



David Livingstone Memorial Primary School and Nursery Class

September 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

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 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.

Thank you, too, to all our parents/carers for your continued patience with our staggered start and finishing times. These are proving successful in reducing congestion at our school gates and are helping to keep all of the children and staff safe. Please could I ask that all parents/carers continue to adhere to 2m physical distancing when waiting for their child(ren) and that you keep the gates clear at all times for ease of access/exit.

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*

Covid-19

Please remember that if your child has any of the coronavirus symptoms listed below, he/she, along with everyone else in the household, including siblings, should isolate straight away. You should book a test for the child with symptoms via www.nhsinform.scot, if you cannot get online, by calling 0800 028 2816.



You should only book a test through Test and Protect if you or your child has:

- A new, continuous cough (coughing for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours)
- Fever/high temperature (37.8°C or greater)
- Loss of, or change in, sense of smell or taste

You should also book a test if you have been instructed to do so by Test and Protect as a contact of someone who has tested positive.

Children will be sent home from school if they are showing symptoms of coronavirus. If your child is feeling unwell with different symptoms, you should treat those as you normally would. This may mean that your child will have to be absent from school for a few days. Please remember that a test should only be arranged if one of the recognised Covid-19 symptoms is present or a contact tracer asks you to.

If your child is asked to self-isolate, everyone in the household should continue to isolate until the test results come through. If the test result for your child is negative, and your child is not already isolating as a 'close contact' of a confirmed case, he/she can end isolation and return to school when they are well enough and have not had a fever for 48 hours. If the test is positive, your symptomatic child should remain in isolation 10 days from when the symptoms started, or longer if they still have a fever. The rest of the household should remain in isolation for 14 days from when the person who tested positive showed symptoms, even if they do not have symptoms themselves.

Please keep us updated on a daily basis regarding any absence and the results of any tests.

Primary School App

Primary School App

We have our own app in order to make communication with parents/carers more effective and we would like to thank our Parent Council for agreeing to fund this on behalf of the school. To access this app, all you need to do is download the free app called 'Primary School App'. 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 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.



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. Water is also served at lunchtime and children may also bring in a second bottle of water on P.E. days if they wish

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 come dressed in suitable clothing in order to take part in P.E. This means that they should wear leggings/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 try to phone home and, if unsuccessful, we will then phone your child's emergency contacts. It is, therefore, vitally important that you notify us of any changes to your contact details as soon as possible.



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 Primary 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

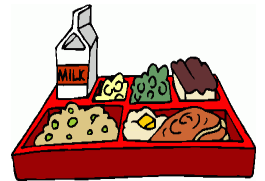
We have 2 school chaplains: Mr Malcolm Anderson from the Congregational Church and Mr Murdo Macdonald from the Livingstone Memorial Church. Traditionally, both men participated in our whole school assemblies periodically throughout the session, focusing on the themes of citizenship, shared values, personal responsibility and emotional and spiritual wellbeing. The ministers also attended our Harvest, Christmas, Easter and Summer assemblies. Unfortunately, we cannot have our chaplains visit the school and so we are currently looking at alternative ways in which they can still be involved.



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, please put this in writing for the attention of the Head Teacher. Thank you.

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. All milk should now be paid for via ParentPay. Please contact staff in the school office if you have any difficulties accessing this at home.



School Recovery Plan and Standards and Quality Report

A summary of last year's progress, together with a summary of our priorities for improvement for 2020/2021 was sent home to all families and we thank those of you who took the time to comment on these. The full version of our Recovery Plan is available on our school website, along with our Standards and Quality Report for 2019/2020.

Breakfast Club

Unfortunately, we are not yet in a position to re-start our Breakfast Club, but we will notify you as soon as we have been given permission to do so. In the meantime, please ensure that your child arrives at school no more than 5 minutes before their allocated start time as we are trying to reduce numbers in our playground and avoid contact between different class groupings. Thank you for your co-operation with this.



Parking

We politely request that parents/carers do not park in front of local residents' driveways when dropping off/picking up your children. Thank you.

Sanitary Products

The Scottish Government is keen to ensure that sanitary products are freely accessible to all who need them. Our older girls know where they can be accessed in the school without causing any unnecessary embarrassment.





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 is in school, an 'Administration of Medicine' form must still be completed.

Only medication prescribed by a doctor and 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.

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.



Savvy Savers Credit Union Collection Point

Unfortunately, we are not yet in a position to re-launch our Savvy Savers Credit Union Collection Point as this would involve contact between different cohorts of children. We will let you know when we are able to resume this very valuable and popular service within our school.

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. Please note that class teachers are unable to provide additional work for your child if he/she is on holiday.



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.

Financial 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.***



Parent Council Meeting

Our first Parent Council meeting for the new session will take place via Zoom on **Thursday, 10th 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 Parent Council meeting focusing on school improvement and possible future fundraising activities. Further details regarding this meeting shall be sent home shortly.



Visitors to School

All establishments are asked to restrict the number of visitors that they have to their premises. If you wish to speak to a member of school staff, please contact the office by phone (01698 823680) or by email (gw14dlmpsoffice@glow.sch.uk) and we will do our best to help.

Crossing Patrol

We have a new temporary crossing patroller. His name is Mr Miller, but he would like to be known to the children as Robert. Please encourage your child to say 'hello' as they cross the road at the start and end of the day.



School Closures

Please remember that the school will be closed on **Friday, 25th September** and **Monday, 28th September** for the September Weekend holiday. **Tuesday, 29th September** has now been allocated as an additional in-service day to replace the one that was missed at the start of session. Children should return, as normal, on **Wednesday, 30th September**.

The school will also be closed from **Monday, 12th October** until **Friday, 16th October** for the October Week holiday. School will re-start again on **Monday, 19th October**.

