



Education Resources
Executive Director **Tony McDaid**
Head Teacher **Linda Callender**
David Livingstone Memorial Primary School

Our ref: LC
Your ref:
If calling ask for: Linda Callender
Phone: 01698 823680
Date: 17th August 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

It is lovely to welcome the children back at the start of a new session. They all look so smart in their school uniform. I would also like to take this opportunity to welcome all of our new children to the school/nursery and I hope that they will feel very happy at DLMPS and Nursery Class.

Classes

Our classes for this session shall be as follows:

P1	Miss Brown
P1/2	Miss Marshall
P2	Mrs Young (Mon – Wed) and Mrs Bannatyne (Thurs & Fri)
P3	Mrs Jeffrey
P3/4	Mrs Daly (Mon – Wed and Fri am) & Miss Smith (Thurs & Fri pm)
P4	Miss Sharkey
P5	Miss Campbell
P5/6	Miss Feeney
P6/7	Mrs Sommerville
P7	Mr Burns
Non-Class Contact Time	Miss Petrie and Mrs Hillis
Acting Principal Teacher	Mrs Crawford
Depute Head Teacher	Miss Lattimer
Head Teacher	Mrs Callender

Should you wish to speak to your child's class teacher, please email our school office as all visits are by appointment only (gw14dlmpsoffice@glow.sch.uk). Where possible, meetings will be conducted over the phone.

Staffing Changes

On a happy note, Miss Lamont, our Acting Principal Teacher, got married over the summer holidays and will now be known as Mrs Crawford. Mrs McGeehan (Depute Head Teacher) and Mrs Sorbie (Nursery Teacher) also had babies whilst schools were closed and both ladies are now off on maternity leave.

We are delighted to welcome back Miss Feeney, who will be teaching our P5/6 class this session, as well as Mrs Hillis who will be giving some class teachers their non-class contact time each week.

Morven Avenue, Blantyre, G72 9JY Phone: 01698 823680 Fax: 01698 712830
Email: gw14dlmpsoffice@glow.sch.uk



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In addition, we have employed a Youth, Family and Community Learning Service PEF Officer one day a week using some of the money that we have received from the Scottish Government's Pupil Equity Fund (PEF). This lady's name is Anne Walsh and she will be working with the school to support families with a wide range of initiatives. Further information about these will be sent home in due course.

Starting and Finishing Times

In line with current guidance for educational establishments, we have been asked to continue with the staggered start and finishing times for our classes. All children should enter the school via the main gate as the back gate shall remain closed at present. This week (**week beginning 16th August**), only P1 and P2 parents/carers are allowed to enter the playground (one adult per child please). All adults should also wear a face covering (unless exempt), and maintain 2m social distancing from others. Starting on **Monday, 23rd August**, only P1 parents/carers will be allowed in the playground to drop off and collect their child. At the end of the day, all other classes will be escorted to the main gate by their class teacher and will be dismissed from there. Our start and finishing times will be as follows:

8.45am – 2.45pm = P1, P3, P5 & P7
8.55am – 2.55pm = P1/2, P3/4 & P6/7
9.05am – 3.05pm = P2, P4 & P5/6

Nursery children have already been allocated their start and finishing time. Families will be met at the main door by a member of staff who will find out what your child would like for lunch and check arrangements for pick-up at the end of the day.

Covid-19

All children will be asked to wash their hands regularly throughout the day. These times are as follows:

- On entering the school
- Before interval
- After interval
- Before lunchtime
- After lunchtime
- Before leaving the school to go home
- Before and after going outside at any other time throughout the day.

Children should not attend school or nursery if they are showing any signs of Covid-19 (new persistent cough, high temperature and/or a loss of or sudden change in smell/taste) and should follow NHS guidance in relation to PCR testing and self-isolation. Please also see Covid-19 Information Letters from NHS Lanarkshire on our school website and NHS Inform for more information.

This session, children no longer need to remain in class 'bubbles' or nursery 'pods'. This means that we have been able to allocate a P7 Buddy to each of our P1 children and we will look for other opportunities to allow groups of children to work and play together as time goes on.

Unfortunately, we are still unable to have large gatherings and so we cannot yet have whole school assemblies in the hall. Nevertheless, members of the Senior Leadership Team will continue to record weekly assemblies via Google Classroom for the children to watch in their classroom so that we can still celebrate their successes both in and out of school.

Attendance at School

Attendance at school is vitally important for a successful education and we are required by law to record all absences and late-comings. If your child is unable to attend school, parents/carers are asked to:

- Notify the school by phone or email first thing in the morning (before 9.15am), giving the reason for your child's absence
- Keep us informed of an ongoing absence, as well as the anticipated return date for your child.

Should we not receive any information from you regarding your child's absence we will either send you a text asking you to contact the school, or we will phone you. It is, therefore, important that you keep us informed about any changes to your home telephone number, your mobile number and your emergency contact details. If we become concerned about your child's level of attendance and/or punctuality, we will arrange a meeting with parents/carers to discuss our concerns and offer support to help resolve this.

Should your child need to attend an appointment during the school day, please email or phone staff in our school office to let them know.

All children who arrive late for school should enter the school via the main entrance. Their time of arrival will be recorded by our office staff and their lunch order will be also be taken. A lot of important information is given out at the start of each day and it is important that you endeavour to ensure that your child is on time, except in exceptional circumstances.

Medication in School

If your child needs to take medication either on a regular basis or for a short time, please contact the school office as you are required to sign a medical consent form. Please note that this rule also applies to the use of inhalers. It is the parent/carer's responsibility to ensure that all medication is within date.

PE Days

The Scottish Government expects all children to receive a minimum of 2 hours of Physical Education (PE) every week. All children must participate in these activities since PE is part of the national curriculum.

In line with current Covid-19 guidance, PE can now take place indoors or outdoors. Whilst mitigations remain in school, children should come dressed in appropriate clothing on their allocated days as our changing rooms will remain closed. This includes trainers, jogging trousers/leggings, a school/plain polo shirt, as well as a waterproof jacket in case your child's class goes outside. Please remember that, in line with South Lanarkshire Council policy, no football colours can be worn. Crop tops are also unsuitable for wearing to school.

If, for any reason, your child is unable to take part in PE, a letter should be sent to his/her class teacher explaining the circumstances and consideration will be given for excusing your child. We also request that children do not wear jewellery, including earrings, to school on PE days as all of this has to be removed before the start of a lesson. Our PE lessons will start **week beginning Monday, 23rd August** and the timetable for this session will be as follows:

Class	PE Days
P1 (Miss Brown)	Tuesdays and Thursdays
P1/2 (Miss Marshall)	Tuesdays and Wednesdays
P2 (Mrs Young & Mrs Bannatyne)	Tuesdays and Fridays
P3 (Mrs Jeffrey)	Tuesdays and Wednesdays
P3/4 (Mrs Daly and Miss Smith)	Mondays and Thursdays
P4 (Miss Sharkey)	Mondays and Wednesdays
P5 (Miss Campbell)	Wednesdays and Thursdays
P5/6 (Miss Feeney)	Tuesdays and Fridays
P6/7 (Mrs Sommerville)	Wednesdays and Thursdays
P7 (Mr Burns)	Mondays and Thursdays

Communication with Parents/Carers

Where possible, we will try to send you all our school correspondence electronically. This will be done via email, or by posting information on our school website, our school app or on Twitter. To access our school app, all you need to do is download the free app called 'Primary School App'. Our Twitter address is @divvies. 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.

Over the next few weeks, we also hope to arrange permission for all of our nursery children to be logged onto our Learning Journals. Please look out for information regarding this being sent home.

Over the next few days, we will be sending home an information pack with your child. This contains several documents that you are asked to complete/sign and return to the school. Please ensure that these documents are returned promptly so that we can ensure that we are meeting the needs of your child. If you require any help completing any of these forms, please contact staff in the school office.

School newsletters will be issued at the start of every month. These contain valuable information about things that are happening in the school, so we would be grateful if you could take the time to read them.

School/Nursery Lunches

A copy of our school and nursery lunch menus have been posted on our school website. Please note that these are slightly different from one another. Lunches are free to all Nursery and P1-P4 children, as well as families who qualify for Free Meal Entitlement. P5 children will receive a free school meal starting in January 2022, with free school lunches being offered to all P6 and P7 children starting in August 2022.

Breakfast Club

Our school Breakfast Club shall resume on **Monday, 23rd August**. There is no charge for this and there is no need to register. Children will be offered the choice of Weetabix/toast/fresh fruit and a cup of water/milk. Children coming to Breakfast Club should enter the school via the main door **between 8.25am and 8.40am**. Unfortunately, we will be unable to accept any children outwith these times. Children will be supervised by 2 support assistants and will be dismissed into the playground 5 minutes before their staggered start time.

Homework

We will start to issue homework **week beginning 30th August**. P1-3 will receive paper copies of their homework, whilst all P4-7 homework will be posted on Google Classroom. If your child is in P4-7 and requires an IT device to allow him/her to access Google Classroom, please contact Miss Lattimer (Depute Head Teacher) to let her know (gw07lattimerjennifer@glow.sch.uk). We are in the process of setting up our new Google Classrooms for this session and will let you know when this has been done so that your child is able to accept their invitation to join.

Finally ...

As you can see, we are a very busy school and nursery. We all want the best for every single child in our care, so please do not hesitate to phone or email the school office if you have any questions or concerns and we will do our best to help. In the meantime, I look forward to another successful school session for all of us.

Thanking you in advance for your co-operation.

Yours sincerely

Linda Callender
Head Teacher