



David Livingstone Memorial Primary School and Nursery Class

December 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 everyone for your continued patience whilst South Lanarkshire have been placed in Tier 4. This means that we cannot yet start the re-introduction of indoor PE since this is only allowed in Tier 3 and below. We will let you know as soon as this can be done. In the meantime, please could you ensure that your child comes dressed in suitable outdoor clothing on their allocated PE days, including a waterproof outdoor jacket. All children should also have a pair of indoor shoes that they can change into each day.

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, 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

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.

In line with latest guidelines, all adults are now asked to wear a face covering when they are dropping off or collecting children, even if you are standing at the school gate.

Scottish Poppy Appeal

Thank you to everyone who donated money towards The Scottish Poppy Appeal this session. As a school, we managed to raise £154 towards this very good cause. All classes also engaged in a number of different Remembrance Day activities to help them to understand the significance of poppies, many of which were posted on our school app for you to see. Our P6 and P7 children also contributed towards a community display of poppies at High Blantyre Cemetery as part of a project that was organised by Bonnie Blantyre in partnership with a few local primary schools.



Google Classroom

Google Classroom

Thank you to everyone who has managed to log on to Google Classroom. We now have over 90% who have logged on to this, which is fantastic news. If you have not yet logged on and you require support with this, please contact Miss Lattimer (Principal Teacher/Acting Depute Head Teacher) and she will do her best to help. Using Google Classroom we have been able to send home class work to those children who are well, but have had to self-isolate because of Covid. This means that they are able to continue with their learning whilst they are at home.

Nurturing Principles

As a school, one of our priorities in our Recovery Plan this session is to raise staff, children and parents' awareness of the 6 principles of nurture. Miss Lamont (Acting Principal Teacher) has delivered an introductory session about nurture to all classes, as well as introduced the first nurturing principle to all children. This is 'the classroom offers a safe base'. The remaining 5 principles will be introduced over the course of the session and further details regarding all 6 nurturing principles will be sent home in due course.



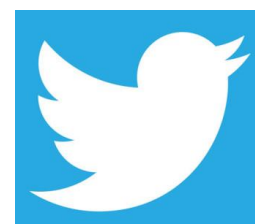
School App for Parents

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.

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.



Parking

Please could all parents/carers ensure that they do not park near where Robert, our crossing patroller, stands when dropping off/picking up their children. There have been a few incidents recently when cars have reversed back as children are crossing the road, something which could result in a very serious accident. We are determined to keep all of our children safe and request that you use the public car park across from the shops instead. The Parent Council are also working with the local authority to investigate ways to improve road safety close to the school entrance.

PE Times

As PE 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 PE, please notify his/her class teacher in writing. Children are advised not wear jewellery to school on PE 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.

Scottish Book Week

As part of Scottish Book Week, the whole school learned some words and phrases in Scots during week beginning 23rd November. As part of this, the children also learned about Scottish culture and some of the traditions that people in our country follow. Please look out for photographs relating to these different activities on Twitter and our school app.



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. We 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.

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.



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.

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) and we will do our best to help.

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 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, now actioned the following:

You said ...	We did ...
Parents/carers asked that they are kept informed about what is being covered in lessons, particularly in relation to coping with anxiety and stress.	<p>All classes are currently engaging in a programme called Emotion Works. This is designed to help children understand how they are feeling and why they might be feeling this way, together with possible triggers that might cause their emotions to change. Photographs relating to this have been posted on our school app and other social media.</p> <p>We are also in the process of introducing all 6 nurturing principles to all P1-7 classes and hope to send home a parents' information leaflet shortly.</p> <p>All classes have been learning about the A-Z of Attachment and Resilience. Starting in December 2020, we will be sending home information about this, together with suggested fun and simple activities that you can do with your child related to different letters of the alphabet.</p>

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



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.

Inappropriate Language

Unfortunately, we are hearing from a couple of parents/carers that some of our children are using inappropriate language whilst standing outside the school at the start of the day. This language is considered offensive and is not something that we tolerate in our school. Please could you speak to your child about this to ensure that they know the standards that are expected of them. Ensuring that your child arrives no more than 5 minutes before their starting time will also prevent them from gathering outside the gates in the morning. Thank you for your support with this.



Administering Medicine

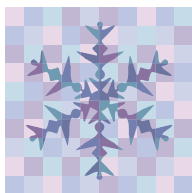


South Lanarkshire Council has guidelines on the administration of medication. Should your child require to take prescribed medication in school, it is essential that you complete an 'Administration of Medicine' form. A copy of this form is available on request from the school office. Pupils may carry 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 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.

Christmas Activities

With the festive season fast approaching, we are currently planning a number of activities as a school, whilst still maintaining class 'bubbles' in order to keep everyone safe. Details regarding these will be sent out over the next few days. We have posted a Google form on our social media and on our Google Classrooms, asking children to choose what they would like for their Christmas lunch on **Wednesday, 16th December** (turkey, steak pie or vegetarian roast). This is just a rough guide to help Jenny, our school cook, work out roughly what she needs to order in for the school as she needs to do this in advance. Children will order their choice of meal, as normal, on the day and it does not matter if a few children have changed their minds at this point.



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. Thank you.

Attendance At School

Please remember that it is the parent/carer's responsibility to inform us if your child is going to be absent from school. Should we be unable to get in touch with yourself or one of your child's emergency contacts, we may need to ask the Police to visit your home to ensure that your child is safe.



Be Bright, be Seen Day

Our Junior Road Safety Officers are organising a special 'Be Bright, Be Seen' day on **Friday, 4th December**. There is no charge for this event, but all children are invited to come to school dressed in bright colours. There will also be a competition for all classes to complete related to this theme.



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.**



Children in Need

Thank you to everyone in our school and nursery who contributed towards our Dress Down Day in aid of Children in Need on Friday, 13th November. An amazing £346.25 was raised for this very worthwhile cause. Well done everyone!



Christmas Holiday

Please remember that the school closes on **Tuesday, 22nd December**. We will continue to keep our staggered exits and so the finishing times will be as follows for the different classes in our school:

P1, P3, P5 & P7 = 2.15pm

P1/2, P3/4 & P6/7 = 2.25pm

P2, P4 & P6 = 2.35pm

Children should return, as normal, on **Wednesday, 6th January** at their allocated start time.

Thank you to all our families for your continued support throughout the year. It really is very much appreciated by everyone in the school. We hope that everyone has a relaxing and peaceful holiday.

*Merry
Christmas*

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.

