

David Livingstone Memorial Primary School and Nursery Class

November 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

Thank you to all our parents/carers for your continued patience and understanding during what is a challenging time for everyone. As a school, we continue to do everything that we can to keep all of the children and adults safe. Staff continue to provide fun, progressive and meaningful learning experiences for the children, examples of which can be seen on our school app.

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.

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. In line with Scottish Government guidance issued on 30th October, we will be able to move P.E. indoors once an appropriate risk assessment and mitigations are in place. We will let you know when this has been done. Regardless, all children are still required to come dressed in suitable clothing in order to take part in P.E. on their allocated gym days as the changing rooms will not be in use. 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 in which case they should remain with an adult or stand outside the school gates). 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 who were elected as House and Vice Captains earlier this month. The children who were elected by their peers are as follows:

Balmoral = Anna and Calum Mc
Bothwell = Aimee B and Aimee H
Edinburgh = Maisie and Olivia
Stirling = Charlie and Keira



These children will now take responsibility for organising a number of House activities over the course of the session.



Google Classroom

Thank you to those families who have already managed to log in to Google Classroom. This is the platform that we will use to deliver learning to the children should they have to self-isolate. If you have not yet logged on and require some support with this, please contact Miss Lattimer (Acting DHT/Principal Teacher) and she will be able to guide you through this process. We also recently posted parent/carers help sheets on our school website and school app which you may find useful.

Google Classroom can be accessed on many different devices, including a laptop, PC, Kindle Fire, Xbox, PlayStation, as well as via an app on a Smartphone or tablet.

Parent/Carer Consultations

Thank you to everyone who has already engaged in our parent/carers telephone consultations. I hope that these were informative and useful. Our telephone consultations will continue week beginning 2nd November and the staff across the school and nursery look forward to discussing your child's progress when they speak to 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.

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

Please could you ensure that your child now has a change of shoes for wearing in class and indoor P.E. These should be soft shoes/trainers that are suitable for children to wear inside 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.

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 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.





Poppies

We will be supporting The Scottish Poppy Appeal by allowing the children to receive a poppy in return for a small donation. To reduce contamination, each class will have their own supply of poppies and their own collection tin. Please help us to support this very important charity. Donations can be sent in to the school from Wednesday, 4th November.

Parent Council

The next Parent Council meeting will take place on Thursday, 12th November at 6.30pm. 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 (Chairperson) (dlmpsparentcouncil@hotmail.com) and she will send you the log-in details.



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 for more information on how the nursery will run 1140 hours, particularly if they were potentially looking for a place.	We have begun creating a document entitled 'A Day in the Life of a Nursery Child at DLMPs' and will post this on our social media and on the nursery Learning Journals for all to see once this is complete.
Parents/carers asked us to outline what learning is a priority at this time.	Our Recovery Plan highlights that children's learning in Literacy, Numeracy and Health and Wellbeing are our key priorities for this session. This is also reflected in our homework. This term, all classes have begun lessons from a programme known as 'Emotion Works', the purpose of which is to encourage children to express how they are feeling and what they can do to address any negative emotions, including who they can turn to for support. We are also in the process of introducing the 6 different Nurturing Principles in all of our classes and plan to share information about these via a Nurture newsletter which is in the process of being developed.

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 are becoming increasingly concerned about cars that are parking close to where our crossing patroller stands to supervise children crossing the road. Please ensure that you keep a safe distance in order to keep all of our children safe. In addition, we politely request that parents/carers do not park in front of local residents' driveways when dropping off/picking up your children. Thank you.

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.





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/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.



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.

Family Holidays

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.

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.***



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.





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.

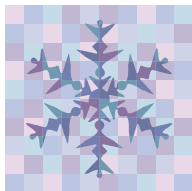
Please note that it is the parent/carer's responsibility to notify the school if their child is going to be absent from school before 9.10am. If we do not receive either a letter or a phone call from a parent/carer, we will send you a text asking you to contact the school as a matter of urgency and will endeavour to phone one of your child's emergency contacts to ensure that your child is safe.

School Lunches

Please remember that we have now changed to the Winter Menu. This is available to view on both our own and South Lanarkshire Council's website.



To avoid unnecessary anxiety, it would be helpful if you could ensure that there is something on the menu that your child will eat before sending them for a school lunch as there have been a couple of occasions recently when a child has said that there is nothing on the menu that they like. Your support with this is greatly appreciated.



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.



School Closures

Please remember that the school will be closed to children on **Monday, 16th November** as this is an In-Service Day for staff. Children should return, as normal, on **Tuesday, 17th November** at their allocated time.

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.

