



Monkton PS and EYC Newsletter March 2026

It is March already and there are welcome signs that Spring is on the way including the lighter mornings and evenings!

February was another quick month in the school and EYC. Pupils in the school have attended sports events, our football teams have been busy with matches and three P7 pupils represented the school at the annual Alloway Burns Club supper in Ayr. The Parent Council ran their Spring Discos which were well attended, a big thank you to the Parent Council for organising and all of the volunteers for giving their time to help on the night. We ended the month with World of Work week last week.

We have many exciting events and activities planned for March including World Book Day which includes a book swap organised by the Parent Council (they are still looking for more donations of books if anyone still has some please), after school clubs, a four week block of PEEP 'Fun with Food' sessions for EYC families, Comic Relief, the P7 Residential Trip to Dolphin House and an EYC Stay and Play. Please check the 'Dates for the Diary' section below for more information.

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 5th March 2026 - World Book Day (no dress up required) - Parent Council Book Swap.

Friday 6th March 2026 - EYC PEEP session - Fun with Food, 9:15-10:15am - 4 week block begins
- please sign up in the EYC.

Thursday 12th March 2026 - P3/2 Trip to Dumfries House.

Friday 20th March 2026 - Comic Relief – dress down and donation to the charity (optional).

Wednesday 25th March 2026 - P3 Trip to Dumfries House.

Thursday 26th March 2026 - Parents' afternoon / evening. Booking details to follow.

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).

Friday 3rd - Friday 17th April 2026 - School and EYC closed for Easter holidays

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

Monday 4th May 2026 - School and EYC closed for bank holiday.

Tuesday 5th - Friday 15th May 2026 - Fit & Fun Fest Fortnight (see separate letter attached).

Thursday 7th May 2026 - Inservice Day - school and EYC closed for pupils.

Friday 15th May 2026 - Sports Day races on field behind school (weather permitting), 1:30-2:30pm - all parent / carers welcome.

Monday 25th May 2026 - School and EYC closed for holiday.

Saturday 6th June 2026 - Monkton Gala - 12-4pm on playing fields behind school.

Thursday 25th June 2026 - P7 Leaver's Assembly - 9:30-11am - all P7 parent / carers welcome.

Friday 26th June 2026 - EYC Graduation - 9:30am - all EYC parent / carers welcome.

Updates (UNCRC Article 17)



This section contains important updates and information.



World of Work Week

Last week was World of Work week in the EYC and school. Thank you to all those parent, carers, friends and family who took time out of their busy, working week to come along to talk to children in all classes about their jobs to try to help inspire the next generation to start thinking about their future careers and the skills that they have / might need to do these jobs. We had over 30 volunteers who came into classes over the week with each class - EYC-P7 having at least

4 visitors. A massive thank you to each and every volunteer - without your help this week would not have been such a success - THANK YOU!



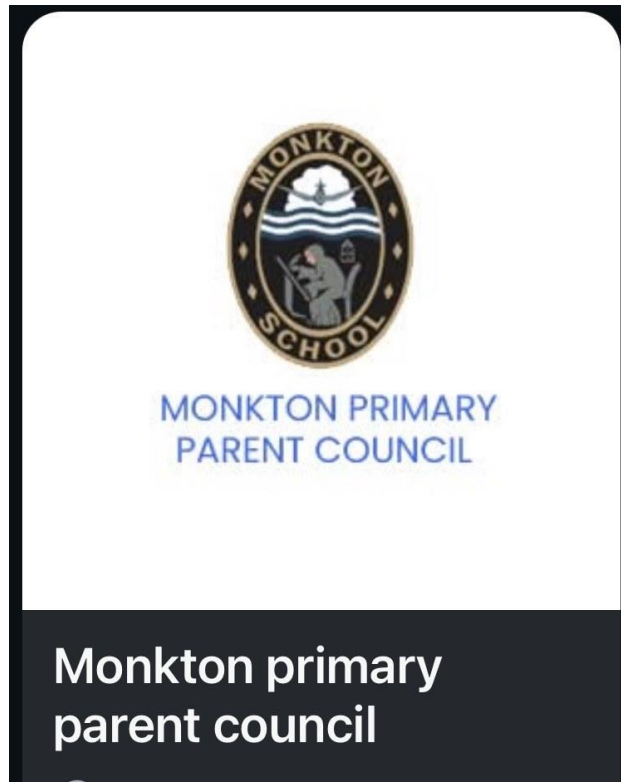
World Book Day (Thursday 5th March 2026)

Back by popular demand, the Parent Council will again be holding their annual recycled book fayre on World Book Day this year by giving old books, new life.

The Parent Council has collected books over the last few weeks –thank you for all your donations and if you have any more please send them in before Thursday.

On Thursday, each child will be given the opportunity to choose a book / books to take home to read. If possible, children should bring a small donation in exchange for the book and put it in the bucket provided. All proceeds will go to the Parent Council. Any leftover books will be donated to a local charity.

World Book Day is about encouraging children to read for pleasure and pupils will celebrate this through a variety of activities, in class, on Thursday. Each child will also be given a £1 World Book day token which they can take to a bookshop and choose a £1 book for free OR £1 off a book costing £2.99 or more.



Update from the Parent Council

Tickets are now on sale for our family bingo which will take place on Sunday 22nd March 2026 from 1-3pm in the school, all children must be accompanied by a participating adult. Tickets available <https://www.pta-events.com/monktonparentcouncil/>

The biannual Parent Council newsletter has been emailed out with this newsletter link - it gives an update of the valuable work that the Parent Council has done so far this year. The school thanks them again for all of their hard work and support.

We are looking for a parent volunteer to take on the rewarding role of Chairperson for our Parent Council. The Parent Council plays an important part in supporting the school, giving parents a voice, and helping to make decisions that benefit all pupils. By working together, we can make a real difference—especially in reducing the cost of the school day by supporting affordable activities, sharing resources, and fundraising to ensure every child can take part. The current chair will remain on the committee and is willing to support or consider a role of vice chair as part of transition. If you are interested in helping to strengthen the partnership between home and school and making a positive impact for our children, please get in touch. monktonparentcouncil@gmail.com



Important Health and Safety reminder - Road Safety - there are still parents parking in the car park each day!

The safety of our children is always our top priority, and we kindly ask for your continued support in helping keep the area around our school and EYC safe at drop-off and pick-up times when the area is congested. Please remember to park responsibly, avoiding pavements, driveways and the 'keep clear' area in the layby outside the school gate. These areas must be kept clear to ensure children are safe and that the neighbors have full access to their properties. We also ask all families to avoid using the school car park AT ANY TIME unless they are a blue badge holder as it is reserved for staff only. Unauthorised users of the car park creates avoidable risks for pedestrians, especially our youngest pupils - a child nearly got hit while crossing at the car park last month! The community police have been made aware of this and are monitoring parking around the school.

Please try to walk with your child(ren) to and from the school / EYC if you can. However, if you have to drive, please take a moment to find a safe, legal parking space further away and walk the last few minutes to school — it makes a big difference. Thank you for helping us keep our school community safe. Let's all work together to model good road-safety habits for our children.

Our P6 class is working on a road safety campaign to try to stop this unsafe behaviour!



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)



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 they what next? We have recently created a new system to record these which has already been introduced in the school and will be adapted for use in the EYC in the near future based on our vision of **“At Monkton We Fly As High As The Sky!”**. Each child has a small plane icon that they add beside the targets that they want to work on for Literacy, Numeracy and Health and Wellbeing. Older children will write their personalised targets on a hot air balloon template which they can update when the targets are achieved. It would be wonderful if you could have a regular check in with your child to give them the opportunity to discuss their learning and targets with you. Instead of asking - "what did you do in school today?" say "Tell me about something you learned today" Thank you!



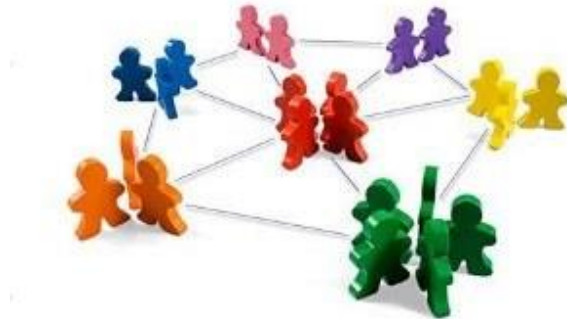
Positive Relationships and Behaviour at Monkton

At Monkton, we have high expectations in relation to behaviour. We have a clear and structured Relationships and Behaviour policy within the EYC and in August, we sent out a [guide for parents](#) detailing this policy and asked you to discuss the expectations with your child. As a Gold Rights Respecting School, we will continue to embed our school charters and each class has created individual class charters to ensure that everyone has shared high expectations across the school and EYC. Our expectations are discussed and reinforced within classrooms, the playground and at monthly assemblies. The aim is always to encourage children to take responsibility for the choices they make in relation to the way that they behave. As you will appreciate, some children's perception of situations does not always match that of others. All incidents are recorded and monitored by staff. Parents are contacted when required either with a note in their homework diary or by phone.

Recently, a few children have been displaying behaviours such as not listening to or following adult instructions both in class and in the playground. There are also some children who are being too physical and playing rough in the playground. These behaviours are not in line with our values of **Respect, Responsibility** or **Compassion**. We are asking that all parents have another chat to their child about these values and again discuss the policy (link above) with your child and also regularly check their homework diaries where any concerns or incidents will be noted. Please talk to your child about the note and sign beside it so that staff know that you have done so – thank you for your support with this. As a school, we have in place P7 Playground Rangers who are leading and modelling playground games to pupils and will revamp our playground equipment ready for Spring and Summer. We are also getting an all weather play surface put under the trim trail over the Easter holidays which will mean that children will be able to play more easily on that equipment all year round.

One of our school and EYC values is '**Equity**'. Where some children require extra support for literacy or numeracy, other children may require enhanced support to help them to regulate their emotions and behaviour. Our nurturing staff are trained to support this. We live in a very diverse society, where some children have experienced trauma or are diagnosed as having

ADHD or Autism. These children will be nurtured and supported by the entire Monkton Community to achieve their fullest potential, whilst also being supported to learn to take responsibility for their actions. We thank all parents / carers for showing a great awareness and understanding of this. We are well supported by the local authority with this, as we all work together to ensure equity and that **"In Monkton, everyone is included!"** (one of our aims). Thank you!



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



FUN WITH FOOD peep Learning Together Programme

HELLO MONKTON EYC FAMILIES

WHERE: MONKTON EYC
WHEN: FRI 6TH OF MARCH
FOR 4 WEEKS
TIME: 9.15 - 10.15 AM

PLEASE JOIN US WITH YOUR LITTLE ONE

Our 4 week block is designed to make healthy eating activities fun and enjoyable. You and your child will explore fun, hands on food activities that can extend into everyday life.

BINGO BANANZA

Join us for an exciting afternoon of Bingo
 Family friendly event
 Fantastic prizes

MARCH 22, 2026
 1pm-3pm, Monkton PS

All children must be accompanied by an adult
 £5 per ticket

www.reallygreatsite.com

SOUTH AYRSHIRE 2026 VETERANS CAREER EVENT

WEDNESDAY 25 MARCH, 3:30 PM – 6:30 PM
TOWN HALL, AYR

Connecting veterans with career opportunities. Join us for an afternoon dedicated to supporting veterans, reservists and their families as they explore new career paths and connect with local employers and support agencies.

- Meet employers actively recruiting veterans
- Access career guidance and training support
- Access volunteering opportunities
- Learn more about local support agencies
- Network with fellow veterans and professionals

FREE ENTRY - Open to all Armed Forces leavers, reservists, veterans and their families.



To register your place:



EASTER HOLIDAY PROGRAMME

SWIM CLINICS

SPORTS CAMPS

GYMNASTICS CAMPS

BOUNCE AND PLAY

SCAN THE QR CODE FOR INFORMATION ON OUR UPCOMING ACTIVITIES.

SWIMMING CRASH COURSES

INTRODUCTION TO DIVING

DIVING DEVELOPMENT

Sport & Leisure

Screens Awareness

Be screen smart

Spark a change for children, young people and their families



Screens awareness aims to raise the profile of the impact screen use has on child development, health and well-being.

Excessive screen time:

can result in less time sleeping, poor sleep quality and excessive daytime sleepiness for children and young people

can lead to lower levels of fitness and greater risk of unhealthy weight in children aged 0-18 years

is linked to low mood and low self esteem in children aged 0-18 years

can impact negatively on social skills and behaviour in children aged 0-7 years

can impact language development when used during the early stages of a child's life

is associated with a smaller vocabulary in children aged 2 when parents or carers spend long periods of time watching TV or on other electronic devices

Screen awareness is an Ayrshire wide campaign led by Speech and Language Therapy, NHS Ayrshire & Arran's Public Health team in collaboration with the Health & Social Care Partnership's in East, North and South.



For more information visit the SLT page on our website by scanning the QR code



Follow us on Twitter @NHSaas

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

Visit our website: www.nhsaas.net

All our publications are available in other formats

ME140H-CC

Balancing screen time

internet
matters.org

5 top tips to support
children and young people

1

Lead by example

Just like anything, **children copy their parents' actions and behaviour**. If you set boundaries for your own screen, it will be easier for your kids to do the same.

2

Set boundaries WITH your kids

Get them involved in the process of **setting age appropriate limits** on how long they can spend online, at what times and on which platforms. Set up screen-free times or rooms where screens are out of sight and therefore more likely to be out of mind. Review these as they get older and give them the space to take greater responsibility for their screen use.

3

Ensure a healthy mix of screen activity


Make sure they have a good balance of **screen activities** that encourage creativity, learning & education, connecting with family & friends, as well as using devices for passively engaging with content.



4

Avoid using screen time as a reward


This will elevate the status of screen time above other activities and like using food as a reward **may encourage children to simply want more.**



5

Physical activity & sleep are really important

Make sure screens are **not displacing these things** by keeping screens out of bedrooms at bed time and that you are creating opportunities for your children to be active each day.





Creating a balanced digital diet


Like a healthy meal, a healthy digital diet can help children to **develop good online habits**. Use our **digital diet tips** to help children prioritise screen time activities in a balanced way.





Scan below or visit InternetMatters.org for more advice





 [InternetMatters](#)


 [@imv.org](#)

 [@InternetMatters](#)

 [InternetMatters Ltd](mailto:InternetMatters@imv.org)

 [@InternetMatters.org](#)

 [@InternetMatters.org](#)



YOUR TIPS FOR A HEALTHIER SCREEN TIME

'How much is too much screen time for children?'

	Birth to 5 years	6 to 10 years	11 to 17 years
Waking up	No screen time between birth - 24 months	Waking up without screens. It is recommended that social media/screens are not used for the first hour of the day	
Hours per day	2 - 5 year olds no more than 30 mins/day No screen time between birth - 24 months	Not more than 1-2 hrs/day	Up to 2 hrs/day
Leisure	Avoid using a device to settle your child down. Instead try a book, a game outdoors, or just a cuddle	Keep active. Encourage physical activity, ideally outside, for 1-2 hours	Stay active. More green time, less screen time
Sleep Hygiene	Under 5s should not use a screen at least 2 hours before bedtime	Encourage physical activity, ideally outside, for 1-2 hours	No screens at least 1 hour before bedtime

Accepted by NHS England Mental Health Leads

'Studies have shown a clear link between excessive screen time and issues such as delayed speech and language development, short-sightedness, communication difficulties, reduced concentration spans, poor sleep and mental health problems.'

HEALTH PROFESSIONALS FOR SAFER SCREENS

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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



1 -

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!