



Monkton PS and EYC Newsletter May 2025

As we enter May, the sun has been shining and the light, early mornings and evenings are stretching even further. This month, Spring will start turning into summer - hopefully!

April has been another quick and busy month with a successful P7 Residential Trip to Dumfries House, an EYC Stay and Play and the Easter holidays. May is going to be a busy month in our Early Years Centre and school with bank holidays, reports being written and some class events / trips. Please take note of the 'Dates for the Diary' section for more information on key events including trips, Sports Day, the Monkton Gala, Leavers' Ceremony and EYC Graduation.

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 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



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

- *Dates for your diary*
- *Updates*
- *Learning, Teaching and Assessment Zone*
- *Community Noticeboard*
- *Communication*

- *Contact Us*

Dates for your Diary (UNCRC Articles 28, 29 and 31)



Thursday 1st May 2025 - P7 Transition event - Newton Racers at Prestwick Academy.

Monday 5th May 2025 - School and EYC closed for holiday.

Tuesday 6th May - Friday 9th May 2025 - Screen Awareness Week - cluster parent workshop on Thursday 8th May at 6pm at Prestwick North Community Campus.

Friday 23rd May 2025 - Dress Down Day - all pupils and staff to dress down / bring a bottle donation for Gala (see Gala section below).

Monday 26th May 2025 - School and EYC closed for holiday.

Tuesday 27th May 2025 - Inservice Day - school and EYC closed for all pupils.

Wednesday 29th May 2025 - New P1 PEEP sessions at 9:15am or 10:15am.

Monday 2nd June - Friday 6th June 2025 - Fit & Fun Fest week (see separate letter sent out)

Monday 2nd June 2025 - EYC Trip.

Tuesday 3rd June 2025 - Sports Day races on field behind school (weather permitting), 1:30-2:30pm - all parent / carers welcome.

Wednesday 4th June 2025 - P2/1 and P2 Trip.

Friday 6th June 2025 - Reports available on ParentsPortal.

Saturday 7th June 2025 - Monkton Gala - 12-4pm on playing fields behind school.

Tuesday 10th - Thursday 12th June 2025 - P7 - S1 Transition Days at Prestwick Academy

Wednesday 11th June 2025 - Whole School Bump up 1:45-2:30pm.

Thursday 12th June 2025 - EYC New start BookBug session for new children.

Tuesday 17th June 2025 - PEEP Teddy Bear's picnic for new P1 pupils at 1:45pm.

Thursday 26th June 2025 - P7 Leavers' Assembly - 9:30-10:30am - all P7 parent / carers welcome.

Ice Cream van treat - being paid for by Parent Council for all pupils and staff - thank you!

Friday 27th June 2025 - EYC Graduation - 10:30am - all EYC parent / carers welcome.

School closes for summer holidays at 1pm. (EYC open until 3pm although children can be collected at 1pm if preferred).

Updates (UNCRC Article 17)



This section contains important updates and information.



School Meal update

If your child is not eligible for a free school meal they will no longer be able to order lunch in school if there is no money on their account. They will be given a sandwich, piece of fruit and cup of water until their account has been topped up. To clarify, the whiteboard in class will not hide your child's name it will simply prevent them from seeing the meal choices.

Parents will be notified by email on Fridays if their child's account shows a negative balance.

Please note that using One Click on ParentPay can also take time to show on your child's account so please top up the day before to avoid any issues.

Can we also ask that all parents where possible order lunches from home to avoid any issues going forward and to save time in class, thanks.



MONKTON GALA DAY 2025 – Saturday 7th June 2025

Monkton Gala is back for 2025 so save the date! After another successful community gala last year, the gala committee has been working hard to arrange another fun event for the people of Monkton! So far, we have confirmed the following:-

- Evening events during the week of the gala including welly throwing competition on the playing field behind the school at 6pm on Tuesday 3rd June 2025, a treasure hunt on Thursday 5th June 2025 at 6:30pm and pop-up 'Wicked' cinema event at 6pm on Friday 6th June 2025 in the Carwick Webster Hall.

- Entertainment on the day including a DJ and performances including a pipe band and line dancing.
- Games and sport activities from Active Schools, Silly Gilly and Killie Community.
- Alpacas, face painting, climbing walls, bungee trampoline, slides and bouncy castles.
- Ice cream van, sweets and cakes stalls, coffee stall, chippy van, pizza van and a licensed bar.

The gala committee needs the support of local business to help with funding, raffle prizes and to get involved to contribute to the success of the Gala. If you can *donate a prize for the raffle* (even small items that can be used to make a hamper) would be appreciated and you can hand into the school office *by Friday 30th May 2025*. The committee are also looking for *volunteers* to help on the day - please contact Catherine Robertson, Chair of Monkton Gala Group (Sub-committee of Monkton Community Council) on clroberton4@btinternet.com if you can help - thank you.

This year, the Parent Council and school are working together on their stalls. We plan on running a 'Mystery Bottle' stall again - we are looking for donations of bottles (both alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages - even bottles of water). Children and staff are invited to *dress down on Friday 23rd May 2025* (no football colours or strips please) and *bring a bottle as a donation*. Could parents please hand in any bottles of alcohol straight into the office that day please - thank you. We will also use bottle bags so please also send them in if you have any to spare. We will be selling off the rest of the books that were donated for World Book Day for a small donation. The pupils in the Pupil Council have been asked to help out at the stall on the day - a letter with details will follow.

There is also P6 fundraising group who have formed to help to raise money for their P7 residential trip, leavers' hoodies and events next year. They are asking for donations of pre loved soft toys for a teddy tombola, preferably already wrapped if possible. Donations can be dropped off at the school office between 1st May and 30th May 2025. Thank you!

The EYC will also have a couple of activities at our stall to help to fundraise for some new outdoor equipment.

Please get in touch if you are able to help sort / organise items in the run up to the gala or at these stalls on the day of the gala - thank you!

We hope that you can come along to support the school, EYC and Parent Council at the Gala on the 7th June 2025 - its sure to be lots of fun!



Safeguarding at Monkton

The safety and wellbeing of children at Monkton Primary School and Early Years Centre is our upmost priority. If you have any concerns about a child protection matter, please contact the school to make an appointment with Mrs Miller (Child Protection Coordinator) or Mrs Ramsay (Depute Child Protection Coordinator). Both the HT and DHT are also PREVENT officers.

Our [Child-Protection-Guidelines-2024-25.pdf](#) can be found on the school / EYC website.

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



New report format

Teaching staff are currently preparing the annual reports for all P1-7 pupils. This year, we are trialing electronic reports which will be sent out on ParentsPortal on Friday 6th June 2025. As well as being eco friendly as we are not using paper to print reports out, once they are posted onto the portal, they can be accessed at any point and will be stored to be referred back to. The report will contain the same elements as previously (CfE levels for all areas, comments for Literacy and Numeracy as well as a general comment) albeit in a different layout. This is the same format that Prestwick Academy use and us along with two other primary schools in the Prestwick Cluster have opted to try these. Most of our parent / carers have signed up for ParentsPortal but if you do not have access please contact the office to help you to sign up or to request a print out of your child's report. We will be asking for feedback after the reports are issued which we will discuss with the cluster before making plans for reports next session.

Thank you!



Parent Volunteers for Extra Curricular Activities

We have had some recent feedback about the limited staffing and resources that we currently provide for some of our extra curricular clubs including the boys and girls football teams. The school day is 9am - 3pm and although we need to prioritise learning and teaching during this time, we recognise the importance of providing extra curricular opportunities for all pupils, especially those children who are not able to access these activities outwith school. We rely on staff volunteers to run after school clubs in their own time which many staff cannot do because of their own commitments. The staffing capacity continues to be very tight in the school and we have little flexibility to provide training sessions during the day. School budgets are also limited to provide specialist equipment and sometimes the extra resources required.

Active Schools play a key role in providing opportunities during the school day and after school - they also provide many of the resources required. They also organise a competitive calendar of competitions and events across the year - we try to attend as many of these as we can so that children have opportunities to take part and compete as well as meet new friends. Over the past two years, we have tried to make sure that we attend all of the cluster school events . Each event costs us money to travel to venues - buses are very expensive but we try to travel with Symington, where possible, to reduce costs. Moving forward, we are planning on asking parents of children involved, for a small donation to help towards the cost of the bus travel, if they are able to contribute to it.

Many other schools have parent volunteers who coach the school football teams therefore we are asking if there are any parent / carers who are willing to give up some time, after school or at lunchtime to provide training / support to lead either of our football teams. There is an opportunity for a football tournament arranged by the Ayr & District Primary Schools Committee towards the end of May for both teams so it would be ideal if we were able to have a few training sessions before then. We would also love to be able to offer more extra-

curricular clubs either at lunchtime or after school including art, music or games so if any parent / carers would be able to offer any time to help share their expertise in other areas, please get in touch. Please email Monkton.mail@south-ayrshire.gov.uk if you would like to help out in any way and let us know your availability. We would be very grateful for any help that you are able to offer, even just a few hours - thank you!

Please note that parent volunteers may need to be PVG / Disclosure checked so if you volunteer, then you would need to be willing to do this. Thank you.



Next year's class structure and staffing

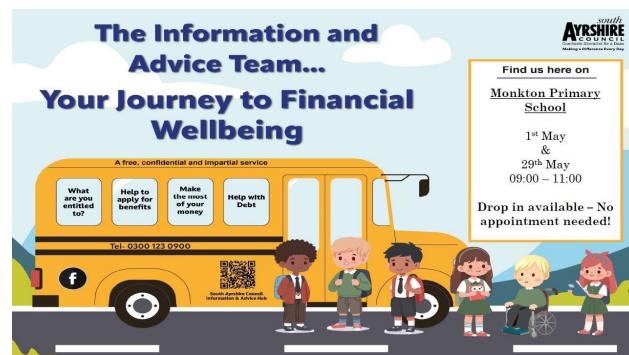
We can confirm that our class structure for next session will consist of 7 classes - **P1, P3/2, P3, P4, P5, P6, P7**. We have a low intake of P1 children for next session.

Class teachers will work closely with the HT / DHT when forming the composite P3/2 class, taking social friendships and academic progress into consideration. More information on composite classes can be found here - Information on composite classes - [Information on composite classes - South Ayrshire Council](#)

We are currently working with the local authority to finalise our staffing for next session. We are unlikely to have our teaching staffing confirmed until late May, therefore it is unlikely that we will be able to share our final plans with parents / carers until June - probably just before the bump up afternoon on 12th June 2025.

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







Firstly, Ayr United Football Academy has thanked schools for sharing our Easter camps as they were a huge success and had over 200 children attending their camps across the 2 weeks at Easter.

They will be hosting 3 days of Football Camps during the month of May - please see link below:-

<https://ayr-united-football-academy.classforkids.io/camp/80>

Thank you for your continued support.

SCREENS AWARENESS/USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA
PARENT/CARER SESSION - Thursday 8th May at 6pm Prestwick North Campus
PRESTWICK CLUSTER PRIMARY SCHOOLS

NHS
Ayrshire & Arran

SCREEN AWARENESS

- Do you worry about the amount of time your child spends on screens?
- Can screen time interfere with your family life?
- Would you like to reduce your own screen time?
- Do you worry about the impact screens are having on your children?

USING SOCIAL MEDIA

- *Do you know what your child is doing on their mobile device?
- *Do you know who they are sending messages to and the content of these messages?
- *Do you regularly monitor your child's use of social media?

- Do you worry about the unsafe disclosure of personal information that children might share?
- Are you aware of cyber bullying - language being used online and the sending and posting of harmful/malicious material online about other children?

Come and find out what you can do to BE SCREEN SMART and be involved in Screens Awareness Week with us!

South Ayrshire Speech and Language Therapy and PC Sykes are hosting a parent/carer information event for primary school parents/carers on Thursday 8th May at 6pm at Prestwick North Campus.

Please complete form below to confirm your attendance.

<https://forms.office.com/e/h7BEpkxR7G>

Prestwick Town Twinning Association
TREASURE HUNT
22nd May- 12th June, 2025



FREE entry for adults and children
Collect entry forms from **Daisy Chain**

See gifts given over 50 years of Twinning, with Germany, Italy and Ohio

Like our Facebook page where you can view more items and learn what we get up to

Open to everyone living and working in Ayrshire.



**WEDNESDAY
21ST MAY 25
AYR TOWN HALL**

**ASN
FAMILY
FORUM**

DOORS OPEN 11.30

*** **Tanya Tenant** ***
Building Emotional
Resilience and Anxiety
Workshop
12.30 - 1.30
1.30 - 2.00 Questions

Market Stalls full of Support
11.30 - 3.00

Over 25 Organisations

Including:
Social Security Scotland
Spotty Zebras
NEST
VASA
Aberlour

ASN Family Support
Offering support, advice
and friendship for any
parents and carers of young
people with Additional
Support Needs (ASN)
living in South Ayrshire.

AYRSHIRE
Scotland'sennifer City

MONKTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL
PRESENTS

Monkton Gala Day

**Saturday 7th
June 2025**

Monkton Playing Fields

12-4pm

Fun activities for all ages

DJ -Dance Shows - Children's Games - Bouncy
Castles Climbing Walls- Food & Drink-Craft Stalls -
Face Painting-Alpaca -Outdoor Games -Tombola
Stalls



Step into Spring Safely

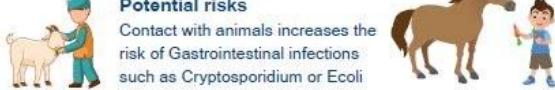
The weather is getting warmer and Spring is on its way... here are some tips to keep germs at bay...

NHS Ayrshire & Arran's Health Protection Team

If visiting an animal park or farm and feeding or petting animals it is very important to wash your hands thoroughly when finished.

Potential risks

Contact with animals increases the risk of Gastrointestinal infections such as Cryptosporidium or Ecoli



Prevention

- Wash hands thoroughly with soap and running water after petting or feeding animals
- Supervise children washing their hands
- Wash hands before eating
- Use designated cafes or picnic areas
- Avoid the use of alcohol gel

Symptoms to look out for

- Watery diarrhoea
- Stomach pains
- Nausea and vomiting
- Temperature 37.8 °C or above



What to do if you are worried

Speak to your GP regarding your symptoms (Monday – Friday)
Call NHS 24 on 111 (out of hours)

Did you know?

That alcohol gel is less effective than soap and water at removing certain kinds of germs like Cryptosporidium or Norovirus.



Communication (UNCRC Articles 3 and 5)



Communication with parents / carers continues to be of upmost importance to us and we will communicate in a variety of ways.

Please report absences before 9:30am each morning via ParentsPortal if you can. Use the 'Absence Reporting' tile to do so. This can also be used to record appointments or any time that our child is required to be out of school.

Important updates / information will be sent to you by **email** so please check daily for these. SMS **text** messages will only be sent if your child is absent (if you have not informed us) or for urgent information.

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.

We have created a summary of the online platforms that we use and what information will be sent using each one - [Communication-Strategy-Jan-25.pdf](#)

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 (UNCRC Articles 5 and 18)



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)



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

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!