

August 2020 Newsletter

Welcome to a brand new school year!



Dear parents and friends,

After a strange 5 months away from education, we are now able to return to school full time - albeit in slightly different circumstances. A new school year starts and there is much to look forward to in session 2020-2021. It was lovely to welcome your children to the school for the start of the new session - they all look so smart in their school uniform. Our Primary One children were very grown up and quickly settled in class - and their families only shed a few tears! Thank you all so much for the support you have shown in having your children so well organised, wearing their school uniform and ready for the school day.

As you will be aware, Mrs Victoria Collins is on maternity leave this session and I am delighted to be working with **Mrs Lindsey Cullen** as Acting Depute Head Teacher this session. **Mr Michael Hopgood** will also be Acting Principal teacher this year.

I am delighted to welcome a number of new staff to the school this year. **Miss Hollie McRae and Miss Annis Coffey** are Probationer Teachers who have joined us to work with Primary 3 and Primary 7 respectively this session. We also welcome **Miss Alisha McGuigan, Miss Cheryl McElhinney and Miss Lauren Duncan** to the staff team. I extend a warm welcome to all of our new staff and hope they enjoy their experience at Mount Vernon.

At this time of year it can take time to get back into the swing of school routines, we know this will even more of a challenge this session due to the unprecedented circumstances we have found ourselves in due to the coronavirus pandemic. I have included in this newsletter a number of important items of information which I hope will be helpful.

There is always a lot happening at MVP so please make sure you are able to receive my weekly update email as well as Xpressions/texts from the main office. This way we can keep you as up-to-date as possible with school news. If your email address or mobile phone number has changed, please inform the school office as soon as possible. HT emails will be sent through the Groupcall system so it is important we have up to date details for all contacts. Unfortunately, at this time, parents and carers cannot enter the school premise, including the school grounds. If you would like to speak to a member of the Management Team, please call the school office.

Please also ensure you have downloaded our school app as all 'Schoolbag Post' items will be posted there. We will not send paper copies home unless we require a signature.

I wish you and your family an enjoyable "Back to School" experience.

Kindest regards,

Gayle Clarkson

Head Teacher



A New Arrival!!!



We would like to wish huge congratulations to Mrs Collins and her husband Steve on the birth of their beautiful baby girl, Elsie.

We wish them every good wish and look forward to them visiting MVP for cuddles when they are allowed!

AUGUST DIARY



17th - Home Learning begins

31st - Photographer - 'Hollywood Squares' photographs for P1-4/3 classes.

SEPTEMBER DIARY

25th - 28th - September Weekend

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Thank you everyone!



I would like to thank all of our resilient, kind, caring and hardworking children for an incredible first week back at school. They followed our new rules and procedures so well and it has been such a pleasure to work with them throughout this first week back.

I would also like to extend a thank you to all of our families for helping to make this week run so smoothly. Everything we have asked of you has been followed by all in the MVP family and you have all been so helpful, kind and supportive. Thank you so much, this week wouldn't have been so successful without your continued support - it is really appreciated.

Finally a huge thank you to our amazing staff. They have all worked tirelessly to ensure that our school was ready for the pupil return and that our warm, nurturing and caring ethos has been present this week. Everyone has worked to ensure that our children are safe, happy and learning!

Access to the Building



All visitors and contractors will receive an induction prior to entering the school building. This will include COVID-19 screening questions. Parents will not be able to access the school building. Please make a telephone appointment, unless this is by invitation.

Unfortunately, it will not be possible for parents to drop off forgotten items during the school day.

Break time and Lunchtime



In order to support physical distancing, children will have their breaktimes in smaller groups. Children will still have a 15 minute playtime and a 45 minute lunch break.

Annual Data Checks



Each year we collect vital information about your contact details and emergency contact details.

It is of VITAL importance that you complete these forms and return them to the school office as soon as possible.

If you, or your child's emergency contacts, mobile phone numbers change **PLEASE let us know immediately.** It is vital that you help keep our records up to date by informing us immediately of any change to phone numbers or addresses.

Your child will also bring home important consent forms which must be returned to the school office as soon as possible.



Water Bottles

We encourage children to drink water throughout the day. All children require their own named refillable water bottle. This should be filled before coming to school. Due to Government and council guidelines we cannot use our water coolers due to cross contamination.

The children will have access to bottled water in the cafeteria but they may, on warmer days, wish to bring a second bottle with them.

Please note children should not have flavoured water or fruit squash in these bottles.



Travelling to and from School

Advice from the Scottish Government is that families do not park near schools, instead park slightly further away and walk a portion of the journey to school. This will help to ensure the roads around our school are safe and accessible for pupils and local residents. No cars should enter our school car park.

Remember, we have bike racks in our school for families who choose to cycle to school, what a healthy and active way to start the day!

Drop off and Collection



Children will be allowed into the school grounds from 8.45am and will make their way directly to their line up area. Parents will not be allowed entry into the school site so will be requested to leave children at the gate. We request that after dropping your child at the gate you leave, rather than remain at the gate or fence. 2m distancing from other households must be observed at all times. Also, only 1 adult from each household should drop their child in order to limit the number of people around the school at any one time.

We have indicated which gate year groups should enter and be collected from. There will be 3/4 classes entering and exiting our 3 entry gates in order to minimise contact and congestion. If younger children are accompanied by siblings, it may be easier to enter through the younger siblings gate.

There will be at least 6 adults in the playground each morning and after school to support children.

At collection time, class teachers will escort their class group to their designated gate for collection. Again, you may wish older children to exit through another gate. Please stand away from the school gate and only come forward when your child teacher is approaching. Primary 1 classes will leave through the Dornford Avenue gate first.

Dress for Success—School Uniform @ MVP

Please note the formal Mount Vernon School uniform consists of:

- ◆ Grey school trousers/skirt - not black.
- ◆ Pale blue shirt or blouse. Shirts must be tucked in at all times.
- ◆ School tie
- ◆ Grey cardigan or jumper/royal blue school cardigan
- ◆ Black shoes - if children are wearing trainers to school these must be black.
- ◆ All children must have a pair of black indoor shoes.



Where possible children should wear their shirt and tie to school. On PE days children can wear our more informal uniform:

- ◆ Pale blue polo shirt, grey jogging trousers.
- ◆ Grey sweatshirt.

Please support us by ensuring that all clothing, packed lunches and water bottles are labelled from P1-7. We often have a lot of items in our 'Lost and Found' box which don't have names on them. Name labels will help us in returning these to their owners. Thank you!

My name is ...



Home Learning

Home Learning issued will be direct reinforcement of class-work in numeracy, reading and spelling words which should be practised for the weekly spelling test on a Friday.

Your child will be issued with Home Learning every Monday. This should be returned to school by Friday each week. Children require their reading book in school every day.

Please support us by ensuring your child completes their home tasks and by **signing their jotter and reading record**.

A leaflet with further information regarding Home Learning is uploaded on our app.

P.E Kit

Children have two Physical Education sessions each week. Both sessions will take place outside. Children are required to wear a suitable PE kit:

☛ *Children can wear shorts under their uniform or wear grey jogging trousers, along with their polo shirt,*

☛ *Jewellery should not be worn on PE days.*



Indoor Shoes

Please can you make sure your child brings a pair of indoor shoes to school?

These will remain in school. Thank you.



@mvpglasgow

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Resources



We will seek to reduce the number of items travelling between home and school and keep these to a minimum.

Children can still bring a school bag to school but they should not bring a pencil case. All children will be provided with a wallet of resources to use and keep in school. This will not be shared between pupils.

Children will still get a reading book. This will stay with them both at home and in school. When books are finished they will go to a drop box for 3 days. Again, these will not be shared.

Children will have a wallet or folder for Home Learning. This will contain jotters needed for learning from home. This should come to school each day.

Children may bring a packed lunch or they can have lunch in the school cafeteria. We request that children **stay in school for lunch** and avoid entering and leaving the premise for home lunch. Children should also bring a play snack with them.



PE and Outdoor Learning

Children should wear full school uniform to come to school. It is even more essential that **ALL** clothing is clearly labelled with your child's name and class. Children should wear a clean, fresh set of clothing each day.

As normal there will be two PE sessions each week. Children will be unable to change for PE activities therefore PE kits should be worn underneath or as part of uniform. Grey jogging trousers are acceptable on PE days. Please ensure this is warm and appropriate for the weather as all PE lessons will take place outdoors.

Children must be able to get changed for PE independently, we won't be able to help. We also won't be able to tie laces or zip up jackets so children must be able to manage their own footwear and jackets.

Children will have daily outdoor learning activities. We would, therefore, encourage clothing to be suitable for all weathers and ask that children always bring an outdoor waterproof jacket and wear suitable outdoor footwear.

Sweet Free School

No -

- Sweets
- Chocolate
- Fizzy drinks
- Cakes



Yes -

- Water or juice
- Fruit or veg
- Cereal bars
- Crisps



Mobile Phones

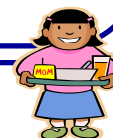


If you allow your child to bring a mobile phone to school it must be **switched off and kept in their bag** throughout the day.

Children will only be allowed to use their phone once they have left the premises. Any calls to and from the school will be made through the school office.

Children are **not** permitted to take their mobile phone into the playground for **ANY PURPOSE**.

School Lunches and The Breakfast Club



The Breakfast Club is open from 8.00am. Children can have juice and toast or cereal. Everyone who comes to the breakfast club stays inside until 8.45am when the club closes. The club costs £2.00 per day (£1 for next sibling). Children are expected to be polite and well behaved.

As you know there is now a cashless system in place. School lunches and breakfast club attendance should be paid for in advance. If you require a code in order to make this payment, please contact the school office. Parents/Carers are purchasing a number of meals not specific dates so, if the breakfast club is not used one week, that cost is not lost. This is the same position with the school meals. GCC have suggested meals are bought in bundles of five or ten only to make it more straightforward rather than individual purchases.

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Attendance and Unauthorised Absence

It is the duty of every parent of a child of 'school age' to ensure that their child attends school regularly. Attendance must be recorded twice a day, morning and afternoon. Each child's absence from school is recorded in the school register as authorised or unauthorised.

Unfortunately our school attendance rate dropped last session. This is largely due to family holidays and long periods of unexplained absence. **It is important to note that if you are unwell or have a medical appointment that your child should still be in school.**

Parents and carers should inform the school by letter, if their child is likely to be absent for some time and to give the child a note on his or her return to school confirming the reason for absence.

Parents / guardians do not have the automatic right to take their child out of school without permission during term time. The Head of Establishment can only authorise time off during term time in exceptional circumstances. We will only authorise absence for a family holiday in the following exceptional circumstances.

Exceptional circumstances include:

- ◆ short term parental placement abroad
- ◆ family returning to its country of origin for family reasons
- ◆ the period immediately after an illness or accident
- ◆ a period of serious or critical illness of a close relative
- ◆ a domestic crisis, which causes serious disruption to the family home, causing temporary relocation

Time off during term time for the following reasons is not acceptable and will be recorded as unauthorised absence:

- ◆ Family holidays out with term time
- ◆ availability of cheap holidays or desired accommodation
- ◆ holidays, which overlap the beginning or end of term

Clearly with no explanation from the parent, the absence is unauthorised.

Any parent wishing to request time off during term time for a family holiday must put this request in writing to the Head Teacher.

It should be pointed out that the Education Liaison Officer will investigate unexplained absence and the authority has the power to write to, interview or prosecute parents/carers, or to refer pupils to the Reporter of the Children's Panel if necessary.

If your child has an appointment during school hours - e.g. doctor/dentist, he/she **MUST** be collected by a parent of carer and a copy of the appointment letter given to school clerical staff. This, of course, is in the interests of safety.

If your child is going to be absent due to ill health please telephone the Pupil Absence Reporting Line on **0141 287 0039** or register to record absence online.



The Head Teacher has a duty to monitor attendance termly and must notify parents and carers if their child's attendance falls below 93%. This information is also passed to the Education Liaison Officer.



Latecoming

It is vital that your child is in school on time each day. The school day starts promptly and persistent latecoming has a negative impact on learning and socialisation. Class teachers have work programmes ready to start at 9 o'clock.

If you are late please come through the main door. Children will have to sign the "Late Book". Parents will be alerted if their child is persistently late as this is monitored very closely by the Head Teacher and Education Liaison Officer.



Management & Administration of Medicines



Many children will at some time need to take medicine at school. For many this will be short term, perhaps finishing a course of medicine. Other children have medical conditions such as asthma or diabetes that, if not properly managed, could limit their access to education. Children with such conditions are regarded as having long term health care needs. Most children with health care needs are able to attend school regularly and, with some support from the school, can take part in most normal school activities.

Parents and Carers are responsible for making sure their child attends school when well enough to do so. Parents should provide the Head Teacher with sufficient information about their child's health care needs and treatment. They should, in collaboration with health professionals and the Head Teacher, reach an understanding on the school's role in helping their child's health care needs. The Head Teacher can seek advice from the school nurse or other medical advisors. The administration of prescribed medicines in an education establishment is a matter within the discretion of the head of establishment.

Long Term Health Care Needs

Parents and carers have prime responsibility for their child's health and should provide schools with information about your child's medical condition. As a school we aim to minimise any disruption to the child's learning as far as possible and work with parents, carers and health professionals. Where a child has to take medication in school for an extended period or has a chronic on-going condition a Health Care Plan will be put in place.

Managing Medicines During the School Day

Medicines which have not been prescribed by a medical practitioner will not be administered in school. Children must not bring such medicines into school. (e.g. paracetamol, ibuprofen, strepsils) **ALL medication handed in to school must be prescribed by a doctor and should clearly show the child's name, date and dosage of medication to be given.** Parents must administer the first dose of any new medication to ensure there is no adverse reactions before it can be brought into school and given by staff. At no point should there be any medication left in a child's bag that is not prescribed/no consent form completed. If this happens, we would have to ask you to come back to the school and collect this as we are not allowed to have this on the premises.

Short-term Prescribed Medicines

Short term prescription medicines should only be taken during the school day when absolutely essential. Where there is agreement to medication being administered, it must be in its original container with the original pharmacy label intact. Medication will not be accepted without these. Medicines will only be administered according to the instructions on the pharmacy label. Parents must complete a consent form before any medication will be administered. School staff complete administration records when they give medicine to a child.

Asthma Procedures

It is good practice to encourage children to self-administer their own medication from an early age and in Mount Vernon Primary we will support and encourage this. If pupils can manage to take their medication themselves, staff may only need to supervise. An example of this would be inhalers for pupils with asthma. We encourage children aged 6 and above to manage the use of their own (blue) inhaler. As with all medication, inhalers should be in original packaging and must have a pharmaceutical label attached. A second inhaler is kept in classrooms. This allows children to access their inhaler quickly and is helpful for children who require this before or after their Daily Mile or PE lessons.



Parking Around Our School

This is an area of great concern for staff, pupils and parents at the school.

Please allow yourself the extra few minutes it may take to park safely and drop off and work with us to ensure everyone can travel to and leave from our school safely. Please, at no time, enter or leave the school through the vehicle entrance or cross through the staff car park.

It is your duty to park safely and sensibly around the school perimeter.

Please protect the safety of the children in our school.



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