



Monkton PS and EYC Newsletter August 2025

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 2025/26 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 Wednesday. 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 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*

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



Wednesday 21st August 2025 - Pupils start back after summer holidays at 9am (P1 children at 9:05am and EYC children 9:30 or 10am or 10:30am - on letter)

Monday 1st September 2025 - Home learning (homework) will start for pupils . In the meantime, children can read or complete Sumdog / Education City tasks at home.

Wednesday 3rd September 2025 - Photo Studio, Ayr in school / EYC to take photographs of all children

Friday 5th September 2025 - Meet the Teacher (classroom / EYC open for parents to come in and see classroom and meet staff) 2:30-3pm

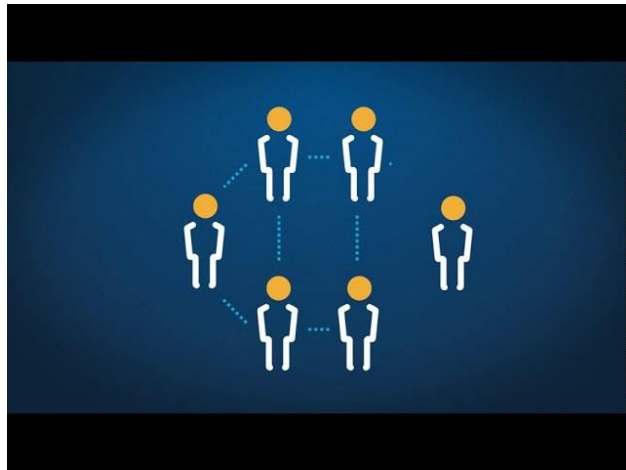
Wednesday 17th September 2025 - Parent Council AGM at 6:30pm in the school meeting room
- all parent / carers welcome including new members who would like to join

Friday 19th and Monday 22nd September 2025 - School / EYC closed for long weekend

Updates (UNCRC Article 17)



This section contains important updates and information.



Staffing Update

We welcome some new staff to the school and EYC this session. Mrs Julie Grant has joined us as an EYP in the EYC. Mrs Wright and Miss Hughes have started as school assistants and will work with us for this academic year. We welcome Mrs S Mackay and Mrs C MacKay as new teachers to the school. Mrs C MacKay is unable to start until the beginning of September so Mrs Ramsay will cover P7 until then. We are delighted that these new members of staff have joined our wonderful team! Congratulations to Miss Foy who was married over the summer so is returning to school as Mrs Paton.



Gala Thank You

We raised £518.90 for the school / EYC fund at the Monkton Gala on Saturday 7th June 2025. 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!

Parent Council Thank You

A big thank you to the Parent Council for paying for a treat for all pupils and staff from an Ice cream van on the second last day of term. We all really enjoyed the yummy treats - thank you. Also a big thank you to the Parent Council for their support and help last session - we look forward to working closely together again this session. The next Parent Council meeting is the AGM which is on Wednesday 17th September 2025 at 6:30pm in the school - all parent / carers are welcome to join! There is a vacancy for secretary, this role includes agenda writing and minute taking. We may be unable to continue the Parent Council if we do not have all Committee members so any volunteers would be greatly appreciated. Thanks.

Halloween Disco will be Thursday 30th October - 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:

- 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!



Free School Meals & Clothing Grants for school session 2025/26

Free School Meal/Clothing Grant applications for 2025/26 are available here: [Free school meals and clothing grant - South Ayrshire Council](#)

The Scottish Government have committed to providing a free school meal to all P1 to P5 pupils, however we are requesting that parents/carers who meet the eligibility criteria submit an application as this information will be used to pay free school meal payments during school holiday periods.

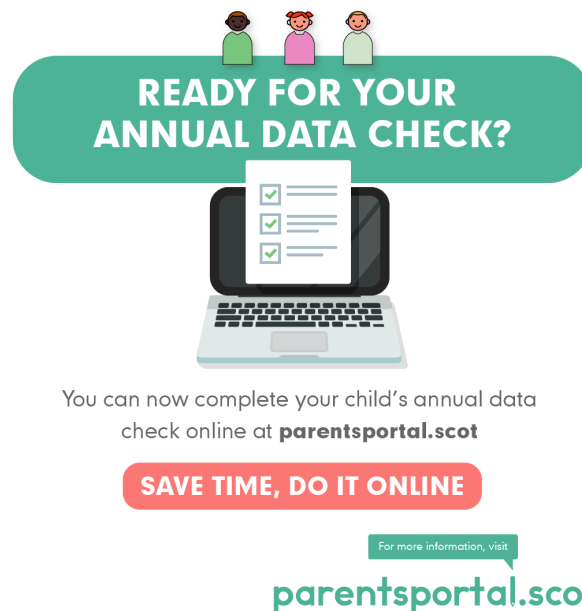
School Meal Update

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 through ParentPay. 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 or top ups on ParentPay can take longer 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 and save time in class, thanks.



Annual Data Checks

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). 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 93% 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.

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.



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](#) can be found on the school / EYC website.

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



Parent Volunteers for Extra Curricular Activities

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. 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! So far we have had no volunteers come forward which may unfortunately mean that we will not be able to run our football teams this session.

Please note that parent volunteers may need to be PVG / Disclosure checked.



School 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.

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 where possible (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.

After School provision is provided by Prestwick After School Care Service - more information can be found [here](#).

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

Royal blue hoodie (with or without zip)

Black blazer

Blue checked dresses (in summer)

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

BE Uniforms - [BE Uniforms Glasgow](#)

or

JW Brown - [JW Brown PPE and Industrial Clothing Irvine Ayrshire Customised Clothing Schoolwear Sportswear](#)

You may be eligible to apply for a school clothing grant - [Free school meals and clothing grant - South Ayrshire Council](#)

To avoid loss please ensure that all your child's clothes and belongings are clearly labelled with their name (see Name Tag information in section below).



Items to bring and Name Labels

The school have provided all 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.

All 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. 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.

Slip on/velcro black gym shoes or trainers , shorts, white or pale blue t-shirt or polo shirt, jogging trousers / leggings (for outdoors)

Name Tags

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.

You can order by going to www.MyNameTags.com and entering Monkton's school ID: 22811



Last session, we introduced our updated our relationships policy. The updated parent / carer leaflet will be emailed out to all parent / carers and is also available on the school website [here](#). 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 9th October 2025 3:15-5:15pm or 5:45-8pm

and

Thursday 26th March 2026 – 3:15-5:15pm and 5:45-8pm

(Appointments will be available to book on ParentsPortal, so please set up if you have not already done so, thanks)

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 2026, 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 5th September 2025 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 have done for the past few years, 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.



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





FREE **SCHOOL** **MEALS**

Free School Meals ensure each and every child receives a nutritious lunch, helping them stay focused and energised throughout the day.

By applying for the free school meals families can also ease financial stress and know their child is well cared for during school hours.

If you are eligible, Monkton Primary is here to make the application process as smooth as possible and have requested the support of Emma & Shaun from the Information and Advice Hub who will be with us this year at the school offering a variety of Welfare/Money/Debt advice.

If you want any support to complete your application – Reach out to Emma and Shaun who can assist with this on our next drop in on the 29th of May from 9am to 11am.



Primary 1 – 5

All children between p1-p5 are entitled to free school meals.

HOWEVER, an application must still be made to ensure provision over school holiday periods

After Primary 5

You may still be entitled to free school meals if you are on a low income

Your child can get free meals in school if you get:

- You receive Scottish Child Payment
- Universal Credit (where your monthly earned income is not more than £850)
- Income Support
- Income-based Job Seeker's Allowance
- Income-based Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act



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!