

David Livingstone Memorial Primary School and Nursery Class

October 2021
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. It is lovely to see the children having opportunities to mix with one another again we no longer need to keep classes in bubbles. Our P6 and P7 buddies have been absolutely brilliant at supporting the younger children in both our nursery and P1 respectively.

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 PCR test via www.nhsinform.scot, or by calling 0800 028 2816.



You should 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 for yourself or your child if you have been instructed to do so by Test and Protect. This will happen if you have been identified as a close 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. Remember that if your child has been sick or has diarrhoea, he/she should remain off school for 48 hours (2 days) after the last episode of their illness.

If your child is identified as a close contact by Test and Protect, he/she continue to isolate until their PCR test results come through. If the test result for your child is negative and they remain well, he/she may return to school. If the test is positive, your symptomatic child should remain in isolation for 10 days from when the symptoms started, or longer if they still have a fever.

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, as well as to post up photographs of our children's successes and achievements. 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.



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. The results were as follows:

Balmoral = Logan Bradford (House Captain) and Rachel Crighton (Vice Captain)
Bothwell = Beth Anderson (House Captain) and Cailen Tolmie (Vice Captain)
Edinburgh = Jodi Channer (House Captain) and Phoenix Ross (Vice Captain)
Stirling = Ruby Mckenna (House Captain) and Amelia Gorman (Vice Captain)

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 immediately 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 or nursery 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.



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. We will advise you as soon as restrictions in schools are lifted and we are given the go-ahead to return to one start and finishing time for all classes.

School Committees

We are currently in the process of organising our pupil committees for the new session. These committees allow children the opportunity to have their say in various activities that happen in the school. They are also an opportunity for staff to take on an important leadership role as part of their own professional development.



Our committees for this session are as follows:

- Pupil Council (led by Mrs Callender, Head Teacher)
- Junior Road Safety Officers (led by Mrs Daly, one of our P3/4 teachers)
- Eco Schools (led by Miss Sharkey, P4 teacher)
- Fairtrade (led by Miss Brown, P1 teacher)
- House and Vice Captains (led by Mrs Crawford, Acting Principal Teacher)
- Rights Respecting School (led by Mr Burns, P7 teacher)
- Charities (led by Mrs Young and Mrs Bannatyne, P2 teachers)
- Reading Schools (led by Miss Smith, one of our P3/4 teachers)



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.



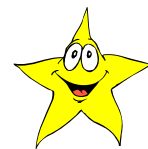
Breakfast Club

Our Breakfast Club has already re-started and is proving popular with many families. There is no charge for this and 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 they are expected to show responsible and safe behaviour at all times, following the same rules that apply in our dining hall at lunchtime. Children will then be dismissed into the playground 5 minutes before their staggered start time.

Staff Congratulations

Congratulations to Miss Lattimer (Depute Head Teacher) who has qualified as a Level 2 Google Certified Trainer. This means that Miss Lattimer will now be able to support staff across the school in the development of their IT skills, including the use of a range of Google products.



Savvy Savers Credit Union Collection Point

Unfortunately, we are not yet in a position to re-launch our Savvy Savers Credit Union Collection Point. 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.



Weekly Assemblies

As we are still currently unable to gather our whole school together in the hall, our weekly assemblies take place virtually. These assemblies follow a similar format to our usual assemblies in that they provide us with a platform to share important information and news of successes with everyone in the school.

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.

This session, we have also introduced special 'Head Teacher Awards' for children who have been seen to do something extra special. As the children now know, I have my 'detectives' everywhere looking for pupils who deserve this award!

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.

Parent/Carer Consultations

Our first set of Parent/Carer Consultations will take place on **Thursday, 7th October**. Like last session, these will take the form of a telephone consultation as we have still been asked to limit the number of visitors to our school. If you have not already done so, please send in the form showing your preferred choice of appointment time so that we can issue these as soon as possible.



ParentPay

At DLMPS, we use a resource called ParentPay to allow families to pay for school lunches and milk, as well as to collect in any money that is requested for school activities since we are no longer expected to handle any cash.

We also use the email addresses stored on ParentPay to send out important communication from the school. This helps us to be more environmentally-friendly since we do not then have to print our paper copies of letters, etc for all our families. In addition, it also saves us a considerable amount of money on paper and postage and means that we can then use this to buy additional resources for the children.

If you have not registered with ParentPay, please could you contact Mrs Cockburn in our school office to find out how to do this as soon as possible. Information regarding how to register with ParentPay will be sent home to all our new families over the coming days. Thank you.

Pupil Absence

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.



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.***



Scottish Child Payment

Scottish Child Payment is a new benefit which started on Monday, 15th February 2021. This payment is for families on certain benefits or tax credits. Eligible families will get £40 every 4 weeks for each child under the age of 6 years. To find out more about this payment and other benefits or grants to which you may be entitled, including the Pregnancy and Baby Payment and Early Learning Payment, please access www.mygov.scot/benefits or call 0800 182 2222.

Family Fund

'Family Fund' is an organization which supports families on low incomes who are raising a disabled or seriously ill child up to the age of 17 years old. These grants are available annually and can be used for items such as computers and tablets, sensory toys, family breaks, outdoor play equipment, furniture and kitchen appliances. If you think this may be of interest to you, please visit the following website for more information:

www.familyfund.org.uk



Parent Club

Parent Club is a digital information resource, support hub and online community from the Scottish Government, offering practical advice and support for families across Scotland. The site includes tips and suggestions on a wide range of subjects, including helping parents/carers to keep calm, and coping with distressed behaviour.

To help families manage the challenges, especially during Covid, Parent Club have launched a Positive Parenting campaign. Please visit the following link to find out more:

www.parentclub.scot/topics/coronavirus/coping-with-parenting



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.

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 (P5 to S6) and/or school clothing grants (P1 to S6) to eligible families.



Although P1-4 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.



Indoor Shoes

We have noticed that there are still a number of children who do not have a change of shoes. In order to keep the carpets in our school clean, all children are asked to change into a pair of soft shoes that they can wear in the classroom. These shoes should also be appropriate for them to engage in physical activity in the gym hall. Please let us know if you require support to provide a change of shoes for your child as we do have a small supply in school.

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.

Extra-Curricular Clubs

We have started to organise a wide range of extra-curricular clubs for children across all stages of the school and have consulted with pupils on what sort of clubs they would like. Further details about the choice of clubs on offer will be issued in due course. It is worth noting that, in the interests of child protection, all of our volunteer helpers are required to be PVG checked. Unfortunately, due to our staggered lunches, all clubs will be required to take place after school at the present time.



Warm Clothing

As the weather has started to turn much cooler, 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. 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.

Homework

All children receive weekly homework. This is posted on your child's Google Classroom if your child is in P4 to P7, whilst paper packs are issued to all of our P1-P3 children. All homework is designed to reinforce the children's learning done in class, so your support in ensuring that all allocated tasks are completed would be gratefully appreciated.

If you have any problems accessing Google Classroom from home, please email Miss Lattimer (Depute Head Teacher) and she will do her best to help (gw07lattimerjennifer@glow.sch.uk). A helpsheet explaining how to access Google Classroom is available on our school website. We also have a few Chromebooks that we are able to loan out to families to support them with learning at home. Please either phone or email Miss Lattimer if this something that you require.

All children have been issued with a pack of resources to support them with their homework. If, at any time, your child requires any additional resources to support them with their home learning (e.g. jotters, pencils, etc), please contact the school office and we will arrange for these to be sent home. Thank you.



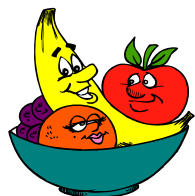


Visitors to School

All establishments continue to be 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). Thank you.

Nursery Learning Journals

Thank you to all the parent/carers of our nursery children who have recently signed up for our nursery Learning Journals. This is a form of online communication that allows us to share information about your child's achievements and successes, as well as news about what is happening in the nursery.



Wellbeing Wednesdays

Rather than having a Health Week this year in school, we have decided to have 'Wellbeing Wednesdays' throughout the month of October. Mrs Crawford (Acting Principal Teacher) and Mrs Daly (one of our P3/4 teachers) are taking responsibility for organising a range of activities for the children and further details will be sent home in due course.

Harvest Service

This session, our Harvest Service will be a virtual event, with all classes recording their own choice of activity which we will then collate into a whole school assembly to be shown on **Friday, 29th October**. Our Charities Committee will be meeting at the start of the new term to decide on what they would like to ask families to donate, as well as which charity they would like to nominate for our donations, so please look out for information about this being sent home soon.



School Recovery Plan and SWOT analysis

Thank you to everyone who responded to the recent consultation on our School Recovery Plan for 2021/2022, and our SWOT analysis. In light of these responses, we have, so far, actioned the following:

You said ...	We did ...
Parents/carers felt that there was a lack of play in early years.	We have included the introduction of play-based learning in P1 and P2 in our School Recovery Plan. Mrs Crawford (Acting Principal Teacher) is currently attending training on play-based pedagogy. We have changed our Infant corridor into a 'play zone' and all P1 and P2 staff have introduced opportunities for play into their daily activities in class.
Parents/carers felt that communication from the school could be improved.	We recently sent home a questionnaire asking parents/carers how they access information that is sent home by the school (school app, Twitter, website or if they would prefer a paper copy). We are still waiting on a number of these forms to be returned, then we will be able to see who accesses what and can make any changes that are needed.
Parents/carers asked us to think outside the box whilst restrictions are still in place.	This session, we have decided to trial a virtual Harvest Assembly, with each class recording something of their own choosing before drawing this together as part of a whole-school event.

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

Parent Council Meeting

Following the postponement of the Parent Council meeting planned for 9th September, our first Parent Council meeting for the new session will now take place via Zoom on **Thursday, 30th 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.



If you would like to participate in one of these meetings, please email Karen Rouse (Chairperson) (dlimpsparentcouncil@hotmail.com) and she will send you the log-in details.



Nurture Groups

Our school Nurture groups will be recommencing shortly. These are led by Mrs Crawford (Acting Principal Teacher) along with Mrs Burns and Mrs Mullarkey (2 of our support assistants). Mrs Crawford will be contacting the parents/carers of the children concerned over the next few days to check that you are happy with arrangements for these sessions.

Ready Steady Learn Books

Every child has been issued with a new Ready Steady Learn book for this term. This book is sent home once per week and is designed to let you know how your child has been in class, as well as outline something that they should continue to work on the following week. Please sign your child's book to let us know that you have seen it and return it to school at the start of each new week. Comments from parents/carers are also welcome.

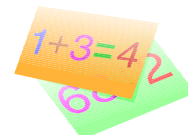


Pupil Sickness

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.

Maths Week Scotland

Week beginning 27th September is Maths Week Scotland. During the course of this week, children from across all stages will be participating a wide range of different Maths activities designed to encourage teamwork and increased enthusiasm for Maths.



October Week Holiday

School will be closed on **Friday, 8th October** at 3.00pm for the October Week holiday. Children should return, as normal, on **Monday, 18th 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
Oxford Owl	Doorway Online

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



Dates For Your Diary

Date	Event and Persons Involved
Tuesday, 5 th October	Youth Music Initiative – P5 children
Tuesday, 5 th October	P4 Basketball (3.00pm – 4.00pm) – final week
Wednesday, 6 th October	Wellbeing Wednesday – All children
Thursday, 7 th October	Parent/Carer Consultations – All children
Friday, 8th October	School closes at 3.00pm for October Week holiday
Monday, 18th October	School re-opens
Tuesday, 19 th October	Youth Music Initiative – P5 children
Tuesday, 19 th October	P5 Multi-Sports (3.00pm – 4.00pm) – details to follow
Tuesday, 26 th October	Youth Music Initiative – P5 children
Tuesday, 26 th October	P5 Multi-Sports (3.00pm – 4.00pm) – details to follow
Friday, 29 th October	Harvest Assembly – All children
Tuesday, 2 nd November	Youth Music Initiative – P5 children
Tuesday, 2 nd November	P5 Multi-Sports (3.00pm – 4.00pm) – details to follow
Tuesday, 9 th November	Youth Music Initiative – P5 children
Tuesday, 9 th November	P5 Multi-Sports (3.00pm – 4.00pm) – final week
Thursday, 11 th November	Parent Council meeting (6.30pm start) – All welcome
Monday, 15th November	In-Service Day – School closed to all pupils
Tuesday, 16 th November	Youth Music Initiative – P5 children
Tuesday, 16 th November	P3 Multi-Sports (3.00pm – 4.00pm) – final week
Tuesday, 23 rd November	Youth Music Initiative – P5 children
Tuesday, 23 rd November	P3 Multi-Sports (3.00pm – 4.00pm) – final week
Tuesday, 30 th November	Youth Music Initiative – P5 children
Tuesday, 30 th November	P3 Multi-Sports (3.00pm – 4.00pm) – final week

