



Monkton PS and EYC Newsletter January 2026

Happy New Year! Hope that you all had a lovely festive period with your family and friends.

This is the first newsletter of 2026 and we hope that it will be a great year for all of us! We look forward to getting children back into the routines of EYC and school this week. We welcome a few new children and their families who are starting the school.

We have lots of exciting events and activities planned for the rest of the school year and will keep you up to date in the 'Dates for your Diary' section below.

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*

- [*Contact Us*](#)

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



Monday 5th January 2026 - School and EYC re-opens for staff and pupils at 9am

P1 Open afternoon - open to all families who have a child starting P1 in August 2026, 4-5pm

Thursday 8th January 2026 - Information and Advice Hub drop in session in school meeting room, 8:45-9:45am

Thursday 15th January 2026 - P5 and P6 swimming lessons start (10 week block)

Wednesday 21st January 2026 - Parent Council meeting at 6:30pm in school meeting room - all parent / carers welcome

Friday 23rd January 2026 - Scottish Poetry Competition for pupils (am)

Thursday 29th January 2026 - Burns themed school lunch

Thursday 5th February 2026 - Term 3 and 4 class newsletters sent home and added to website.

Friday 6th and Monday 9th February 2026 - Holiday - school and EYC closed for staff and pupils.

Tuesday 10th February 2026 - Inservice Day - school and EYC closed for pupils.

Tuesday 11th February 2026 - *School and EYC reopens for pupils.*

Thursday 12th February 2026 - *Parent Council Spring Disco - details to follow.*

Monday 23rd - Friday 27th February 2026 - World of Work week - see details below.

Thursday 5th March 2026 - World Book Day (no dress up required).

Thursday 26th March 2026 - Parents' afternoon / evening.

Monday 30th March - Thursday 2nd April 2026 - P7 Residential Trip to Dolphin House.

Thursday 2nd April 2026 - EYC Stay and Play session (1 adult per child), 9-9:30am

School closes for holidays at 2:30pm (EYC at 3pm).

Monday 20th April 2026 - School and EYC reopens at 9am.

Saturday 6th June 2026 - Monkton Gala

Updates (UNCRC Article 17)



This section contains important updates and information.



Christmas Fayre

The Monkton Christmas Market/Fayre took place on the Wednesday 3rd of December 2025 from 6-8pm and was a big success. There was a great turn out to the event and fun was had by all. The school and EYC raised £1047.66 from the market which was amazing! This money has gone into the school / EYC funds and will be put towards events and activities throughout the year. Thank you to Sandra (our catering supervisor) for providing the hot drinks and delicious shortbread. Also thank you to Mrs Kenny for organising the stalls and helping out on the night. A big thank you also to Emily Steele (Monkton Markets) and Hazel Duncan (and the rest of the Parent Council) for helping to organise this event.

A big thank you to the P7 pupils who helped out at the school and P7 Fundraising stalls on the night. The winner of the 'Guess the Name of the Elf' competition was Alan Cameron who picked up the cash prize - well done!!

Thank you to everyone who donated a raffle prize and to the House Captains who visited local businesses asking for their support too. All prizes donated were much appreciated.

Please get in touch with the school or Parent Council if you have any feedback about this year's Christmas Fayre or have any suggestions to improve this event in the future. Thank you!

Thank you

A big thank you to the Parent Council and wider parent body for donating money which paid for the buses for P3-7 to go to the pantomime at the Gaiety and the delicious ice cream. Also a big thank you for the money donated towards the EYC, P1 and P2 show and to pay for snacks for them to enjoy.

Thank you as always to the Parent Council and all parent volunteers for your continued help and support throughout the year.



Name a Gritter winner

Albert Icestein has joined the Amey gritter fleet from the previous 'Name a Gritter' competition earlier in the year. It was picked by Joey in P5 - well done! Thank you to Sharon Adam for organising the competition and for sharing this exciting update.





Competition winners

Our P3/2 and P5 classes took part in a recent Christmas Design competition run by ML Williams. A big well done to our winners and runners up who were presented with prizes and the members of each class were also treated to a selection box. A big thank you to Leanne and the team at ML Williams for organising and providing the prizes - thank you!





New sports kits

A huge thank you to Glenburn Miners Welfare Football Club who have provided us with full new away football kits as part of their community work where they provide kits for schools. The children will enjoy using them to play matches and we are very grateful for their donation - thank you.

We have also been very lucky to purchase new Monkton sports tops which children can wear to schools events / activities when they attend to represent the school. We received two generous donations from ML Williams and BAE Prestwick Branch and Members of Unite which allowed us to purchase these tops - thank you very much for both kind donations and also to those who organised them.

The Pupil Council has written and sent letters of thanks to all three companies who were generous in their donations - thank you!



Santa Letter feedback

At the recent EYC show and P1-3 Nativity, we asked parents to complete a short note to Santa with areas for improvement for the EYC and school.

Lots of the letters contained positive feedback such as, "Happy with all aspects of the nursery. Staff are amazing", "you guys are great" and "no need - very happy with the school".

From the school feedback, there were a few suggestions which we will consider and take forward:-

- More trips - this is something that we will consider and look into however, we need to be mindful of the cost of the school day as costs of buses are high.
- Hot Chocolate Friday - as part of school nutrition guidelines for food and drink, having a drink containing added sugar (hot chocolate) is not recommended as a regular reward.
- More rewards and certificates - we have been trying to increase these this year including the addition of values certificates but we will discuss with staff and look at further.
- Two responses regarding parking and traffic around the school - this has been an ongoing issue. The council are fully aware of our lack of parking - there is not even

enough space for all staff to park each morning. In terms of the traffic, we continued to work with the Monkton Community Council on this issue and Ayrshire Roads Alliance. The Campus Cop has also been involved in the past. We include regular reminders to parents / visitors to the school and EYC about inconsiderate parking. We do not have staff capacity to monitor this on a daily basis and rely on parent / carers to be responsible when parking / driving around the school and community.

- School choir all year round - this is something that we have already discussed with Mr Richard Hill who is our music teacher this year. He is keen to build on the success of the choir who performed at the Christmas Fayre and work towards other events including the Monkton Gala in June.
- More after school Active Schools clubs - we will discuss further with Aiden McLean, Active Schools Coordinator.
- The EYC suggestions for improvement included: the garden area, stay and play sessions, Seesaw posts and new staff / students - details of these and proposed next steps have been posted on Seesaw for EYC families to see.

Thanks again for taking the time to give us your feedback - it is invaluable to us.



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)



Lunch times

In order to reduce food waste and to increase the social time that children have to chat with peers whilst sitting around the lunch tables, we are encouraging children to take their time to eat their lunch before leaving the lunch hall. School and kitchen staff supervise in the lunch hall and try to keep an eye on what is being eaten / wasted. Children will spend their lunch times with a balance of time playtime outside and also plenty of time to eat a nutritious lunch. There is a rota system in place with some classes going outside to play first before coming in for lunch, while others go into the lunch hall first then go outside to play.

Thank you for your continued support in encouraging your child to eat well at lunchtime which will help them to have a productive afternoon learning back in class.



Developing Young Workforce - World of Work week

Monday 23rd - Friday 27th February 2026

During this week, the EYC and whole school will be focusing on skills linked to the world of work. As part of this, we will be looking for parents / carers (or grandparents) who would be willing to give up their time to come in and talk to children about their work / careers. We would be very grateful to anyone who could do this and we are looking for volunteers who work in a variety of roles e.g. shops, banks, NHS, companies and business owners. If this is something that you could help us with, please complete this short survey -

[World of Work week from Monday 23rd - Friday 27th February 2026 – Fill out form](#)

Thank you in advance.



Discussion about learning at home / targets

We have been planning a real focus in all classes from EYC to P7 on pupils being able to talk about their learning - the what, the why and the what next? It would be wonderful if you could have a regular check in with your child to give them the opportunity to discuss their learning with you. Instead of asking - "what did you do in school today?" say "Tell me about something you learned today" Also try to ask them what their learning targets are - for literacy, numeracy and health and wellbeing.

Thank you!



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



Stay safe this winter

Hints and tips from NHS Ayrshire & Arran's Health Protection Team for staying safe this winter

With the festive season approaching, we want to remind you of how you can stay safe this winter. Here are some hints and tips on good cough, sneeze and hand hygiene; staying at home if you have had fever, diarrhoea, or vomiting; winter vaccinations; as well as information on accessing the right care, right place.

Good cough, sneeze and hand hygiene

Keep your family well this winter and reduce the spread of infection.

Respiratory viruses, such as colds, flu and COVID-19, can easily spread between people through coughs and sneezes. Stopping viruses from spreading is the best prevention.

Always sneeze and cough into a tissue covering your nose and mouth. Bin the tissue straight away and then wash your hands.

Wash your hands with soap and water frequently. This helps to get rid of the disease-causing germs from your hands. Hand sanitiser does not kill all germs, especially those that cause stomach upsets.

If someone in your family is sick, avoid sharing dishes, toys or towels with them. Keep items clean and wash your hands after touching.

At home, make sure you clean surfaces that are touched frequently every day – for example, light switches, door handles, taps, toilet seats and toilet flush handles, and countertops.

Do not prepare food for others when you are sick.

Wash any clothing or bedding that has poo or vomit on it separately from other laundry, and on a hot wash.

A video on handwashing can be found here: [How to wash your hands - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk)

To learn more about treating the common cold, flu or COVID-19, visit www.nhsinform.scot/winter-illness/



Stay at home

Stay off school or college if you have a fever, diarrhoea or vomiting.

Children and young people with mild respiratory symptoms, but who are otherwise well, can continue to attend school or college. Mild respiratory symptoms include a runny nose, sore throat, or slight cough.



East Ayrshire Council
Comunitat Siorachd Ayr an Ear



North Ayrshire Council
Comunitat Siorachd Ayr a Deas



south
AYRSHIRE
COUNCIL
Comunitat Siorachd Ayr a Deas
Making communities stronger 



NHS
Ayrshire
& Arran

Children and young people who are unwell and have a high temperature should stay at home and avoid contact with other people if possible. They can go back to school, college or childcare, and resume normal activities when they no longer have a high temperature and they are well enough to attend.

Most people no longer need to test for COVID-19, unless they have a health condition which means they are eligible for [coronavirus treatments](#).

Children and young people who have diarrhoea or vomiting should stay at home and avoid contact with other people if possible. They can go back to school, college or childcare, and resume normal activities when they have had no diarrhoea or vomiting for at least 48 hours.

For more information, click the links below:

- [Vomiting in children and babies](#)
- [Diarrhoea](#)
- [COVID-19](#)

Winter vaccinations

If you are eligible, make sure you get your vaccine.

To find out if you are eligible for the flu or COVID-19 vaccine, visit:

- [Flu vaccine | NHS inform](#)
- [The coronavirus \(COVID-19\) vaccine | NHS inform](#)

If your child is in primary school and has missed their flu vaccine appointment or school clinic, or has been given an appointment that is not suitable, they can attend a Childhood Vaccination Team drop-in session. For details of sessions, visit <https://www.nhsaaa.net/services/services-a-z/flu-vaccine/school-age-children-primary-and-secondary-flu-vaccine-information/>



Where to get medical help

Getting the right care, in the right place

To protect yourself, as well as the NHS, it's important you know how to get the right care, in the right place. If we all use NHS services wisely, we can keep well and get the care we need quickly, safely and as close to home as possible.

For more information on the most appropriate service for your condition, visit [Right care right place - NHS Ayrshire & Arran \(nhsaaa.net\)](#)



Wishing you a wonderful and infection-free festive season from the
NHS Ayrshire & Arran Health Protection Team.

Follow us on Twitter @NHSaaa

Find us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/nhsaaa

Visit our website: www.nhsaaa.net

All our publications are available in other formats

Leaflet code: MS23-157-GD Last reviewed: November 2023

Starting Primary One in August 2026?

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



Heathfield Primary
Thursday 8th Jan
4-5pm



Monkton Primary
Monday 5th Jan
4-5pm



Kingcase Primary
Wednesday 7th Jan
4-5pm



Glenburn Primary
Tuesday 6th Jan
4-5pm



Symington Primary
Tuesday 6th Jan
4-5pm



St Ninian's Primary
Tuesday 6th Jan
4-5pm

Advice and Support for Families

Welfare Rights & Money Advice Advisor
- Here to Help You



My name is **Emma** I can offer you a free, confidential and impartial information and advice service. I can help you with:



- ✓ Checking your entitlement and supporting you in making claims
- ✓ Providing advice regarding Free School Meals, School Clothing Grant, Scottish Child Payment and any other eligible grants
- ✓ Supporting you if your benefits have been stopped, reduced or refused
- ✓ Advising you on budgeting and managing your money
- ✓ Providing guidance with debt and repayment issues
- ✓ Accessing local services and community support

No question is too small – we're here to make things easier for you and your family.

If you would like to speak with Emma, they will be available at drop-in sessions at Monkton Primary on a bi-monthly basis and the next drop-in sessions will be:

8th January 8:45am – 9:45am

Alternatively, if you are unable to attend during these times you can contact the Team directly by clicking [here](#) and completing our online digital referral form (at the end of the form there is a box you are able to type into please enter the name of the school(s) your child(ren) attends to enable your referral to be allocated to the schools advisor) or you can call 0300 123 0900.



The Information and Advice Team...

Your Journey to Financial Wellbeing

A free, confidential and impartial service

What are you entitled to? Help to apply for benefits Make the most of your money Help with Debt

Tel: 0300 123 0900

Find us here on Monkton Primary School

Drop in's available on 8th January 8:45am – 9:45am Appointments out with available upon request!

AYR UNITED FOOTBALL ACADEMY COMMUNITY FOOTBALL



COMMUNITY FOOTBALL SESSIONS AND HOLIDAY CAMPS IN VARIOUS LOCATIONS THROUGHOUT SOUTH AYRSHIRE!

TO FIND OUT MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE ACTIVITIES WE OFFER,
PLEASE SCAN THE QR CODE BELOW, VISIT OUR WEBSITE, SEE US ON
SOCIAL MEDIA OR CONTACT US!



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



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.

The EYC use Seesaw to communicate with parents - sharing learning and information.

In the school, Instagram issued 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-Sept-25-1.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](#)



[Seesaw app](#) used in the EYC

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!