



Monkton PS and EYC Newsletter

November 2023

It's now November - it's darker at night and getting colder! The leaves are falling off the trees and crunch when you walk through them!

October was another busy month in our school and EYC. Almost all of our parent / carers met with class teachers during our parents evening and afternoon. We had a travelling book fair and now have commission from this to spend on books to replenish our libraries in school and the EYC - thank you. Parents and children from the EYC enjoyed weekly sessions with Nicola from the PEEP team as well as a Stay and Play session. We had a Harvest collection and donated to two local foodbanks (see below). We held a 'No Pens Day' to promote the importance of using listening and talking as a learning tool. The Parent Council organised a Halloween Disco which the children all enjoyed. Our P7 class organised a Halloween activity afternoon for all P1-6 children - a big thank you to them and to the staff involved for all their hard work.

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

Mrs Miller

Head Teacher

In This Newsletter



This monthly newsletter has lots of information about the school and the EYC including:

- *Updates*
 - *Learning, Teaching and Assessment zone*
 - *Dates for your diary*
 - *Community Noticeboard*
 - *Communication*
 - *Contact Us*
-

Updates



This section contains important updates and information.



School Car Park

Parent / carers should **not park in the school car park at any time** unless you are a blue badge holder. Our school car park is for staff and visitors only and we do not have enough spaces as it is. It is also very congested with staff and visitors arriving at drop off / pick up time so please do not walk your child through the car park. Thank you for your cooperation in keeping everyone safe!



Christ in Action
Food Bank
0200 453322

14th October 2023

Hello to all the children and their families and the staff from **Monkton Primary School** who donated food to the Christ in Action Food Bank at your recent Harvest Celebrations.

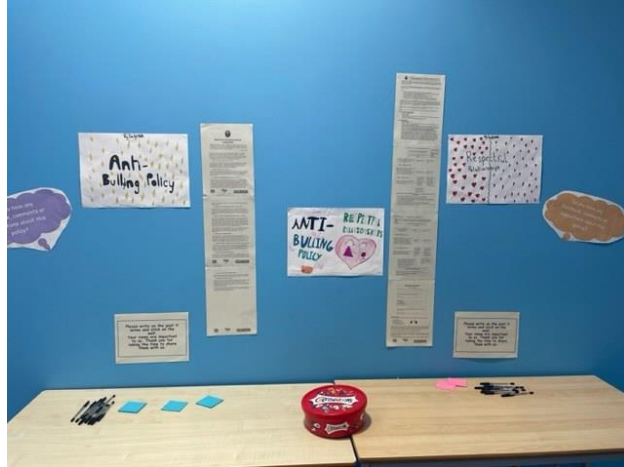
Every tin and packet will help to make a difference in someone's life who is finding it difficult to start their day to make a meal for breakfast, lunch or tea.

You helped to fill our shelves so we are ready to answer a call for help.

Sincere thanks from
the Trustees of Christ in Action Food Bank

Thank you

Thank you to those who were able to send in donations of food items for our Harvest collection. We shared the donations between two local food banks - the South Ayrshire one and the Christ in Action one which operates from the Monkton and Prestwick North Church. A worker from the South Ayrshire one came to our Harvest Assembly to thank the children for the donations and you will see the thank you letter from the Christ in Action food bank attached.



Parent / carer feedback on Respectful Relationships and Anti-Bullying Policies

This year as part of our School Improvement Plan, we are reviewing the [Respectful Relationship Policy](#) and [Anti-Bullying Policy](#). At our parents' evening and afternoon before the October break, we asked for feedback from you on both of these. Thank you to those who took the time to give us your views. If you haven't yet done so or have anything further to add, please email your views to Monkton.mail@south-ayrshire.gov.uk by Friday 10th November 2023. Thank you!

We will then collate this feedback and discuss further at the next Parent Council meeting on Wednesday 15th November 2023.



Living in Monkton event

Monkton Community Council is holding a 'Living in Monkton' event on Sunday 12th November 2023 in the Carvick Webster Hall from 1 - 4:30pm. Our P7 pupils are planning and helping to set up a stall for us which will include a raffle. All proceeds will go back to the school to help subsidise the P7 Residential Trip to Dumfries House in March 2024 and also towards events / activities / trips for the whole school. We are looking for donations of raffle prizes so if you have anything that you can donate for this - please send into the school office by 3pm on Friday 10th November 2023. Thank you!



NB4CC

Relieving Poverty

Night Before Christmas Campaign

After the success of last year's collection, again we are taking part in the Night Before Christmas Campaign <https://nightbeforechristmas.co.uk/> with donations going straight to local children and young people. Any donations that you have should be sent in between Monday 20th November and Friday 1st December 2023. There is no pressure to make a donation and we are aware that everyone's circumstances are different so please only make donations if you are able to - thank you.

EYC - Chocolate

P1 - Toothbrush/toothpaste

P2 - Hairbrushes/hot chocolate

P3 - Teddies/dolls/small toys

P4 - Colouring in books

P5 - Games

P6 - Stationery inc pencils and pens

P7 - Toiletries for older children

Staff - Pyjamas

If anyone is struggling for presents this year or is aware of a family who may be, please fill out the following link by Monday 4th December 2023 -

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=oyzTzM4Wj0KVQctawUZKceagIDV-KJlI67h-1p2oDpUMTM5VjIBTTdZROJIRIVUM0U0M1pYOEMzWS4u> and we will make a direct, anonymous referral to the charity. This will be treated in the strictest confidence.

Learning, Teaching and Assessment



School Improvement Visit

At the end of October, we had a team of colleagues from South Ayrshire Council come into the school and EYC for two days for a School Improvement Visit. The purpose of the visit was to see the work that we are doing around Learning, Teaching and Assessment to help us on our constant journey of improvement. The visitors spoke to staff, pupils and parents during their time in school. The visit went well and the team commented on the welcoming, nurturing ethos of the school and EYC. They also highlighted the positive relationships, hard work of the staff and the team approach as being strengths. They validated that staff know children and families well. They agreed with the strengths as outlined in our [Standards and Quality Report](#) and next steps that we had identified through our [School Improvement Plan](#). The team will send us a report of their visit and a letter for parents which we will share as soon as we can.

National Standardised Assessments for Scotland (NSA)

This month, all P4 and P7 children will complete National Standardised Assessments (NSA) with their class teacher. P1 will complete these in April / May 2024. In August 2017 Scottish Government introduced the NSA, a single, nationally developed set of standardised assessments for aspects of literacy and numeracy, designed to align with the way we deliver education in Scotland through Curriculum for Excellence. All children in P1, P4, P7 and S3 are assessed once a year (using NSA) in aspects of reading, writing and numeracy. In addition to NSA, ongoing and informal assessment continues to be a central part of everyday assessment in schools. The NSA assess aspects of reading, writing and numeracy, providing teachers with diagnostic information on children's progress in these areas. Children complete the assessments online and they are marked automatically. This gives teachers immediate diagnostic feedback that they can use to help children progress in literacy and numeracy.

Dates for your diary



Sunday 12th November 2023 - P7 (and any other pupils who would like to join us) to Remembrance Day service at 11am at Monkton Cross

Monkton Community Council Living in Monkton event 1-4:30pm in the Carvick Webster Hall

Week beginning Monday 13th November 2023 - Book Week Scotland

Wednesday 15th November 2023 - P1 Open afternoon 3-6pm - for parents whose child(ren) are starting P1 in August 2024 Parent Council Meeting 6:30pm in school meeting room - all welcome

Friday 17th November 2023 - Children in Need - dress down or wear pyjamas and send in a donation (only if you are able to)

Book Week Scotland - Sharing the learning event - P1-3 parents invited to attend from 1:30-2:30pm

Tuesday 21st November 2023 - P5 Day of Dance

Friday 8th December 2023 - Christmas Fayre 1:30-2:30pm - parents welcome

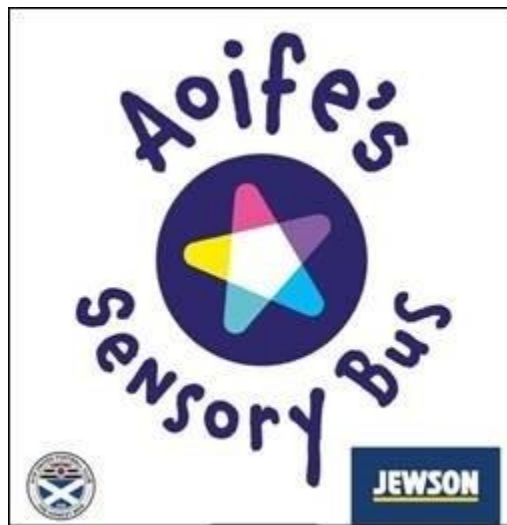
Tuesday 12th December 2023 - P1 and P2 Nativity 9:30am (2 tickets per child)
EYC Christmas Performance then Stay and Play 2pm

Thursday 14th December 2023 - EYC and School Christmas Lunch

Thursday 21st December 2023 - P1-7 to Pantomime at Gaiety Theatre, Ayr

Friday 22nd December 2023 - School closes for holidays at 2:30pm (EYC pick up from 2:30-3pm)

Community Noticeboard



This weekend Aoife's Sensory Bus will visit Somerset Park for Ayr United's game against Queen's Park. There will be an opportunity for families to visit the bus and also watch the game in a dedicated area on Saturday. Details can be found <https://ayrunitedfc.co.uk/aofes-sensory-bus>

ASN Family Support Network ...
Upcoming events

<p>Wed 31 Jan 2024 Ayr Grammar Primary 6.30 - 8pm "Supporting your child with Literacy Difficulties" <i>Holly McBlane from South Ayrshire Reads</i> To book contact Fiona.priestnall@south-ayrshire.gov.uk</p>	  <p>ASN Family Support</p> <p>Offering support, advice and friendship for any parents and carers of young people with Additional Support Needs (ASN) living in South Ayrshire</p> 
<p>Tue 20 Feb 2024 Ayr Grammar Primary 6.30 - 8pm "Supporting young people with ADHD" <i>Tanya Tenant from Tanya Tenant Autism Training and Consultancy</i> To book contact Fiona.priestnall@south-ayrshire.gov.uk</p>	
<p>Wed 24 April 2024 in Walker Halls, Troon 1-5pm: this year's theme is "Transitions"</p> <p>Over 40 charities and third sector organisations offering support and advice. Keynote speakers including Tanya Tenant on "Transitions from Secondary Education"</p> <p>No need to pre-book for this event</p>	
<p>Further information from fiona.priestnall@south-ayrshire.gov.uk Or ASN Website www.south-ayrshire.gov.uk/asn</p>	

Starting Primary One in Aug 2024?

Prestwick Cluster would like to invite you to visit our schools.

 <p>St Ninian's Primary 6th November 3pm - 5pm</p>	 <p>Glenburn Primary 7th November 3pm - 5pm</p>	 <p>Kingsase Primary 9th November 3.15pm - 5pm</p>
 <p>Symington Primary 13th November 3pm - 5pm</p>	 <p>Monkton Primary 15th November 3pm - 5pm</p>	 <p>Heathfield Primary 14th November 3pm - 5pm</p>

Communication



Communication with parents / 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 are used in the EYC (minimum of 1 post per child per week). You will receive 2 class newsletters per year outlining what your child will be learning in class: EYC - P7.

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**.

Please **do not email class teachers, HT or DHT directly** as they may be out of school with no access to emails. Instead, please contact the school office to make an appointment or email the school mailbox with your enquiry. It will be passed on and they will respond to you during school hours usually within 5 days.

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



01292 473456



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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

Our Vision, Values and Aims



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 endeavor 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!