



# Monkton PS and EYC Newsletter August 2024

Happy new school year! I hope that everyone is well and enjoyed the summer holiday break. I hope that you were all able to enjoy some quality time with family and friends even in the rain!

Our staff are excited to start the 2024/25 school session and welcome our amazing pupils back into the school and EYC. We are welcoming some new children and families into our community including our new P1 children. Staff are in the school for the next few days getting organised for our pupils returning on Tuesday. 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. Please do not email staff directly but instead please email the school mailbox on [Monkton.Mail@south-ayrshire.gov.uk](mailto:Monkton.Mail@south-ayrshire.gov.uk) or contact the school office on **01292 473456** and your enquiry will be directed to the right person.

Mrs Miller

Head Teacher

## In This Newsletter



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

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- *Dates for your diary*
    - *Updates*
  - *Learning, Teaching and Assessment zone*
    - *Community Noticeboard*
    - *Communication*
    - *Contact Us*
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## Dates for your Diary (UNCRC Articles 28, 29 and 31)



**Tuesday 20th August 2024** - Pupils start back after summer holidays at 9am (P1 children at 9:05am and EYC children 9:30 or 10am - on letter)

**Wednesday 28th August 2024** - Parent Council AGM at 7pm in the school meeting room - all parent / carers welcome including new members who would like to join

**Monday 2nd September 2024** - Home learning (homework) will start for pupils . In the meantime, children can read or complete Sumdog / Education City tasks at home.

**Wednesday 4th September 2024** - Photo Studio, Ayr in school / EYC to take photographs of all children

**Friday 6th September 2024** - Meet the Teacher (classroom / EYC open for parents to come in and see classroom and meet staff) 2:30-3pm

**Friday 20th and Monday 23rd September 2024** - School / EYC closed for long weekend

## Updates (UNCRC Article 17)



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*This section contains important updates and information.*

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### **New Staff**

We welcome some new staff to the school and EYC this session. Mr John Calder has begun as our janitor and we have welcomed a new cleaner to the team too. Mrs Kayleigh Thomson has joined us as an EYP in the EYC after working in Prestwick North EYC. Mrs Kerr has started as a school assistant and will work with us for this academic year. We welcome Miss Clark, Miss Walker and Mr Cairns as new teachers to the school. We are also welcoming back Miss Muir who was with us last year. Mr Cairns and Miss Muir are unable to start until the beginning of September so Mrs Ramsay and Mrs Miller will cover for them until then. Mrs Low, Additional Support for Learning Teacher will be in the school one day per week. Also Pamela Campbell joins the catering team in the kitchen. We are delighted that these new members of staff have joined our wonderful team!

### **Gala Thank You**

We raised £193.53 for the school / EYC fund at the Monkton Gala on Saturday 8th June 2024. A big thank you again to all those who donated bottles to the stall and who helped our stall on the day. If you have any feedback or ideas for next year's gala or if you would like to be part of the group that helps to organise the gala, please send an email to the school mailbox. Thank you!



### **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:

- 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 continue 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!



#### **Items Needed Please**

The EYC are looking for items for their outdoor mud kitchen so if anyone has any of these items that they are finished with, that are in good used condition, please hand them into the EYC or main office:-

- Pots
- Cups

- Kitchen utensils
- Baking trays
- Scales
- Measuring jugs
- Recipe books
- Chopping boards
- Cutlery
- Plates

The younger classes in the school are looking for:-

- Hard bodied baby dolls in good condition
- Baby doll clothes and accessories
- Fire engines / accessories
- Playdough rollers / cutters

Thank you in advance!

### Football Strip Sponsorship

Our football team require new football strips for this season so we are reaching out to see if anyone is able to (or knows anyone who might be able to) sponsor or help us get new kits for the P6/7 school team. Please contact the school office if you think you can help or have any ideas of who to contact for this. Thank you!



**Annual data packs have now been sent out through Parentsportal for all P2-P7 pupils ready for checking and updating if necessary. P1 pupils will be available once parents have signed up (info to be sent out this week). Apologies but unfortunately parents who completed data checks in June will need to complete again as data was deleted over the summer holidays.**

**Absences can now be reported through ParentsPortal and we would really encourage everyone to use this facility and report before 9am, Office staff will acknowledge the message and you will then receive confirmation.**

## Sign Up to Parentsportal

Monkton Primary School and Early Years Centre recently went live with Parentsportal and we currently have a **90.3%** uptake. We are keen to encourage as many parents as possible to sign up to this new system to fully achieve the benefits offered. Parentsportal provides a secure digital solution to the traditional school bag run, making it easier for parents and carer's to manage paperwork connected with school activities, allowing them to obtain information about their child's educational progress at a time that suits them. This will include access to information such as Annual Data Packs which can now be offered online, consent forms, parental reports, pupil timetables, school calendar, school notices, etc as well as providing links other useful sites, such as Parent Pay, South Ayrshire Council website, and more. We will also be introducing additional services to the platform during 2024.

## How to access Parentsportal

1. Download the parentsportal.scot APP using the QR codes (picture beside)

OR visit <https://parentsportal.scot/home/>.

2. Log in to Parentsportal using '**my account**'. If you already have a mygovscot '**my account**' click the link to **Sign In**. If you don't have a mygovscot '**my account**' click the link to register for this in the first instance, and then sign In.

3. Once registered you will be prompted to '**Link Your Child**' where you can provide details relating to your child. Once the details are matched you will be sent a security code to either your mobile number or email address registered with the school. The security code is to provide additional security before your child's record is linked. Your request will then be sent the school for approval and you will be notified of the decision to approve the link on your email.

4. The details added must match the information held within the school or a match may not be found. If anyone has any issues, please contact the office who will be able to provide assistance.

## Learning, Teaching and Assessment (UNCRC Articles 28 and 29)



### School Day Arrangements

This 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 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. Both gates are supervised by staff in the mornings who welcome the children into the playground.

The front and back gates will open at 8:50am each morning. All children should be dropped off at the gate and walk up to their class gardens. Staff and buddies will be there to welcome and help support children if required. 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.

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 (unless prior arrangement). P4-7 pupils can choose to leave via the front or back gate. **Only P1 parents should come inside the front gate at pick up** time and when collected, children should stand with an adult then they should leave the playground immediately when collected in order to avoid congestion. Thank you for your cooperation with this.



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

There is a breakfast club that is operated by Fly High from 7:45am – 9am each morning in the school dining hall. More information on this can be obtained by phoning (01292) 475360 or emailing [info@flyhighearlylearning.co.uk](mailto:info@flyhighearlylearning.co.uk).

After School provision is available and more information can be found here: [Out of School Club in Prestwick - Prestwick Afterschool Care - Childcare.co.uk](http://Out of School Club in Prestwick - Prestwick Afterschool Care - Childcare.co.uk)



*1 - Uniform for 2024*

### **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.

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](mailto:sales@jwbrownindustrial.com) Website: [jwbrown.co.uk](http://jwbrown.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 -

If anyone is struggling to afford or to get uniform, please get in touch and we can help.

**To avoid loss or mix ups, please ensure that all your child's clothes and belongings are clearly labelled with their name before they start school.**



### **Items to bring and Name Labels**

The school will provide P1 children 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. Children will receive a homework diary which they should bring to and from school each day. Please check the diary each night as staff may write notes in them. You may wish to write a short note in the diary to staff although please note if it is something urgent or regarding medication, please contact the office to ensure that the message gets to the member of staff immediately. Thank you.

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 so please do not add juice to the water bottles. 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 in the EYC will be provided with snacks and drinks (milk and water) therefore there is no need to bring any food or a water bottle to the EYC.

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:

Trainers or 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 for them to keep their P.E. kit in. Please send in gym bags as early on in the new term as you can. 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.

## **Name Tags**

Do you find your children lose uniforms and water bottles at school? Order name tags to reduce your losses 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 fundraising 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](http://www.MyNameTags.com) and entering Monkton's school ID: 22811



## **Positive Relationships and Behaviour at Monkton**

Last session, we updated our relationships policy after consultation with pupils, parents and staff. The updated parent / carer leaflet will be emailed out to all parent / carers and is also available on the school website. We ask that you read through the leaflet and talk to your child about the expectations outlined in it before school starts. Thank you!

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 assemblies by all school staff.



### **Reporting to Parents this session**

This session the school will report to parents of P1-7 pupils the same way as we did last session in line with the authority's guidance on this. There will be two formal 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:-

**Thursday 10th October 2024 3:15-5:15pm or 5:45-8pm**

and

**Thursday 27th March 2025 – 3:15-5:15pm and 5:45-8pm**

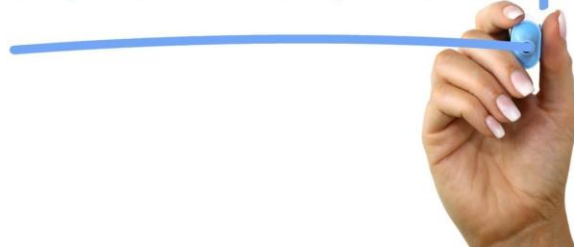
We will offer afternoon and evening appointment options to try to help to accommodate work patterns and hours as well as childcare. In advance of these dates, you will be sent an email inviting you to book an appointment with your child's class teacher. On the day of your appointment, you will meet your 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 2025, 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. The format will be very similar to the final report from last session and is used across the cluster by all the primary schools.

In addition to the two formal parents meetings this session, we have decided to hold an informal 'meet the teacher' session on Friday 6th September 2024 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. As we did last year, we will offer family learning opportunities throughout the year in order to share learning (more details to follow).

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.

# REPORTING



**Community Noticeboard** (UNCRC Articles 18, 24, 29 and 31)



## Communication (UNCRC Articles 3 and 5)



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). 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](mailto: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 (UNCRC Articles 5 and 18)





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[Monkton.Mail@south-ayrshire.gov.uk](mailto:Monkton.Mail@south-ayrshire.gov.uk)

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

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*m\_p\_s\_2\_r\_h (Primary Instagram)*

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*[@MonktonPS – Primary and Early Years](#)*

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**Our Vision, Values and Aims** (UNCRC Article 2 and 29)



## **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!***

## **Our Values**

The school values are **Honesty, Compassion, Respect, Responsibility and Equity.**

For a number of years, the school has shared values with the other schools in the Prestwick Academy cluster. 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.

## **Our 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!**