

David Livingstone Memorial Primary School and Nursery Class

February 2020
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

Thank you to all our P2/3 families who attended our inaugural 'Read, Write and Count' workshop on 23rd January. We hope that this event gives you some ideas on how you can use the resources in the Scottish Government funded Read, Write and Count bag to support your child's learning at home. Thank you to Miss Campbell (P2 teacher), Miss Brown (P2/3 teacher) and Mrs Jeffrey (P3 teacher) had responsibility for organising and delivering this workshop.

Please remember that we operate an 'open door' policy at DLMPS, so if you have any concerns about your child, do not hesitate to contact me at any time.

I hope that you find the information in this newsletter useful. Newsletters will normally be 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

Whole School Library Project

Working in partnership with our visiting Specialist Support Teacher, Mrs Caroline Rice, we have recently begun a whole school library project to raise children's enthusiasm for reading for enjoyment. This project has already attracted interest from staff who work for the local authority and will involve the following:



- Training a group of P5 children to become Junior Librarians. Congratulations to all of those who have been appointed to this role following the successful completion of an application form explaining why they thought they would be suitable.
- Training all of our P6 children to become skilled paired readers for P1 and the Nursery children.
- Arranging for all classes, including the Nursery, to visit Blantyre Library on 2 separate occasions this session, as well as encouraging as many children as possible to become a member of the local library.
- Following visits to other school libraries, re-organising and developing our own school library to make it more inviting for children and their families.
- Developing the use of QR codes as a way of supporting children to find out more about a book that may be of interest to them.
- Learning how to use AR (Accelerated Reading) to record adults reading so that children can enjoy having a book read to them both in school and at home.
- Organising a Book Club for children of all stages to promote reading for pleasure.
- Encouraging the whole school to participate in South Lanarkshire Council's 'Summer Reading Challenge'.

A sincere thank you to our wonderful Parent Council who have donated £3000 from funds raised at the Christmas Fayre to fund new i-Pads which will be used to support the development of this project.



P1 Enrolment

Our P1 enrolment for August 2020 took place during week beginning 13th January. However, we are aware that parents/carers were no longer receiving letters from the local authority advising them of the dates for enrolment this year, so if you know of anyone who has still not enrolled their child for school, please could you ask them to come to the school as soon as possible as this could affect our class configurations for next session? Your support with this is greatly appreciated.

Nursery Admissions

There has been a change to Nursery admissions across all South Lanarkshire establishments. Please note that the closing date for August 2020 entries is now **28th February 2020**. (This is earlier than in previous years). Parents/carers will also be advised of outcomes by the end of May 2020, which should make it easier for families to organise any necessary childcare arrangements.



Monthly Reading Challenges

Well done to our P5 Library Committee and Miss Smith (one of our P5/6 teachers) who organised another successful monthly reading challenge in January, with many children gaining valuable extra House points for participating. The purpose of these challenges is to promote increased reading for enjoyment since research has shown that if children read more, their own literacy skills tend to improve. This month's reading challenge involves reading a comic or a magazine, so hopefully this will prove fun for everyone.

Nursery Stay, Play and Learn Sessions

Thank you to all our Nursery parents/carers and other family members who attended our recent Stay, Play and Learn sessions on Friday, 24th January. This is something that we will be organising every month so that the children can share their learning in a relaxed way. We are also hoping to vary the days of the sessions to suit those of you who may be working, so please look out for these dates on the Nursery noticeboard. The next sessions will be on **Tuesday, 18th February**.



Let's Have A Blether

This year we have launched weekly 'Let's Have A Blether' sessions across the school. Once a week, members of the Senior Management Team meet with a child from each class to discuss their learning, including what they see as their strengths, as well as what they think they need to improve. A record of this conversation is then stapled into the child's Ready, Steady Learn book. Please take the time to read what has been written, then record your own comment underneath. Thank you.

Children Arriving Late At School

There continues to be a number of children who are repeatedly late for school. This is having an adverse impact on children's learning as they are missing out on vital teaching at the start of a day. It also sometimes upsets our lunch orders since these are collected online in class before being sent to the school office no later than 9.15am. Please support us by ensuring that your child arrives on time.



Car Parks

We politely request that parents/carers do not park in front of cars that are parked in spaces in our school car parks, particularly at the end of the day. Some of our staff finish before 3.00pm, with many of them having their own childcare to attend to, so it is important that they are able to leave at their allocated time. Thank you.

Sanitary Products

A wide range of sanitary products are available for our girls in one of the Senior toilets in the school. Please remind your daughter to make use of these products as and when required.





Police Visit

We recently invited 2 community police officers to come in to the school to speak to all of our P4-7 children about the use of inappropriate language that may cause offence to someone else. Your support in helping us to eradicate this language from our school community would be greatly appreciated.

P7 Residential Visit to Dalquise (PGL)

Our annual P7 residential outing is drawing closer and in preparation for this we have organised a Parent/Child Information Evening on **Thursday, 13th February from 5.30pm to 6.30pm**. We have already issued a kit list to all children, but we are keen to minimise expense for all our families and ensure that no one needs to buy anything new. If there is something on the kit list that you do not already have, please complete and return the form that was attached to your child's PGL Information Letter and return this to the school so that we can support you as best we can. Please be assured that this will be done in the strictest confidence.



Playground

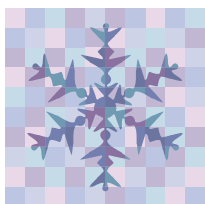
On a couple of occasions recently we have had to restrict access to some of our playground areas due to ice and even flooding! We are determined to do all that we can to keep the children safe, so please bear with us during inclement weather and ensure that you keep them within the designated zones when dropping them off and picking them up from school. Your support with this is greatly appreciated.

Active Literacy

As part of our School Improvement Plan for this session, Active Literacy has now been introduced into all P1-7 classes, with many of the children enjoying the new range of texts that have been read. Thank you, once again, to our Parent Council who donated £1000 to help us purchase some of these. We have also had a visit from 2 Literacy Development Officers from South Lanarkshire Council to review our progress on the implementation of this new approach, as well as to offer support and advice on our next steps.



Following on from the success of our Numeracy Open Day last term, we are currently in the process of organising a Literacy open Day so that parents/carers can come along to see the approaches that we are using to teach Active Literacy in our school. Details on this special event shall be sent home over the next few weeks.



Inclement Weather

Parents/carers are reminded that in the unlikely event that the school needs to remain closed because of adverse weather conditions, this information will be reported on South Lanarkshire Council's website (www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk) and, if possible, on the local radio stations. It is also vitally important that you keep us informed of any changes to your contact details in case we need to telephone you in an emergency.

As a school, we also have an Adverse Weather Plan in place. This means that should we experience adverse weather conditions, the janitor will prioritise the clearing of snow and ice in a pathway leading from the main gates at the front of the school to the main entrance. There will also be one route cleared from the car park to the main entrance, but both parents and staff enter the car park at their own risk.

Breakfast Club

Our Breakfast Club is proving popular with an increasing number of families. This is a free resource for all children. Please remember that doors open at 8.15am and the last entrance is at 8.30am so that we can ensure that there is enough time for the children to enjoy their breakfast before going out into the playground at 8.45am. Please also 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.





Ready Steady Learn Books

As you know, every child has now been issued with a new Ready Steady Learn book for this term. This book shall be sent home at least once per week and you are asked to sign to say that you have seen it. Comments from parents/carers are also welcome. So that we are able to keep you informed about your child's learning and behaviour in school, we would be grateful if you could ensure that your child's Ready Steady Learn book is returned to the school the day after it has been sent home. Thank you.

Chewing Gum

Unfortunately, a few children are still bringing chewing gum in to school. Please remember that chewing gum is not permitted anywhere in our school. This includes our classrooms, as well as our playground since not only is it a choke hazard, but it can cause a terrible mess to school property and children's clothing. Your support in ensuring that your child adheres to this rule would be greatly appreciated.



Pupil Sickness

Please remember that if your child has suffered from sickness or diarrhoea, he/she should stay at home for at least 48 hours (2 days) after their symptoms stop to prevent the infection being passed on to anyone else. Your support with this is greatly appreciated.

Support for Families

South Lanarkshire Council are keen to provide as much support as possible for all our families. Please see the information below on Money Matters should this be of support to you:



We offer **free, confidential and impartial advice** - we can help check your benefit entitlement, assist with the claims process, challenge decisions and represent you at Social Security appeal tribunals. For debt issues we look at your financial circumstances, contact creditors, discuss options and give budgeting advice; **Contact number: 0303 123 1008.**

Our Telephone Advice Line offers a similar service specifically aimed at pregnant women and families with young children; **Contact number: 01698 453154.**



Administering Medicine

Should your child require to take any medication in school, it is essential that you complete an 'Administration of Medicine' form. A copy of this form is available from the school office. 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.

Indoor Shoes

We have noticed that a few children still do not have a pair of indoor shoes. In order that we can keep the carpeted areas of our school clean, it is important that all children remove their outdoor shoes when they enter the building. Please let us know if there is anything that we can do to support you with this.

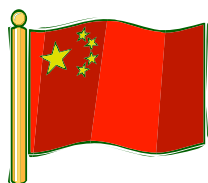


Absence

Please remember that it is a parent/carers responsibility to let us know if their child is going to be absent from school. This can be done by either sending in a letter in advance of a planned absence, or by telephoning the school office. We care about all of our children and so it is important that we know that they are safe if they do not report to 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. Any messages that you need to get to your child during the school day should be delivered via staff in our school office.



Mandarin Lessons

Children in our P6/7 class continue to have the opportunity to learn Mandarin as part of the Scottish Government's Languages 1 + 2 initiative. These lessons are delivered by a native Mandarin speaker and, as well as learning basic phrases and numbers, the children have also learned about Chinese culture and how this differs from our own.

Water In Class

As always, please remember that it is only plain water that children are allowed to drink in class and children are able to fill up their water bottles during the day. Flavoured water, sparkling water and diluting juice are not allowed in our classrooms as they leave a sticky mess if spilled.



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.

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, too.



Credit Union

We would like to remind all of our families that our Credit Union collection point takes place every Monday morning in the school. This is managed and run by our P6 children as part of their active numeracy. Should your child want to become a member of our Credit Union, please contact the school for an application form.

February Holiday

Please remember that the school will be closed for the mid-term holiday on **Monday, 10th, February and Tuesday, 11th February. Friday, 7th February and Wednesday, 12th February** are in-service days and children should not attend on these days either.



Useful Apps

| | |
|----------------|----------------------------|
| Sumdog * | Primary School App |
| RM Easimaths * | Top Marks |
| Doorway Online | Teach Your Monster To Read |

* Please contact your child's class teacher if they cannot remember their log-in details.



Dates for Your Diary

| Date | Event and Children/Parents Involved |
|--|---|
| Monday, 3 rd February | Credit Union collection point – all children |
| Monday, 3 rd February | P7 visiting Blantyre Library |
| Tuesday, 4 th February | P6 Basketball (3.00pm – 4.00pm) |
| Wednesday, 5 th February | Fun 5z Netball – selected P6/7 children |
| Wednesday, 5 th February | P6/7 Cross Country (3.00pm – 4.00pm) |
| Thursday, 6 th February | P5/6 visiting Blantyre Library |
| Friday, 7th February | In-Service Day – School closed to children |
| Monday, 10th February | Holiday – School closed to children and staff |
| Tuesday, 11th February | Holiday – School closed to children and staff |
| Wednesday, 12th February | In-Service Day – School closed to children |
| Thursday, 13 th February | P4 visiting Blantyre Library |
| Thursday, 13 th February | PGL Parent/Child Information Evening (5.30pm – 6.30pm) |
| Thursday, 13 th February | Parent Council meeting (6.30pm start) – all welcome |
| Monday, 17 th February | Credit Union collection point – all children |
| Monday, 17 th February | P5 visiting Blantyre Library |
| Monday, 17 th January | P6/7 Football (3.00pm – 4.00pm) |
| Tuesday, 18 th February | P4 Drama (12.45pm – 1.15pm) |
| Tuesday, 18 th February | Nursery ‘Stay, Play and Learn’ sessions (am and pm) |
| Tuesday, 18 th February | P6 Basketball (3.00pm – 4.00pm) |
| Wednesday, 19 th February | P6/7 Netball (12.45pm – 1.15pm) |
| Wednesday, 19 th February | P6/7 Cross Country (3.00pm – 4.00pm) |
| Thursday, 20 th February | P5 Junior Librarians visiting Blantyre Library |
| Monday, 24 th February | Start of Fairtrade Fortnight – details to follow |
| Monday, 24 th February | Credit Union collection point – all children |
| Monday, 24 th February | P5/6 Assembly (11.00am start) – all welcome |
| Monday, 24 th February | P6/7 Football (3.00pm – 4.00pm) |
| Tuesday, 25 th February | P4 Drama (12.45pm – 1.15pm) |
| Tuesday, 25 th February | P6 Basketball (3.00pm – 4.00pm) |
| Wednesday, 26 th February | P6/7 Netball (12.45pm – 1.15pm) |
| Wednesday, 26 th February | P6/7 Cross Country (3.00pm – 4.00pm) |
| Thursday, 27 th February | P5 Junior Librarians visiting Netherburn Primary School library |
| Thursday, 27 th February | P7 visiting Blantyre Library |
| Monday, 2 nd March | Credit Union collection point – all children |
| Monday, 2 nd March | P5/6 visiting Blantyre Library |
| Monday, 2 nd March | P6/7 Football Club (3.00pm – 4.00pm) |

