



David Livingstone Memorial Primary School and Nursery Class

September 2017
Tel: 01698 823680

SOUTH
LANARKSHIRE
COUNCIL

"I am prepared to go anywhere, provided it be forward." (Dr. David Livingstone)

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope that everyone had a relaxing Summer holiday. It was lovely to see all of the children arrive back in school safe and well at the start of this session, all of them looking very smart in their new school uniform. This promotes a sense of identity and pride in our school. Given that children wear many similar, if not identical items, it would be helpful if you could ensure that your child's name is written on their clothing, shoes and personal items (including packed lunch box) so that any lost property can be easily returned. Please also remember that jeans are not part of our school uniform and should not be worn in school.

Our new P1 children have made a fantastic start to the year. Thank you to our P7 Buddies who have been a great help in the classroom, dinner hall and in the playground as our new entrants become familiar with our school routines.

I trust that you find the information in this newsletter useful. Newsletters are normally sent home at the beginning of each month, along with a list of dates for your diary. Please remember to contact the school if there is anything that you need clarified or want to ask.

Linda Callender
Head Teacher

Vision and Values

As a school, we are keen that everyone shares our vision and values in order that we can work together to meet the needs of every child. Last session, following extensive consultation with children, staff and parents/carers, we redefined our vision and values as follows:



Our Vision

'We aim to provide an inclusive and nurturing environment where everyone can thrive and achieve.'

Our Values

*Respectful
Confident*

*Responsible
Honest*

*Caring
Successful*

Jubilee Show

Our school will soon be 60 years old and we are in the process of organising a special Diamond Jubilee show. This will involve the children from all classes and will take place on Wednesday, 27th September (1.30pm start) and Thursday, 28th September (6.30pm start). Details on how you can obtain tickets for this exciting event will be issued over the next few days.



P.E. Times

As P.E. forms part of our national curriculum, it is expected that all pupils will participate in this activity. If, for any reason, your child is unable to take part in P.E., please notify his/her class teacher in writing. All children are required to change into suitable clothing before taking part in P.E. This means that they should wear shorts/joggers, a t-shirt and appropriate gym shoes. In line with South Lanarkshire Council policy, no football colours, including club shorts, should be worn at any time in school.



Children are advised not wear jewellery to school on P.E. days. If they do, they will need to remove it before taking part in any physical activity. Parents/carers are also asked to provide small plasters to cover their child's ears if he/she is unable to take out their own earrings.

School Committees

Congratulations to all the children who were successfully elected as members of our Pupil Council, our Eco Committee, our Rights Respecting School Committee and as Junior Road Safety Officers for this session. The purpose of these committees is to promote the 'pupil voice' so that children can play an active role in school developments. Progress on the work of these committees shall be sent home regularly throughout the year.



Dogs in Playground

Please remember that no dogs are allowed in the school playground at any time. Should you bring your dog with you when you collect your child, you are asked to remain outside the school gates. Thank you.

Water in Class

Children are encouraged to sip **plain water** in class as research has shown that this increases their concentration when learning. This should be in a plastic sports bottle to avoid spillage. Please note that juice and flavoured/sparkling water are not permitted in the classrooms as they leave a terribly sticky mess if they are spilled and may spoil someone's work.



Religious and Moral Education

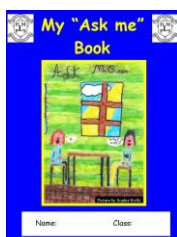
Religious and Moral Education forms an important part of the Scottish curriculum and is delivered in class throughout the year. At David Livingstone MPS we primarily focus on two world religions (Judaism and Islam) and Christianity. However, teachers may also draw upon selected aspects of other religions in the context of interdisciplinary learning. Staff recognise that in the process of personal reflection not all children will adopt a religious standpoint and that it is perfectly acceptable for children to have their own individual thoughts and ideas.

Religious Observance

We now have 2 school chaplains: Mr Malcolm Anderson from the Congregational Church and Mr Murdo Macdonald from the Livingstone Memorial Church. Both men will participate in our whole school assemblies periodically throughout the session, where the themes for the year will be citizenship, shared values, personal responsibility and emotional and spiritual wellbeing. This will be delivered using a range of resources, including stories from the Bible and songs from Fischy Music. The dates when the ministers will be visiting the school will always be included in the Diary Dates section at the back of our newsletter. The ministers will also attend our Harvest, Christmas, Easter and Summer assemblies.



Under the terms of the Education (Scotland) Act 1980, parents/carers have the right to ask for their children to be withdrawn from religious observance and/or religious and moral education. Where a child is withdrawn, we will make suitable arrangements for the child to participate in a worthwhile alternative activity. If you wish your child to be withdrawn from religious and moral education and/or religious observance this should be put in writing. If you wish further information please contact the school.



Communication with Parents

We are keen to keep you informed about what your child is doing in class. Each term you will receive a class newsletter from your child's teacher. All children have also been issued with their very own 'Ask Me' booklet which should be completed as part of homework. Each week you will be invited to ask your child about something that he/she has done in class. Once you have had this discussion, please sign the allocated page. There is also space for you to add a comment reporting on the conversation that you had, if you wish.

Extra-Curricular Clubs

We are in the process of organising a wide range of extra-curricular clubs for children across all stages of the school. Further details about the choice of clubs on offer will be issued in due course. If you have a particular talent or skill that you would be willing to share with the children, please contact the school and let us know. In the interests of child protection, all of our volunteer helpers are required to be PVG checked.





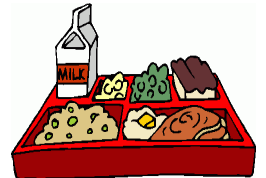
Care and Welfare

At the start of each session, we issue you with a number of different permission forms, including a copy of the details that we hold on file for your child. If you have not already done so, please return these forms straight away as the information on these forms helps us to ensure the safety and wellbeing of your child.

Please note that it is the parent/carer's responsibility to notify the school if their child is going to be absent from school before 9.10am. If we do not receive either a letter or a phone call from a named adult, we will contact the Attendance Officer who will then call at your family home.

School Lunches

Please remember that if your child is entitled to receive a free school lunch or a clothing grant, you need to apply for this at the start of every new session. Although P1-3 children do not need to pay for a school lunch, they still need to pay 20p every day if they wish a carton of milk, unless you have applied for a free school meal. Application forms may be completed online via South Lanarkshire Council's website.



Children who go home for their lunch are asked to leave and return through the front door of the school. This is so that we can ensure that our playground gates are kept closed.



Administering Medicine

South Lanarkshire Council has guidelines on the administration of medication. Should your child require to take prescribed medication in school, it is essential that you complete an 'Administration of Medicine' form. A copy of this form is available on request from the school office. Pupils may carry inhalers with them, if necessary. However, should you wish your child to carry an inhaler whilst he/she in school, an 'Administration of Medicine' form must still be completed.

Only medication provided with written parental/carer consent will be able to be administered. It is the responsibility of parents/carers to ensure that medication is within its use by date. Please also remember to keep us up-to-date regarding any health related issues for your child as we are aware that these can change at any time.

Credit Union

Our Savvy Savers club has started again and collection points will continue to take place every Monday morning. If you would like your child to start a savings account with the Credit Union, please ask for an application form at the school office.



Emergency Evacuation

We would like to remind/inform parents that in the event of an emergency at the school, children and staff will be evacuated to the Tact Hall in Blantyre, where arrangements will be made to send pupils home. It is, therefore, important that you keep us informed about any changes to your contact details so that we are able to phone you straight away.

Wider Achievements

We are keen to celebrate children's achievements out of school at our weekly assemblies. Should your child achieve something in an activity or club out of school, please encourage them to let us know. Children are also invited to bring in any certificates, medals, trophies or badges that they have been awarded so that these can be shown to everyone in the school.



School Closures

Please remember that the school will be closed on **Friday, 22nd September** and **Monday, 25th September** for the September Weekend holiday. Children should return, as normal, on **Tuesday, 26th September**.

School will close again for the October Week on **Friday, 13th October** at 3.00pm and shall re-open on **Monday, 23rd October** at 8.55am.



Dates For Your Diary

Date	Event and Persons Involved
Monday, 4 th September	Savvy Savers Collection Point – All children
Thursday, 7 th September	Education Officers from Scottish Parliament visiting P7 class
Friday, 8 th September	Sports Leader training – Selected P7 children
Monday, 11 th September	Savvy Savers Collection Point – All children
Monday, 11 th September	Rev. Macdonald attending assembly
Wednesday, 13 th September	Nursery Information Event (9.30am start) – New Nursery parents/carers
Thursday, 14 th September	Parent Council AGM (6.30pm) – All welcome
Friday, 15 th September	Sports Leader training – Selected P7 children
Friday, 22nd September	Holiday – School closed to children and staff
Monday, 25 th September	Holiday – School closed to children and staff
Wednesday, 27 th September	Diamond Jubilee Concert (1.30pm start) – All P1-7 children
Thursday, 28 th September	Diamond Jubilee Concert (6.30pm start) – All P1-7 children
Friday, 29 th September	P7 Sports Leader training – Selected P7 children
Monday, 2 nd October	P7 class visiting Scottish Parliament
Monday, 2 nd October	Savvy Savers Collection Point – All children
Wednesday, 4 th October	Fun 5z Netball – Selected P6/7 children
Thursday, 5 th October	Sports Hall Athletics - Selected P6/7 children
Thursday, 5 th October	Parent/Carer Consultation (3.30pm – 8.00pm) – All families
Monday, 9 th October	Savvy Savers Collection Point – All children
Monday, 9 th October	Rev. Macdonald attending assembly
Thursday, 12 th October	Harvest Assembly in school (9.30am start) – All welcome
Thursday, 12 th October	Parent Council meeting (6.30pm start) – All welcome
Friday, 13 th October	Sports Leader training – Selected P7 children
Monday, 16th October	Holiday – School closed to children and staff
Tuesday, 17th October	Holiday – School closed to children and staff
Wednesday, 18th October	Holiday – School closed to children and staff
Thursday, 19th October	Holiday – School closed to children and staff
Friday, 20th October	Holiday – School closed to children and staff

