



# David Livingstone Memorial Primary School and Nursery Class

October 2020  
Tel: 01698 823680

SOUTH  
LANARKSHIRE  
COUNCIL

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

As we approach the end of our first term, all children are now settled into their new classes and into the routines of the school/nursery. Learning experiences have been quite different from what we are used to, but the children and staff have adapted well to our current situation, showing great resilience and flexibility throughout. Thank you, too, to all of our families for your patience and understanding during what is uncharted territory for all of us.

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*

## **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](http://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 also keep us updated on a daily basis regarding any absence and the results of any tests.

## School App for Parents

### 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 '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 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. At present, all children are required to come dressed in suitable clothing in order to take part in P.E. on their allocated gym days. 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.



### School Gates

Please could we remind all parents/carers that children should arrive at school no more than 5 minutes before their allocated start time (unless they are the sibling of a child who has an alternative start time). Our school gates do not open until 8.40am and only the children in our P1, P3, P5 and P7 classes are able to enter the playground at this time. Following these procedures helps to keep all of our children safe since it means that we can keep class groupings apart at all times.

### House Captains

Congratulations to all of our P7 children put themselves forward for our House and Vice Captain elections just before the September Weekend. All election speeches were presented virtually, with fellow House members getting to vote for who they thought was the best candidate. Results shall be announced at our next assembly on Monday, 5<sup>th</sup> October so good luck to everyone involved!



### 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.

## Weekly Assemblies

As we are currently unable to gather our whole school together in the hall, our weekly assemblies take place virtually, with Mrs McGeehan (Depute Head Teacher) taking responsibility for P1 – P3/4 and Mrs Callender (Head Teacher) leading P4 – P7. These assemblies follow a similar format to our usual assemblies in that they provide us with a platform to share important information, although there is no communal singing allowed.



Class teachers continue to nominate a Special Person. This is someone in their class who has stood out in relation to one of the 4 capacities associated with Curriculum for Excellence: Successful Learner, Confident Individual, Responsible Citizen or Effective Contributor. Support staff also nominate children who they have noticed displaying one of our school values: Respectful, Responsible, Caring, Confident, Honest and Successful.

In addition, we still celebrate children's birthdays, as well as their personal achievements out of school, so please encourage your child to share these with us. A nomination form is available from our school office should this be required.

## Indoor Shoes



Following national guidance, we are unsure, as yet, when we will be allowed to deliver PE inside. However, **please could we ask that all children bring in a pair of indoor shoes after the October Week holiday.** These should be soft shoes/trainers that are suitable for children to wear in class all day, as well as shoes that are appropriate for them to engage in physical activity.

If your child cannot tie his/her own laces, please ensure that they have either slip on or Velcro-fastening shoes instead. It would also be helpful if you could write your child's name or initials inside their shoes so that they are easily identifiable. Thank you.



## Pupil Equity Funding

As a school, we receive money from the Scottish Government in relation to the number of children who receive free school meals. This money is known as 'Pupil Equity Funding'. After consultation with staff, children and parents/carers, we decided to use this money to fund an additional class teacher and an additional support assistant.

This year, we will also use some money to fund Active Literacy resources, Numeracy resources and new resources to support children's Health and Wellbeing, as well resources to support increased equity across the school. Thank you to those of you who responded to our recent consultation exercise on this. We had 57 responses to our Google Form. Of this, 98.2% of parents/carers agreed with how we have chosen to use our PEF funding. One parent/carer asked for a breakdown of the percentage distribution for each of the 7 different purposes in order to better inform their response. This is something that we will now consider as part of any future consultations.

## Warm Clothing

As the weather has started to turn much colder, we would be grateful if all parents/carers could ensure that their child wears a warm, waterproof jacket when coming to school. We currently have a few jackets on our recycling rail, should this be of any help to families. Starting on **Monday 5<sup>th</sup> October**, we will put our recycling rail outside the main office **every Monday morning** for families to access. As well as jackets, we have a range of different items of school uniform (sweatshirts, shirts, skirts and trousers), all of them in very good condition, so please help yourself as required.



## P7 Residential Outing

Unfortunately, due to current restrictions, we will be unable to organise a P7 residential outing this session. Following South Lanarkshire Council guidance, all schools have been advised not to book any overnight stays until further notice. We understand that this will come as a disappointment to our P7 children, but it is crucial that we all do what is necessary to keep everyone safe during the current global Covid-19 pandemic.

## Parent Council

At our Parent Council AGM which was held on Thursday, 10<sup>th</sup> September, the school bid farewell to Mrs Lesley Macdonald, our long-standing Chairperson. I am sure that everyone associated with the school would like to thank Mrs Macdonald for all her hard work, dedication and relentless enthusiasm over the 16 years that she has been in post.



Our new elected members are as follows:

Chairperson = Karen Rouse  
Vic Chairperson = Michelle Wardlaw  
Secretary = Jill Richardson  
Vice Secretary = Angela McMillan  
Treasurer = Julie McMillan  
Vice Treasurer = Debbie Trevett

We wish our new Parent Council well for the forthcoming session. Whilst the current restrictions continue, all meetings will take place via Zoom. If you would like to participate in one of these meetings, please email Karen Rouse ([dlimpsparentcouncil@hotmail.com](mailto:dlimpsparentcouncil@hotmail.com)) and she will send you the log-in details. The next parent Council meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, 8<sup>th</sup> October**, starting at 6.30pm.



## School Recovery Plan

Thank you to everyone who responded to our consultation on our School Recovery Plan for 2020/2021. In light of these responses, we have, so far, actioned the following:

<b>You said ...</b>	<b>We did ...</b>
Parents/carers enquired about how we would organise Parents' Nights and if we would still be able to give an update on their child's progress.	We have decided that we will conduct our first set of Parent/Carer Consultations via telephone. These will be held in Term 2 and details explaining how to book your preferred choice of appointment time will be sent home shortly.
Parents/carers asked that we re-introduce some of the new initiatives that we launched last year once it is safe to do so.	We have just recently held our House and Vice Captain elections and so our School House System will be re-launched very soon. All of our P1 children have already been allocated to one of our 4 houses (Balmoral, Bothwell, Edinburgh or Stirling). We are also hoping to re-introduce our monthly reading challenges after the October Break.
Parents/carers felt it was sensible for us to review our existing home learning.	We have currently asked for all children to try to log on to Google Classroom at home and have sent home details regarding this. If you are still unsure about what to do, please contact the school office. Class teachers are also in the process of showing children how to access Google Classroom in school so that they may be more acquainted with this resource when they go home.
Parents/carers are concerned about 'blended learning' should another lockdown be imposed, especially as not everyone has access to devices to support online learning.	We have recently carried out a survey with all our FME children to find out who does/does not have access to an electronic device and wifi at home in the hope that we may be able to assist with this. Staff have also prepared a 2-week home learning contingency pack which will be sent home (either electronically or as a paper copy) should our school have to close. These home learning packs will then be updated as time progresses, if required.

We will look to action other responses over the coming weeks and will report on these in our monthly newsletter for you to see.

## **Breakfast Club**

Unfortunately, we are still 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.



## **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.

## **P5 Youth Music Initiative**

Every year our P5 children get the chance to participate in a 20-week block of music lessons delivered by a specialist music teacher, during which they learn to play different tunes on the glockenspiel. These lessons have already started for this session, with all teaching being delivered virtually for the first 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 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 still 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.



## **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](mailto:gw14dlmpsoffice@glow.sch.uk)) and we will do our best to help.



## 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.**



### Care and Welfare

At the start of session, we issued 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.

### 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.



### School Closures

Please remember that the school will be closed from **Monday, 12<sup>th</sup> October until Friday, 16<sup>th</sup> October** for the October Week holiday. School will re-start again on **Monday, 19<sup>th</sup> October**. We hope that you all enjoy a relaxing break and that we all see some sunshine!

### Useful Apps

Sumdog \*

Primary School App

Hit the Button

Teach Your Monster To Read

\* Log-in details for this were sent home with a recent letter explaining how to access Google Classroom.

