

September 2021 Newsletter

Dear parents and friends,

The first term of the school session is by passing so quickly. Our Primary 1 pupils have settled in well to full days in school and our core learning is well underway. I'm sure this will be a very busy and rewarding school session.

Can I please remind parents are carers of the importance of wearing a face covering at pick up and drop off. The rise in positive cases across the country is concerning and we must do everything we can to keep our children, and one another, safe. We also request that households keep at least a 1m distance from each other. Thank you for your continued support.

We have had a very busy start to the first term and I was delighted to award the first Special Commendations of the new session! We also have a new 'Golden Book' of writing for 2021-2022 and I look forward to filling it with excellent written work from the pupils in our school.

The school photographer visits the school this week to take photographs of class groups. He will also be visiting in March to take individual and family group photographs.

The first Parent Council meeting of the new session was on Monday 6th September @ 7pm. If you are interested in joining our Parent Council, please contact our Chair, Mrs Lorna Mackechnie. The Parent Council are a huge support to our school and many treats and events would not be possible without their valuable fundraising efforts.

There is always a lot happening so please make sure you are able to receive my weekly update email as well as messages from the main office. We will send messages via Xpressions, if you do not have this app, please download it so you can receive instant messages from the school. We cannot send an SMS message unless we need to make important, urgent contact with families. SMS messages carry a cost to the school. 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.

Kindest regards,

Gayle Clarkson

Head Teacher



Annual Data Checks - a Reminder

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.

SEPTEMBER DIARY



6th - Parent Council Meeting @ 7pm

8th - School Photographer - class groups

Please wear full school uniform

13th - 4x P7 pupils attending online forum to develop 'Children's Climate Charter.'

24th - 27th - September Weekend

29th - P2 & P4 Determined to Dance block

Our Dear Green Place - COP26

Uniting the World to Tackle Climate Change.

COP26 (26th Conference of the Parties) United Nations Climate Change Summit will be held in Glasgow from Sunday 31st October to Friday 12th November 2021.

This is an amazing opportunity for our children to continue their work on Learning for Sustainability. All classes in the school will be working on an interdisciplinary topic this term and learning about climate change, climate justice, continuing work on the 3 R's - reduce, reuse and recycle, renewable energy, and how human activity has impacted upon our environment.

Some of our senior pupils will be involved in creating the 'Children's Climate Charter' for Glasgow.



We value...  Trust  Respect  Team Work  Confidence  Resilience



Active Schools

We are committed to providing opportunities for our children to be active in school and follow recommendation for 60 minutes of physical activity outside of school, each day.

In normal times there are many lunchtime and afterschool clubs on offer, including afterschool football training and games for our senior pupils and afterschool rehearsals for our City of Dance crew.

CLUBS COMING SOON!

We are hoping to start some afterschool clubs again soon. Please keep your eyes peeled! If you are interested in your child attending a club, details will be posted on the school app. Please complete a form on our school app if your child is keen to attend a club and experience these opportunities. You will be notified by letter if your child has a place in a club or not, you can then send money into the school office. Please do not send in money until a place is confirmed.



Counselling - With Kids

The mental, social and emotional wellbeing of the children in Mount Vernon Primary School is at the heart of everything we do. This session we have been given additional funding from the Scottish Government to support Mental Health and Wellbeing and provide counselling services in school. This session we will be working with a Play Therapist from 'With Kids.'

With Kids provide Play Therapy, groups therapy, family therapy as well as staff training in order to support the young people in our school. With Kids offers a range of therapeutic services to children & parents/carers. This includes therapy aimed at helping children work through difficult emotions plus a variety of family, group and parent/carer activities and sessions.

A Play Therapist is someone who is trained to help children who have some kind of issue or difficulty in their lives. This type of therapy encourages creative methods of self-expression enabling children to explore emotions and experiences through the use of play. Therapy takes place in a safe and contained environment where children can explore, recognise and learn to accept feelings. This enables them to develop coping skills, a greater sense of self and increased self-esteem.

If you would like more information please contact Mrs Victoria Collins, DHT.



The Halliday Foundation - #RefugeesWelcome

As you know, Mount Vernon Primary has a long relationship with the Halliday Foundation and has supported food collections to support the people in our city. Mount Vernon Primary School is also a drop-off location for items donated to the charity.

This term MVP are supporting the charity on making up welcome packs to be donated to refugee's arriving in Glasgow from Afghanistan.

We are looking for donations from the following:

- ◆ Non-perishable food
- ◆ Toiletries - shampoo, toothpaste, sanitary products, toothbrush, etc
- ◆ Clothing - for men, women, children and babies.
- ◆ Trainers
- ◆ Board Games
- ◆ Notepad and pen
- ◆ Adult rucksacks
- ◆ Teddy bears and soft toys
- ◆ Pots and pans
- ◆ Books - various reading abilities



Please feel free to donate a full bag or individual items. All will be gratefully received. The charity will be making up bags for adults, teenagers and children.

Please send donations into school by Friday 1st October.

Thank you all so much for your support.

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Groupcall Xpressions App

View your child's information on your mobile phone!

An exciting new service is now available for parents to ensure communication between the school and yourselves is easier and more effective. **Groupcall Xpressions** is a new service created by the award-winning school communication company Groupcall Limited.

The app is completely free of charge to you and can be installed on your mobile phone or tablet. It currently supports both Apple iOS and Android devices (with Windows mobile to follow) and you'll be able to see information for your children.

If you have children in different schools and those schools also use **Groupcall Xpressions**, you will be able to view information on multiple children within the same app.

What do I need to do now?

Please ensure we have your correct mobile number and email address on our school database to ensure you can use the new app as soon as it is available. A form is attached which you can complete to update your details. You'll need to make sure you keep these details up to date in future to maintain access to the service.

What happens next?

Groupcall has now set up the system in your child's school. Once you ensure the school has your current email address and mobile number, you can then download the app from your app store by searching for 'Groupcall Xpressions'

Once installed and set up you may receive messages, emails or texts about:

- Emergency school closures
- Pupil absence notifications
- Exam reminders (where appropriate)
- Reminders about meetings and after school activities
- Parents evenings
- Special school events and newsletters
- When Report Cards have been given to pupils
- Expected time of arrival when returning from a school trip
- Invitations to a meeting

Groupcall provide a dedicated support website for parents to also help you get up and running with Xpressions, or answer any common questions parents have on using the app: <http://parents.groupcall.com>

