



# David Livingstone Memorial Primary School and Nursery Class

September 2019

Tel: 01698 823680



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

Our Values    *Respectful   Responsible   Caring   Confident   Honest   Successful*

***"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 our existing children arrive back in school safe and well at the start of the new session and I would also like to take this opportunity to extend a warm welcome to all our new children and families. I hope that you will all be very happy at DLMPS.

Thank you to all our families for supporting us with the wearing of school uniform. All of the children look so smart and this helps to promote a real 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 water bottle and 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. We have also established a new 'Recycling Rail' outside our main office, so please help yourself to items that may be of use.

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*



## **School App for Parents**

Please remember that we have our own school app which we use as a means of communicating with parents/carers and we would like to thank our Parent Council for agreeing to fund this on behalf of the school for another year. To access this app, all you need to do is download the free app called 'School App for Parents'. By doing so we will be able to notify you about school events, news and important diary dates. If you have any difficulties downloading this app, please contact the school and we will do our best to help.

## **Twitter**

The school also has a Twitter account and we use it to post information and photos from events within the school. The Twitter address is @dlivvies. Please note that this is a one-way communication tool and we will not respond to any comments. Our account is also protected so only people who are accepted as followers will be able to see the tweets. As a result, only followers who can be recognised as having a connection with the school will be accepted.



## **School Gates**

In the interests of health and safety, our school gates are closed at 9.00am prompt. Children who arrive at school after this time should enter through the main entrance (office doors) where they will be recorded as late. Any parent who wishes to speak to their child's teacher after the lines have been taken in should arrange an appointment by speaking to staff in the school office. 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 and, at times, our school can become very warm. For this reason, all children are asked to bring in their own water bottle which can be refilled easily. Ideally, this should be in a plastic bottle with a sports cap 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.

### **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.



### **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 parent/carer, we will send you a text asking you to contact the school as a matter of urgency and will endeavour to phone one of your child's emergency contacts to ensure that your child is safe.



### **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 Memorial 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 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 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.



### **Mobile Phones**

We strongly discourage children from bringing their mobile phones to school as we cannot be held responsible if they are damaged or stolen. If your child does bring his/her mobile phone to school, it must be switched off at all times whilst in the building and in the playground. Any messages that you need to get to your child during the school day should be delivered via staff in our school office.

### **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.



### **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, including new morning 'Energiser Clubs'. 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 as part of a club, please contact the school and let us know. In the interests of child protection, please remember that all of our volunteer helpers are required to be PVG checked.

### **Free School Meals/Clothing Grants**

If you are in receipt of Housing Benefit and/or Council Tax Reduction from South Lanarkshire Council, the local authority will now use the information that they hold to automatically award free school meals (P4 to S6) and/or school clothing grants (P1 to S6) to eligible families. 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 they qualify for a free school meal.



Please remember that 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.



### **School Improvement Plan and Standards and Quality Report**

A summary of last year's progress, as well as a summary of our priorities for improvement for 2019/2020 were sent home recently and we would welcome your comments on these. The full version of our Improvement Plan is available on our school website, along with our Standards and Quality Report for 2018/2019.

### **Breakfast Club**

Our Breakfast Club is now open to all P1-7 children and continues to remain popular with many families. This is a free resource for all children and a letter regarding arrangements, including times, has already been sent home to all new families. Please remember that if your child does not attend the Breakfast Club and arrives in school before 8.45am, then you are doing so at your own risk as we do not have an adult presence in the playground before this time.



### **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/carers 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.

### **P5 Music**

Our P5 children have just begun a 20-week block of music lessons known as 'Youth Music Initiative'. These lessons are delivered by a visiting music instructor, Mrs Devlin, and will develop the children's understanding of music notation, as well as teach them how to play the glockenspiel.



Over the course of the session, all of our P5 children will also be learning to play the acoustic guitar. These lessons are delivered by another visiting music instructor, Mr Reilly, and always prove to be very popular with the children.



### **Parking**

We politely request that parents/carers do not double park in our school car park nor at the turning circle at the front of the school as this causes congestion and may cause an accident. Not all of our staff work normal school hours, so this also makes it difficult for them to enter/leave at the start/end of the day. Your co-operation with this is greatly appreciated.

### **Savvy Savers Credit Union Collection Point**

Our Savvy Savers club will be starting again on **Monday, 16<sup>th</sup> September** and collection points will continue to take place every Monday morning thereafter. 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.



### **Attendance at School**

In line with South Lanarkshire Council policy, the school implements a Maximising Attendance policy and holiday absences will normally be recorded as unauthorised. I would, therefore, request that, as far as possible, holidays are taken outwith term time to allow your child to benefit fully from the learning experiences that are planned in school.

### **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 which now take place on a Friday afternoon. 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.

### **Parent Council Meeting**

Our first Parent Council meeting for the new session will take place on **Thursday, 12<sup>th</sup> September** starting at 6.30pm and all parent/carers are welcome to attend. This will begin with the Parent Council's Annual General Meeting (AGM) during which office bearers will be elected, followed by a meeting focusing on school improvement and future fundraising activities.



### **School Closures**

Please remember that the school will be closed on **Friday, 27<sup>th</sup> September** and **Monday, 30<sup>th</sup> September** for the September Weekend holiday. Children should return, as normal, on **Tuesday, 1<sup>st</sup> October**.





## Dates For Your Diary

Date	Event and Persons Involved
Monday, 2 <sup>nd</sup> September	P7 football trials (3.00pm – 4.00pm)
Tuesday, 3 <sup>rd</sup> September	P4, P5 & P5/6 Rugby – final session
Tuesday, 3 <sup>rd</sup> September	P6 football trials (3.00pm – 4.00pm)
Wednesday, 4 <sup>th</sup> September	Fluoride varnishing – Nursery, P1 & P2 children
Friday, 6 <sup>th</sup> September	Deposits for P7 residential outing due (£30)
Thursday, 12 <sup>th</sup> September	Parent Council AGM (6.30pm) – All welcome
Monday, 16 <sup>th</sup> September	Savvy Savers Credit Union Collection Point – All children
Monday, 23 <sup>rd</sup> September	Savvy Savers Credit Union Collection Point – All children
Thursday, 26 <sup>th</sup> September	P7 Sports Leader training (details to follow)
<b>Friday, 21<sup>st</sup> September</b>	<b>Holiday – School closed to children and staff</b>
<b>Monday, 24<sup>th</sup> September</b>	<b>Holiday – School closed to children and staff</b>
Tuesday, 1 <sup>st</sup> October	Health Week – All children (details to follow)
Thursday, 3 <sup>rd</sup> October	P7 Sports Leader training (details to follow)
Friday, 4 <sup>th</sup> October	P4 & P5 Rugby Festival (details to follow)
Monday, 7 <sup>th</sup> October	Savvy Savers Credit Union Collection Point – All children
Monday, 7 <sup>th</sup> October	P6/7 Class Assembly (11.15am start)
Wednesday, 9 <sup>th</sup> October	Harvest Service (9.30am) – All welcome
Thursday, 10 <sup>th</sup> October	P7 Sports Leader training (details to follow)
Thursday, 10 <sup>th</sup> October	Parent/Carer Consultations – All children
Friday, 11 <sup>th</sup> October	2 <sup>nd</sup> instalment for P7 residential outing due (£40)
<b>Friday, 11<sup>th</sup> October</b>	<b>School closes at 3.00pm for October Week holiday</b>
<b>Monday, 21<sup>st</sup> October</b>	<b>School re-opens at 8.55am</b>

