

January 2022 Newsletter

Dear parents, carers and friends,

Happy New Year and welcome back to Term 3 at Mount Vernon Primary School. This term is always very busy and below you will see the diary for the month ahead. The vacancy for the Head Teacher role will be advertised over the next few weeks and I will notify you when the position is filled. This is a really exciting time for the staff and pupils; we are all very keen to find out who will be stepping into the role. We would like to welcome back Mrs Teresa Owens who is returning from maternity leave and will be teaching Primary 2 on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. Miss Miller will be remaining in school until the HT post is filled and will be covering Mrs Cullen's timetable.

All families should now have set up access to Parentsportal and ParentPay. If you have not done so please contact the school office for support with this. Glasgow will soon be launching the 'meal selector' feature on ParentPay and you will need to have access to allow you to select school meals for your child/ren.

This month we are delighted to have some school trips in the diary and a few of our classes will be visiting Glasgow Science Centre. Our Primary 4 pupils will be taking part in Clyde in the Classroom and their hatchery and trout eggs will be arriving at the end of January. Our school will be working alongside Marissa our link scientist who will support the pupils in caring for the eggs and releasing the fish at the end of the project.

Our classes will be exploring our fabulous Scots language as part of Reading Week this month and in the lead up to Burns Night P2, P3/2 and P3 will be involved in a special Robert Burns themed workshop delivered by the team at Wee StoryBox. Look them up on Twitter @weestorybox #supportingsmallbusinesses

Sexual Health and Relationships Education lessons will be taking place in all classes over February and March. Further information is included in Termly Information sheets which are available through our school app soon. Please take a look at these where you will find an overview of the lessons your child will be covering in class. If you would like to see any lesson plans or resources please contact the school office to arrange.

Please remember that you can make an appointment to speak with your child's teacher at any point during the year should you have a question or concern. Mrs. Cullen ADHT and I are also available so please do not hesitate to contact us through the main office or by e mail, we are always happy to help.

Kindest regards,

Victoria Collins

Acting Head Teacher



JANUARY DIARY



Indoor Shoes



All children, from P1- P7, **MUST** have a pair of indoor shoes. Please can you ensure your child has a pair of clean, black, labelled indoor shoes to wear when inside? This is particularly important in winter months when children are wearing big boots and wellingtons to school.

All of our classrooms are carpeted and we endeavour to keep these clean and in good condition. Children also need to wear indoor shoes for their PE lessons. Children **cannot** participate in PE without these. Thank you!

5th - School reopens to staff and pupils

1st Week - Scots Reading Week

- P1-7 January Baseline assessments

10th - Termly Info booklets posted on school app

Parent Council Meeting @ 7pm (Teams)

19th - P4 Class Trip to Glasgow Science Centre

20th - Super 7s athletics

24th - Marty Robot 2 week visit to MVP

20th - Wee Storybook Workshops in P2, P3/2 & P3

25th - Robert Burns Day



28th - P5 Class Trip to Glasgow Science Centre and IMAX

31st - P4 Clyde in the Classroom - Egg Delivery

We value... Trust Respect Team Work Confidence Resilience

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 should be tucked in at all times.
- ◆ Grey sweatshirt, grey cardigan or jumper/royal blue school cardigan.
- ◆ Blue and white school tie, P7 pupils wear our school tartan tie.
- ◆ Black shoes - if children are wearing trainers to school these must be black.
- ◆ All children must have a pair of black indoor shoes.
- ◆ On PE days children can wear our more informal uniform: polo shirt, black/grey leggings or joggers



Please support us by ensuring that all clothing, packed lunches and water bottles are labelled.

We will be continuing to follow government guidelines and keep classrooms and communal areas in school well ventilated. We ask that pupils come to school with a jumper or cardigan to wear if needed. We also aim to have pupils outside for breaks as much as the Scottish weather permits. Please ensure that pupils have suitable footwear and waterproof jackets. Many thanks.

Relationships, Sexual Health and Parenthood Education (RSHP)

Term 3 Planning



Our RSHP curriculum has been in place at Mount Vernon for some years; it is a fundamental part of Curriculum for Excellence. This session we will be adopting some of the new materials from the national teaching and learning RSHP resource. Children and young people do not just learn in formal settings, they also learn at home and so the updated RSHP resource makes that connection by recognising the role of parents and carers as the child's first and lifelong educator. Many of the learning activities provided in the resource have information that can be shared with families, there are also helpful book lists and information leaflets which we will share. Although the content covered is largely similar to our existing SHRE (Sexual Health Relationship Education) the updated lessons do reflect a more modern and inclusive Scotland where we value and respect the human rights of everyone. We need to deliver RSHP education that helps protect children and young people from harm and supports them to understand that friendships and personal relationships should be healthy, happy and safe. The resource was developed by a partnership of Local Authorities and Health Boards, with advice from Education Scotland and the Scottish Government. A great feature of the resource is that it is accessible and open to everyone; parents and carers can see what is being delivered in school, access the parent info section and utilise the FAQ section. There are also lots of helpful videos to support families when talking to their children about sexual health and relationships.

A copy of the lessons that we will be covering in classes/stages will be issued in our termly information booklet this week. As with previous years our composite classes will be taught in stage groups to ensure pupils are receiving the suggested lessons for their age group.

For more information please visit <https://rshp.scot/>



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National Online Safety ~ What Families Need to Know!

The expert team at National Online Safety (NOS) believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one issue of many which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about SETTING UP NEW DEVICES FOR CHILDREN

At Christmas, millions of lucky children will be excitedly ripping the wrapping off new phones, tablets, computers or consoles. However, in the rush to let young ones enjoy their shiny gadgets, many parents neglect to set these devices up safely – increasing the chances of children going online and stumbling across adult content, making expensive downloads or installing unsuitable apps. A little time configuring the device properly can save a lot of anguish later. Here are our top tips to ensure that a dream gift on Christmas morning doesn't turn into a nightmare by New Year.

PASSCODES FOR IPHONE/IPAD

If your child's getting their own iPhone or iPad, you can set parental controls that make it difficult for them to access inappropriate content or download expensive apps. Once the device is set up, go to the Settings app and tap Screen Time, then select Use Screen Time Passcode and enter a passcode. Keep it to yourself so your child can't switch the protection off.

SCREEN TIME SETTINGS ON IPHONE/IPAD

Once you've set a Screen Time Passcode, you can adjust various safety settings. You could, for example, only allow communication with people from the Contacts app, place restrictions on App Store purchases and apply age limits to movies, music and web content. There are many more protective options available within the Screen Time settings section.

FAMILY LINK FOR ANDROID

Parents can manage Android phones and tablets, as well as Google Chromebooks, through Google's Family Link app. This gives your child some independence (and their own Google account) but lets parents monitor which apps are being used, set limits on content and ensure that parental permission is required to install apps. Look for Family Link in the Google Play Store.

ADD A CHILD TO FAMILY LINK

The easiest way to add a child's device to Family Link is to set it up with its own Google account. It's a good idea to create this before they use their new phone, tablet or Chromebook. Once they're logged in, open the Family Link app on your phone, press '+' in the top right and add a new family member using their Google account details. Then follow the on-screen instructions.

FAMILY SHARING ON A MAC

Families using a Mac get similar screen time options to iPhone and iPad users. Again, if you're setting up a Mac for a child, make yourself the main admin and add them as a user. This is handled through Apple's Family Sharing service, which not only allows you to put controls on child accounts but share apps and other purchases with them too. Search 'family sharing' at <https://support.apple.com>.

PLAYSTATION PARENTAL CONTROLS

With parental controls for the PS5, you'll need a PlayStation Network account (as the 'family manager') and the child will need their own account, which they should sign in with on the console. This all needs to be set up in advance, so you might want to do it before the big day. Go to PlayStation.com and search 'family account' for instructions.

DISCUSS IT WITH YOUR CHILD

If you're planning to implement any kind of restriction or protection settings on your child's new device, we'd recommend having a discussion with your young one first about what these controls do, and what they are for. If you try to impose parental controls surreptitiously or with no advance warning, don't be surprised if your child tries to find a way around them.

SET AN ADMIN ON PCS

On Windows PCs and laptops, it's important not to let your child share a general user account or be the main admin on the device. If you're booting up a new family PC or a child's own device, set it up using your own account details and you'll become the admin by default. Then set up children with their own separate accounts: Settings > Accounts > Family & Other Users > Add Other User.

SET WINDOWS LIMITS

Once your child's account has been created, a parent admin can go back into the Family & Other Users menu and apply limits to it. These include restricting screen time, the type of games and apps that can be installed, web filters and more. Microsoft also includes reporting tools which, for example, can email you with a weekly summary of your child's activity on the device.

TREAT AN XBOX LIKE A PC

The same control settings you use for a PC can be used to apply parental controls on an Xbox. Again, once your child is signed into the Xbox with their own account, you can then monitor and regulate their activity from a PC or web browser. Microsoft's dashboard allows you to manage voice communication through the console, so you can limit who can contact your child, for example.

INSTALL XBOX FAMILY SETTINGS

If you don't have a PC, but your child does have an Xbox, it might be easier to use the Xbox Family Settings app for iPhone or Android. Here, you can restrict console screen time (particularly handy if the console is in a bedroom), restrict communication and monitor the types of game being played. There's also a feature where you can allocate spending money for games or in-game purchases.

STAY VIGILANT

It's important to remember that none of these methods is 100% foolproof. Nobody will ever invent flawless filters or parental controls – not least because what's unacceptable to some parents is perfectly acceptable to others. So although devices' parental controls will help to keep your child safe online, they work best side by side with good old-fashioned parental vigilance.

Meet Our Expert

Barry Collins has been a technology journalist and editor for more than 20 years, working for titles such as the *Sunday Times*, *Which?*, *PC Pro* and *Computeractive*. He's appeared regularly as a technology pundit on television and radio, including on *Newsnight*, *Radio 5 Live* and *ITV News at Ten*. He has two children and writes regularly about internet safety issues.



National
Online
Safety®

#WakeUpWednesday

Introducing Marty Robot and STEM Education

In January we will be welcoming Marty Robot at MVP for a two week holiday. Marty is a humanoid robot with a big personality. Marty uses the Build-Play-Learn ideology and can be utilised in most core areas of the curriculum, particularly literacy and numeracy. In addition to this, Marty helps address the growing demand for teaching STEM in the classroom.

STEM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics, four subjects that play massive roles in our daily lives. For example, science explains the world around us; technology allows us to form connections and expand our knowledge; engineering provides solutions to problems as diverse as transport and climate change; and mathematics underpins almost every job and activity we do. Because of this, STEM education is vital for students to succeed in our technology and information-based society.

Keep an eye out for Marty popping into classes throughout January!



Birds come to roost at MVP

We would like to extend a huge thank you to Peter Miller (Ms Miller's Dad) for kindly making and donating these beautiful hand carved wooden birds. Mr Miller worked with our Gardening Gang to choose where the birds would go and securely attach them to their new homes. There are 6 birds hidden around our grounds and our children have really enjoyed looking out for them. We are keen to further develop our outdoor play kitchen area, fill our new planters with compost and replenish the bark in our woodland walkway path. We plan to use some of our fundraising money to support these projects.



MVP Community Hampers

On behalf of our senior classes and staff I would like to extend a huge thank you to everyone who contributed items for our community hampers. This year we were able to deliver hampers to the following community partners and spread some festive joy.

- Mount Vernon Lollypop person
- Foxley Care Home
- Georgia Park Care Home
- Dogs Trust
- Greyfriars Nursing Home
- Action for Children
- Haydale Nursing Home
- Stepps Children's Hospice
- Glasgow North East Food Bank



This is the Greatest Show!



Roll up! Roll up!
Come one! Come all!



This term our Infant Open Area has been transformed into a performance arena equipped with its very own ticket office, audience area and refreshment stand.

We're looking for some of our budding superstars to showcase their talents and try their hand at magic, ribbon twirling, mime, comedy, dancing, singing, plate spinning and much more. Look out for photos and videos appearing on pupil's Seesaw journals.

If you have any unwanted costumes, magic sets, wigs or any other resource that you think might support this theme then please contact the school office or your child's class teacher. Many thanks.



Fundraising Update

Current Total - £6201.80

Thank you so much to our amazing Parent Council and to all our families and friends who helped by selling and buying raffle tickets.

Our Big Christmas Raffle was a huge success and raised **£3582** to support school funds.

Our PJ Day also raised **£352**.

We will keep you updated with some of our new exciting projects that this money will help fund.

Thank you!



December Special Commendation Winners

Congratulations and a huge well done to all our amazing commendation winners!



P1m	Bianca Teixeira Keian Chakarov	P3	Millie Norval Ella Brooks	P6	Nathan Letham Olivia Boyd
P1r	Layla Wilson Lucca Duff	P4	Gabriella Connelly Adam McCormick	P7/6	Maria Hanif Harlie Merrick
P2	Olly Gray-Gardner Ella MacDonald	P5/4	Harry Murphy Yasheil Kumarage	P7	Eilidh McCance Harry McPartlin
P3/2	Zak Barret Millie McMunn	P5	Theo McFadden Olivia Lennon		



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