



Monkton PS and EYC



September 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!

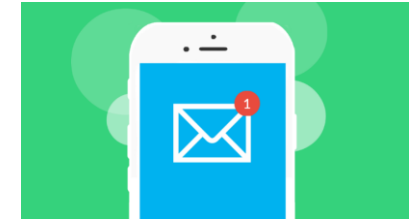
In Monkton, everyone is included!

Great learning experiences (including play)!

Heart of the Monkton community!



Message from Mrs Miller



We are already in September and we have been back in school for two weeks – time flies!

Our children have all settled in very well and seem happy to be back in the school routine. There have been very few tears from all of our new children (and staff) which has been great. Staff are enjoying being back and leading learning – we feel very honoured here at Monkton to have fantastic children who work hard and are keen to learn.

A big shout out to our P7 pupils who have been amazing buddies to the new P1 children – thank you for all of your help! P1 are already outside at break and lunch time with the whole school.

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 are looking for parents who have any particular interests or talents and who would like to help out in school for lunchtime or after school clubs either for sports or other activities. We also have particular events throughout the year like Fairtrade Fortnight and World of Work Week in February, when we will be looking for parent / carers with expertise or to share their job roles with pupils. Please get in touch with the office if you would be able to spare anytime to help. Thank you.
- We encourage children to bring healthy snacks to school for break / lunch. No lollies please or items such as brain lickers etc . 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 catering staff in the school are able to serve them a school meal. Please contact the school office.
- If your child has Asthma, their doctor or nurse should complete an Asthma Action Plan with you for them. Please send a copy into school / EYC with them. Please contact the school office for further detail.
- 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).

Health Promoting – Water Bottles

As a Health Promoting School and in line with the 'Nutritional Requirements for Food and Drink in Schools (Scotland) Regulations 2020', we encourage children in P1-7 to bring a bottle of water with them to drink throughout the school day. We have several water fountains located throughout the school which children can use to re-fill their water bottle when empty. Water bottles will be kept in the classroom with easy access for children to drink and teachers will encourage them to do so. Cups are available for filling with water if your child forgets their bottle or does not have a bottle.

Please DO NOT send your child with juice in a water bottle for them to drink throughout the day – this cannot be kept out in the classroom for them to drink. Drinking juice throughout the day has been clinically proven not to be good for teeth and not as beneficial for a child as water. Children may bring a small bottle or carton of juice (no fizzy juice or Prime please) to have for snack or with their packed lunch as dental experts say that it is healthier to have juice with a meal. Milk and water are both on offer in the dining hall for children to drink with their school lunch.

Children in the EYC do not need to bring a water bottle with them. They have direct access to water and milk to drink continuously throughout the day and are encouraged by staff to do so.

P1-7 Home Learning Tasks



- Each week class teachers will set tasks which reinforce the learning from the classroom which is to be completed at home. Children in P1-7 will have the following learning at home:-
 - 1 Phonics / Spelling task per week (to reinforce sounds or words)
 - 1 Reading task – reading a book or allocated chapter(s) per week
 - 1 Numeracy / Maths task per week (either written or online)
- Children are encouraged to read as much as possible at home. They should be encouraged to read what they enjoy including books, comics or magazines either with an adult, sibling or by themselves. Children in P3-7 can read a book at home and then complete the quiz (if there is one) on Accelerated Reader when they come into school.
- Each week, details of the home learning to be completed will be written in the homework diary along with the date it was issued and the due date. This will help parent / carers know what is to be done and, for older children, will allow them to keep track and learn independence skills which will help them when they move into secondary school. The homework diary should be signed by the parent/carer when home learning tasks are complete/at the end of the week.
- Home Work diaries should be brought to and from school each day. Please check this every evening when your child returns from school and your child's class teacher will write a note in the diary if there is anything that they need you to know. You may wish to write a short message to the class teacher in this, especially if your child is in the younger classes e.g. if your child did not sleep well the night before. However if it is something really important that you want the class teacher to know, please make sure that you email – Monkton.Mail@south-ayrshire.gov.uk or contact the main office.
- Please note that children will still have access to TEAMs and have a class team but we are not using this platform for Home learning this year.

Monkton Parent Council

The Parent Council needs you!! Monkton Primary Parent Council has been well established within the school for many years. We meet once a term and we aim to support the children attending Monkton Primary and Early Years Centre. We fundraise throughout the year to support school trips and resources.

We are currently looking for a secretary for the Parent Council but are also looking for general members to attend and become involved. If you are interested in being involved with the Parent Council please email monktonparentcouncil@gmail.com.

The Parent Council has a Facebook group for all parents – Monkton Primary Parents.



If you shop online, you can use the easy fundraising app and select 'Monkton Primary Parent Council South Ayrshire' as your preferred account and help us raise funds while shopping

We really are here to help in any way we can - if we can help with communication, funding or whatever else then please let us know.

The next meeting is our AGM on **Wednesday 13th September 2023 at 6:30pm in the school**. All welcome!



Monkton Primary Parents >

Private group · 139 members

[Join Group](#)

About

The group is for parents of children who attend Monkton Primary, South Ayrshir... [See More](#)

Aiden McLean - Active Schools Coordinator Prestwick Cluster

Aiden has created a sport and physical activity survey for parents of all P1-7s. This information will allow us to have a better picture of what pupils attend extra-curricular clubs, active communities and clubs outside of school. It would be much appreciated if you could take the time to fill out the online survey to help us with future planning, which can be found through the link below. If you are a parent of siblings, could you please complete 1 survey per child.

- <https://forms.office.com/e/F36AYPZgb2>

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.



Dates for this term



Meet the Teacher (drop in to P1-7classrooms), 2:30-3pm
Rag Bag recycling collection (bags will be sent home)
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
No Pens Day
Harvest Assembly
School closes for October holidays at 3pm

Friday 1st September 2023
w/b Monday 11th September 2023 return bags by Friday 15th Sept
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
Friday 13th October 2023

Christ in Action Food Bank



Monkton and Prestwick North Parish Church run their own food bank ([MPN Church Christ in Action Foodbank](#)) which helps to support those in the local community including Monkton who are struggling to provide food for themselves and their families.

The food bank is completely run by volunteers who give us their time to help and they do not limit the amount of times a person can access our food which is different to the other local foodbank.

All the donations to the food bank are from the public and other businesses including Sainsburys.

In October, you will remember that we did a collection for this food bank – thank you again for your donations.

We can make direct anonymous referrals to the food bank and the food could be delivered straight to the school for pick up. If you are struggling and would benefit from help from this service, please contact Mrs Kenny, Mrs Miller or Mrs Ramsay directly. We will treat your referral confidentially so please ask for help if you need it.

South Ayrshire Information and Advice Hub

The hub is a free, impartial and confidential advice and Information Service for people living in South Ayrshire.

- They can help you:
- Find out what DWP Benefits you are entitled to and help you to apply
- Appeal any DWP Benefit decisions you think are wrong
- Provide Money Advice including setting up a household budget
- Help you manage any debts including contacting the people you owe money to and making a personalised plan for you to help you get out of debt
- Get Fuel Advice and apply for grants to help with the cost of gas, electricity and oil costs/debt
- Access Food Banks
- Help with employment – from issues with your employer to help finding work
- Access partner agencies – we can refer you to a partner agency for a variety of different services dependant on your needs.
- A full list of the hub's services can be found on their website: [Information and Advice Hub - South Ayrshire Council \(south-ayrshire.gov.uk\)](https://www.south-ayrshire.gov.uk/information-and-advice-hub) The contact page details all of the ways you can get in touch. If you prefer to contact them digitally have a look at their online services page.

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