



Monkton PS and EYC Newsletter

September 2026

We are already in September and we have been back in school for one and a half weeks – time flies!

Our children have all settled in very well and seem happy to be back in the school and EYC routines. There have been very few tears from all of our new children (and staff) which has been great. Staff are enjoying being back and leading learning – we feel very lucky to have fantastic children who work hard and are keen to learn.

A special mention goes out to our P7 pupils who have been great buddies to the new P1 children – thank you for all of your help! P1 happily play outside at break and lunch time with the whole school.

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*

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



Monday 31st August 2026 - Home learning (homework) started for pupils.

Wednesday 2nd September 2026 - Parent Council AGM at 6:30pm in the school meeting room
- all parent / carers welcome including new members who would like to join. The Parent Council are still looking for a chairperson - please contact them if interested.

Thursday 3rd September 2026 - Photo Studio, Ayr in school / EYC to take photographs of children.

P7 chat with Oonagh Browne (Prestwick Academy HT) - parent / carers are invited to join pupils
- 2:30-3pm

Meet the Teacher (P1-7 classrooms open for parents to come in and see classroom and meet staff – optional drop in) 3-4pm.

Thursday 17th September 2026 - Fundraising Event for school / EYC fund (more details to follow)

Class Newsletters to be sent to parent / carers and added to website.

EYC South Ayrshire Reads Parent workshop with children for all EYC families - 2-3pm (more details to follow)

Friday 18th and Monday 21st September 2026 - School / EYC closed for long weekend.

Friday 25th September 2026 - P5 and P6 trip.

Monday 5th - Thursday 8th October 2026- Foodbank collection

Thursday 8th October 2026 – EYC Stay and Play at 2:20-2:50pm.

School Parents afternoon / evening - appointments available 3-5pm and 5:30-7:30pm.

Monday 12th - Monday 19th October 2026 - October holidays then Inservice Day - school and EYC closed.

Tuesday 20th October 2026 - Pupils start back after holidays at 9am.

Thursday 29th October 2026 - afternoon / evening - Parent Council Halloween Discos - more details to follow soon.

Updates (UNCRC Article 17)



This section contains important updates and information.



Reminders

Uniform

The wearing of school uniform is very much encouraged at Monkton and P1-7 children should wear full uniform to school every day except for special activities / events which we will notify you of in advance. Children should not come to school dressed for PE but instead should use the items stored in their gym bag or bring their PE kit in for their gym days.

Water bottles, Book Bags and Homework Diaries

All children in the school should bring a filled water bottle (water only - no juice) to school each day. Children should also bring their blue book bags and homework diaries to and from school each day - especially those in P1-3. Please check the homework 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.

ParentsPortal

Please remember that you can now report your child's absence through ParentsPortal. If you have not already signed up for this, please do so asap. You can contact the school office if you need help to do this. Thank you.

[parentsportal.scot](https://parentsportal.scot.nhs.uk/)

Parent Council

The Parent Council AGM is being held on Wednesday 2nd September 2026 at 6.30pm in Monkton Primary School - all parent / carers welcome.

The current chairperson is stepping down after a significant period in term. Currently, there has been no one come forward to fill this position - without a chair, the Parent Council within Monkton will need to fold which will impact the children of Monkton Primary & Early Years significantly. Over the years, the Parent Council has been fundamental in organising fun events for children such as Halloween and Spring discos and Christmas Fayres. The Parent Council also raises funds to support school activities including the buses to and from the pantomime at Christmas, ice cream at the panto and an ice cream van attending school as well as supporting the purchase of sport t-shirts and iPad covers. Without the parent council functioning this additional cost would need to be passed on to parents if these events were still to take place. The current chair is happy to support a new chairperson until they feel settled and established. Please contact monktonparentcouncil@gmail.com or attend the AGM on 2nd

September if you feel you can support the Parent Council and ensure Monkton PS continues to have a Parent Council supporting the young people. The volunteer can be a parent / carer of either primary school or early years.

Our Halloween Disco will be Thursday 29th 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.
 - When you pick your child up at the end of the day, please ensure that you **collect them then leave the playground** through the main gate. Parents should not congregate in

the playground after the school bell. Children should not continue to play on bikes / scooters or with a ball in the playground after the bell has gone.

Thank you for your cooperation with all of these.



School Meals Update

We have noticed a decline in the number of pupils ordering and eating a school meal since we have returned from the summer break - in particular P1 and P6 pupils. Sandra and her amazing team prepare and cook fresh, healthy lunches on the premises each day which are available for all EYC -P7 children. Please encourage your child to try the school lunches when they can as it saves you the time, money and effort of making your child a packed lunch. The lunch hall is well supervised and we will always try to accommodate and offer alternatives to ensure that each child eats well . Please be reassured that we will get in touch with you / let you know if we have noticed that your child has not eaten well. More information on school meals can be found [here](#) including the South Ayrshire menus.

If your child is choosing to bring a packed lunch, please limit this to 4 or 5 items per day in order to reduce waste as children want to eat lunch quickly to get out to play.

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

Free School Meals & Clothing Grants for school session 2026/27

Free School Meal/Clothing Grant applications for 2026/27 are available here: [Free school meals and clothing grant application 26/27 - 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.

Please apply for this if you are entitled to - contact the office if you need help or more information. Thanks.



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

HELP NEEDED - we still do not have any volunteers to help with extra curricular activities, in particular the school football team.

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.



Home Learning

Starting this week, class teachers will set tasks which reinforce the learning from the classroom which is to be completed at home.

Children in P1-7 will have the following learning at home:-

- 1 Phonics / Spelling task per week (to reinforce sounds or words)
- 1 Reading task – reading a book or allocated chapter(s) per week
- 1 Maths task per week

It is very important that children bring their reading books, blue book bags and homework diaries to and from school each day.

Children are encouraged to read for enjoyment each night at home. They should be encouraged to read what they enjoy including books, comics or magazines either with an adult / sibling or themselves. Children in P4-7 can read a book at home and then complete the quiz (if there is one) on Accelerated Reader when they come into school.

Each week, details of the home learning to be completed will be written in the homework diary along with the date it was issued and the due date. This will help parent / carers know what is to be done and, for older children, will allow them to keep track and learn independence skills

which will help them when they move into secondary school. The homework diary should be signed by the parent/carer when home learning tasks are complete/at the end of the week.

We know that households are busy in the evenings but parent / carers should complete homework with their child(ren) each week. As children move up the school, children can do this more independently with parents checking that the work is correct / complete and signing their homework diary.

EYC Parent Workshop – Thursday 17th September 2026 at 2pm

This session will be run by the South Ayrshire Reads Team who have been training staff and supporting the early phonics and reading skills in the EYC for the past few years. They are offering this short workshop to all EYC parent / carers to help you to support your child's development at home. Please try to attend if you can - thank you.



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 8th October 2026 - 3-5pm and 5:30-7:30pm

and

Wednesday 24th March 2027 – 3-5pm and 5:30-7:30pm

(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 2027, all Pre-school parents/carers will receive a written report from their key worker and P1-P7 will receive an online report from their class teacher. 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 Thursday 3rd September 2026 where you can drop into your P1-7 child's classroom from 3-4pm 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.



Sharing Achievements

This session, children will continue to be encouraged to share their achievements in the school and EYC. If your child has an achievement, they should bring it into the school / EYC to share with their EYP / teacher and peers on a **Friday**. Alternatively, a photo can be sent on Seesaw (EYC) or emailed to Monkton.mail@south-ayrshire.gov.uk which will be passed on. We will

continue to display achievements on the Achievement Board outside the dining hall and sometimes on Instagram (school) or Seesaw (EYC). Thank you!



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



Monkton Primary Parent Council



Chairperson Wanted Lead Our Parent Council!



- ✓ Help shape the future of our school!
- ✓ Work with other parents & the school.
- ✓ Lead meetings & coordinate initiatives.

Make a Difference – Apply Now!

Contact Us:

monktonparentcouncil@gmail.com





FREE SCHOOL MEALS

Free school meals means each and every child receives a nutritious lunch, helping them stay focused and energised throughout the day.

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

If you are eligible, please use the link to apply for free school meals. The application process is simple and quick and you will be able to track the status of your application and receive a confirmation letter from the council.

If you need any support to complete your application, please contact the council on 01223 212121 or visit the council website.



Primary 1 – 5

All children between 5-11 are entitled to free school meals. **HOWEVER**, an application must still be made to ensure children can access their meals.

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 at school if you get:

- You receive Scottish Child Payment
- Universal Credit (where your monthly earned income is not more than £131)
- Income Support
- Income-based Job Seeker's Allowance
- Income-based Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part 14 of the Immigration and Asylum Act





Earlybird Programme

**Join the National Autistic Society's
EarlyBird programme for parents and
carers of autistic children aged 4 and under**

The six-session programme covers:

- understanding autism
- communication
- understanding autistic experiences
- supporting daily living
- health and wellbeing
- connections

**"This has made a real
difference to me. In
general, life-changing."**

Parent

The EarlyBird programme aims to empower parents and supporting professionals to understand more about autism and discuss useful strategies on how to support autistic children



**For more information contact:
autismsupportayrshire@nas.org.uk**

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 9:15am 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. If your child is unwell, please adhere to the exclusion period e.g. 48 hours after last bout of sickness or diarrhea. This will keep others healthy and safe.

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.

**** Please note that Seesaw and Instagram cannot be used until all photo permissions are submitted and checked - please complete this asap for your child when you receive it from the office.****

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!