

MPS Newsletter

www.maghaberryyps.com

Friday 22nd August 2025



We hope everyone has had a lovely summer break and are back refreshed and rested for a new school year! A special welcome to any new nursery and P1 pupils and their families. We hope your child has a wonderful start to their first steps in education! We can't wait to see all the pupils back with us next week!

This newsletter contains important information about the start of term.

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

REMINDER! - As in previous years, we provide all the stationery (pencils, pens, colours, rulers, pencil cases etc.) needed. So parents do not need to purchase any of these items! 😊



We would request a voluntary contribution of £5 per child per term. This can be paid via the SchoolMoney App. These items are replenished throughout the year!

Starting/finishing Times (first week)

School will be reopening at the normal time on Wednesday 28th August. The first few days are half days, with school closing at 12:30pm until Friday 30th August.

School will resume full days from Monday 1st September.

Morning Drop off/Collection

Morning drop off time will remain between 8:50am and 9:05am as usual. Nursery will have different arrangements for the start of term. (Information will have been shared with you at the end of June).

- Please encourage your child to walk unaccompanied, independently from the gates to the classroom - over time this will improve their confidence!
- In the morning it is very difficult for our teachers to have conversations with parents before school - if you have a message/information for your child's teacher please pass this on to the school office and we will pass this on.
- The same arrangements will remain in place for P1 to P7 as last year. Pupils may enter the premises from 8:50am and go straight to their classrooms via the doors at the front of the building.
- If you arrive after 9:05am please enter through the main office door. The car park

DIARY DATES

Wed 27 August
School reopens. Half day - school closes at 12:30pm

Thurs 28 August
Half day - school closes at 12:30pm

Thurs 28 August
Meet the teacher sessions in the afternoon - see below for details

Friday 29 August
Half day - school finishes at 12:30pm

Mon 1 September
School Dinners available from today

Fri 24 October
School finishes at 12:30pm for Halloween half term break

Mon 3 November
School reopens after Halloween

Sat 15 November
SEAG Paper 1

Sat 22 November
SEAG Paper 2

Fri 19 December
School closes at 12noon for Christmas

Tues 6 January 2025
School opens for Spring term

gates, beside the office, will be closed at 9:05am from mid-September.

Nursery parents may enter the main pedestrian gate and wait outside nursery until the doors open at 8:50am.

Meet the Teacher/Class Information Sessions

This year we are offering short “Meet the Teacher Sessions” for each class on the afternoon of Thursday 28th August. This is a great opportunity to say hello to your child’s class teacher and hear about what you can expect this year. These sessions will be quite short and last 15 to 20 minutes - see the times below.

We would ask that parents do not bring children to the sessions. Please note that teachers will not be able to discuss individual pupils at this time - There will be an opportunity to discuss your child’s progress at the parent interviews in late October.

Class Information Sessions - Thursday 28th August 2025	
Mrs Wilson P2/3 - 1:30pm	Mrs Brown/Millar P2 - 1:30pm
Mrs Black P3 - 1:50pm	Mrs R Millar P4 - 1:50pm
Mr Duddy P5 - 2:10pm	Mrs Reid P5/6 - 2:10pm
Mrs Aiken P6/7 - 1:30pm	Mrs Neill P7 - 1:50pm

If you find yourself double booked, we would advise going to the older class - we will put copies of all the presentations on the website before the end of next week. The Primary 1 “meet the teacher” session took place in June, before the summer break.

The assembly hall will be available for any parents who need to wait between seeing more than one teacher.

P3 Friday teacher

For the last number of years Mrs C Millar has taught Mrs Black’s class on Fridays, however this year she is unable to work on Fridays. However, I am happy to announce that Mrs Black’s P3 class will be taught on Fridays by Miss Clarke. Miss Clarke has worked at our school as a substitute teacher quite a few times over the last few years and is delighted to be joining our team.

Online Parental Permission Forms - IMPORTANT

If you have not yet accessed our online parent consent forms it is important that you complete these as soon as possible for each child. The links are below:

<u>WALKING HOME UNACCOMPANIED</u> (P4 and up only)	https://forms.gle/GojhUk9MhFg4CWqP6
<u>FIRST AID CONSENT</u> (all pupils)	https://forms.gle/LoeAR5e4kYB1RhGF7
<u>PHOTO/INTERNET CONSENT</u> (all pupils)	https://forms.gle/6VHKh1puVTswmSEA

We will send reminders about these via the School App.

100% attendance	Excellent	0 days missed
95% attendance	Satisfactory	9 days missed - 1 week 4 days of lost learning
90% attendance	Poor	19 days missed - 3 weeks 4 days of lost learning
85% attendance	Very poor/unacceptable	28 days missed - 5 weeks 3 days of lost learning
80% attendance	Unacceptable	38 days missed - 7 weeks 3 days of lost learning

Attendance

At Maghaberry Primary School we are committed to maintaining high levels of attendance and punctuality. You will find a copy of the Department of Education's "Miss School, Miss Out" leaflet via the link below. It makes interesting reading and highlights the advantages on maintaining your child's attendance at school. I would encourage all parents/carers to read this document.

<https://maghaberryyps.com/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/Miss-School-Miss-Out-Leaflet.pdf>

Whilst there may be factors that can, from time to time, impact a child's attendance (such as sickness); regular, punctual attendance, ensures that your child gets the best possible outcomes in school. If there are any challenges or difficulties, that may be impacting your child's attendance at school, please speak to your class teacher as early as possible, so that we can try to resolve these together.

Please note that if your child is absent from school, you must inform the school in writing of the reason for this absence.

During the school year we will write to parents if their child's attendance drops below 85% and we are obliged to inform the Education Welfare Officer if attendance becomes a concern.

School Website - www.maghaberryyps.com

Our website is a valuable resource for parents. Among other things you can:

- Check holiday dates - <https://maghaberryyps.com/key-dates/>
- View school newsletters - <https://maghaberryyps.com/newsletters/>
- Check school dinner menu - <https://maghaberryyps.com/dinner-menu/>
- Check after school club dates/times - COMING SOON...

We also hope to post photos regularly during the course of the school year.



Soap and Tissues

It is very helpful to us as a school if parents would consider donating a box of tissues and a small liquid hand soap for their child's classroom, at the start of the year. Thank you in advance!

Nut Allergies - No Nuts In School

Due to serious nut allergies there are NO NUTS permitted in school. Please avoid Nutella and cereal bars containing nuts!



Inhalers

If your child requires an inhaler (even on rare occasions) a permission form must be completed - these are available from the school office. The class teacher should also be given a clearly labelled spare inhaler to store securely in the classroom.

Other important information

- ✓ All pupils should bring their own snack for mid-morning break. (Nursery – snack provided)
- ✓ Pupils will be advised as to the slots for PE for their class and should wear PE Kit to school only on these days. Please note PE kit includes navy track bottom - not coloured leggings etc. There will be no PE on the first week back.
- ✓ Normal uniform will be required on other days, with black shoes. Further details will be sent home and be available on the website soon.
- ✓ Pupils should not bring toys or teddy bears to school. These can be distracting and can cause undue distress if broken or lost.
- ✓ Pupils are allowed to sip water in class. Water can help with hydration and concentration. Juice drinks should be saved for break and lunch.
- ✓ As a health promoting school we would ask parents to choose healthier alternatives to crisps and chocolate for your child's break time snack.

- ✓ If there are any changes in your contact details such as a change of address or new phone number, please let the office know as soon as possible, so that we can maintain accurate records.

Sickness

If your child is sick please do not send them to school until they are well. The Public Health Agency advise that for vomiting and/or diarrhoea children should not return to school until 48 hours after the last episode.

After School Clubs

We will be releasing information about after school clubs in the next couple of weeks. we hope to start clubs in mid September. More information to follow soon.

SEAG Registration

A reminder for P7 parents wishing to register for the SEAG tests (AQE replacement), the closing date for registration is Friday 19th September.

<https://seagni.co.uk>

Parking

Please remember that the church car park opposite school is available in the mornings and afternoons. Parents should exercise caution when crossing the road. In order to help with safety and visibility cars are not permitted to park on the chevrons outside the school gates. Thank you for your support!

Ideas for helping with anxiety

Going back to school can be a very exciting time for our children, but it can also create anxiety in a small number of cases. Just like adults, children can feel anxious about various things at different stages of their lives. Many of these worries are a normal part of growing up.

If a child's anxiety is starting to affect their wellbeing, the resources in the links below may be useful.

[Anxiety Guide for Parents \(AMH\) - tap or click here](#)

This guide explores some of the signs and symptoms of anxiety and looks at some of the things that a parent can do to try and help a child experiencing these.

[Our Wee Thoughts and Feelings - tap or click here](#)

This is a short 3-minute video for children that looks at what anxiety can feel like, physically, for a child and goes through some of the strategies they can use to help manage this.



Applying for Free School Meals & Uniform Allowance

If you require help...

-  www.eani.org.uk/fsm
-  028 9041 8044
-  mealsanduniform@eani.org.uk



1. Are you eligible?

You must be:

- in receipt of a qualifying benefit OR
- be an Asylum Seeker supported by the Home Office Asylum Support Assessment Team (ASAT).

Qualifying Benefits:

- Income Support;
- Income Based Jobseeker's Allowance;
- Income Related Employment and Support Allowance;
- Guarantee Element of State Pension Credit;
- Child Tax Credit or Working Tax Credit with an annual taxable household income of £16,190 or less;
- Universal credit and have net household earnings not exceeding £15,000 per year.

2. What documentation do you need?

You will be asked to upload proof that you are receiving a qualifying benefit:

- Tax Credits Award Notice
- Your most recent Universal Credit Claimant Statement or
- Proof of Benefit letter (if you are in receipt of Income Support, Income Based Jobseeker's Allowance, Income Related Employment and Support Allowance or the Guarantee Element of State Pension Credit).



3. What else do you need?



- National Insurance Number
- Children's names
- Dates of Birth
- Schools they will be attending
- Address
- E-mail and telephone number
- Bank or building society account and sort code details.

4. Where do you apply?

Apply for Free School Meals and Uniform Allowance for the new school year beginning September, through the Education Authority's online portal, EA Connect. If you haven't already registered an EA Connect account, it's quick and easy to do. Information can be found on the EA website.



5. What happens next?



We aim to process applications within 4 weeks. However, in the busy period of June to September, this can take up to 5 weeks. Please do not contact EA for an update on your application within the 5 weeks of submitting your application. If you have provided incorrect or insufficient supporting documentation, you will receive a tailored email advising you to resubmit your application with details of the correct documentation you need to provide.

You will receive an email from EA once your application has been approved and processed.



CHILD PROTECTION AND SAFEGUARDING TEAM

Designated Teacher for Child

Protection:

Mrs R Wilson

Deputy Designated Teacher for Child

Protection:

Mrs J Hamilton

Principal and Deputy Designated

Teacher for Child Protection

Mr D Spratt

Governors responsible for Child

Protection:

Mr J Watson

and Mr K McCarthy

**Copies of the Child Protection Policy
are available from the school website.**