit available at all times. Please ensure that **all items have your child's name on them** before they are brought to school. You may wish to purchase Name Tag labels below.

Do you find your children lose uniforms and water bottles at school? Order name tags to reduce your loses and help support our parent council at the same time. We have signed up with My Name Tags which means that every order that is placed using our school ID the parent council get a percentage which supports our fund raising efforts. We all know the frustration of lost jumpers, hats, juice bottles and sometimes even shoes. My Name Tags are dishwasher proof, washing machine proof and can be personalised.

You can order by going to www.MyNameTags.com and entering Monkton's school ID: 22811. We appreciate your support during this time.

Monkton Parent Council



CALLING ALL
PARENTS &
CARERS!!



Have you ever thought "maths just isn't for me"?
Do you panic when you see your child's maths homework?
Are you confused by different maths strategies?
Do you struggle to support your child develop essential maths skills for life?

In conjunction with the Multiply Project, South Ayrshire Council are keen to support parents & carers develop key numeracy skills and confidence with maths. Click on the [link](#) or scan the QR code and complete the form if you're interested in finding out how you can support your child to gain confidence and a deep understanding of maths...



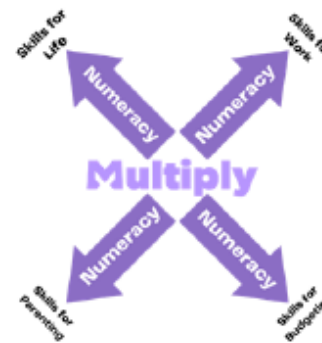
<https://forms.office.com/e/Bm96LOJaUN>

Please indicate your interest by completing the form by **8th September 2023**

N.B. This will allow us to plan a series of practical workshops designed to support you and your child develop a deeper understanding of maths.

Registration for workshops will be available from **18th September 2023**


**THRIVING
COMMUNITIES**



Win a £2,000 cycling voucher!

Win a £2,000 voucher or Garmin watch with our active travel quiz

Take our active travel quiz for your chance to win, we'll give you some great tips for greener travel along the way.

homeenergyscotland.org



[Home Energy Scotland](#) is offering people in South West Scotland the chance to win a £2,000 cycling voucher and pick up some great active travel tips.

Enter the quiz by answering three quick questions and leaving your details for the chance to win.

Three runners-up will each win a Garmin watch.

Scan the QR code to take part or enter [here](#).

Please also share our [social media post](#).



Dates for this term



School and EYC reopen for pupils (9am)
Home learning (homework) will start for pupils
School Photographs for EYC – P7 pupils (Photo Studio, Ayr)
Meet the Teacher (drop in to P1-7classrooms), 2:30-3pm
Parent Council AGM – 6:30pm in the school – all welcome
EYC Care plan meetings over next fortnight
Class newsletters will be sent home and put on website
Sponsored Event (details to follow)
School and EYC closed for long weekend
Maths Week Scotland
Dyslexia Week Scotland
Harvest collection for foodbank
P1-7 Parents' Evening, 5:30-8pm
EYC Stay and Play 9:15am
P1-7 Parents' Afternoon, 3:15-5:45pm
Harvest Assembly
School closes for October holidays at 3pm

Monday 21st August 2023
w/b Monday 28th August 2023
Tuesday 29th August 2023
Friday 1st September 2023
Wednesday 13th September 2023
w/b Monday 18th September 2023
Wednesday 20th September 2023
Thursday 21st September 2023
Friday 22nd & Monday 25th September 2023
w/b Tuesday 26th September 2023
w/b Monday 2nd October 2023
w/b Monday 9th October 2023
Wednesday 11th October 2023
Thursday 12th October 2023
Thursday 12th October 2023
Friday 13th October 2023
Friday 13th October 2023

Communication

Communication with parent / carers continues to be of utmost importance to us.

Important updates / information will be sent to you by **email** or **text** message so please check regularly for these.

Instagram is being used for reminders and to share learning in class (2 posts per week per class). Learning Journals is used in the EYC (minimum of 2 posts per child per week).

If you have any feedback, questions (however small) or information to be shared, please phone the school on **01292 473456** or email us – Monkton.Mail@south-ayrshire.gov.uk

If you have any class based / individual pupil concerns, please contact the office to arrange to talk to your child's class teacher or EYC key worker as first point of contact. In some circumstances, you may wish to talk to -

- **Mrs Miller** if your child is in **EYC, P1, P2** or **P3** or **Mrs Ramsay** if your child is in **P4, P5, P6** or **P7**.

If you are not happy with the outcome of your enquiry, you have the right to escalate your complaint to the authority -

<https://www.south-ayrshire.gov.uk/complaints/>



Contact Us



Monkton.Mail@south-ayrshire.gov.uk



<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/sa/monktonpsandeyc/>



m_p_s_2_r_h – Primary Instagram
EYC use Learning Journals



@MonktonPS – Primary and Early Years Twitter