

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

Thank you to all our parents/carers for your continued patience and understanding during what continues to be challenging time for everyone. As a school, we continue to do everything that we can to keep all of the children and adults safe. Please note that the mitigations in school remain the same as they were in August (staff still need to maintain 2m physical distancing from one another), hence why we still need to continue with our staggered entrances, exits and lunches. We will, of course, let you know when the government guidance given to schools and other educational establishments changes. Nevertheless, staff continue to provide fun, progressive and meaningful learning experiences for the children, examples of which can be seen on our school app and Twitter, as well as on our nursery Learning Journals.

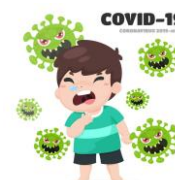
I would also like to take this opportunity to welcome Mrs Pamela Feenie, a new support assistant to our school. We hope that she will be very happy at DLMPS. Unfortunately, Miss Caroline Findlay (one of our Early Years Workers) will be leaving our nursery on Thursday, 4th November to take up a new post with a different local authority. Miss Findlay has been a valued member of our nursery team for a number of years and we will miss her when she moves on. We do, however, wish her all the best in her new venture. We do not yet know who will be replacing Miss Findlay, but parents/carers of our nursery children will be notified as soon as we have this information.

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 as this affects the absence code that is recorded for your child.



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.



Google Classroom

Google Classroom

Thank you to those families who have already managed to log in to Google Classroom. This is the platform that we will continue to use to deliver learning to the children should they have to self-isolate due to Covid, as well as to post videos linked to children's learning. P4-7 children also use this platform for homework.

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.

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. Again, please contact Miss Lattimer should your child not have access to their own device as we should be able to lend you a Chromebook to use at home.

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. Unfortunately, despite multiple copies being sent home, we are still waiting on a few forms being returned. If you have not already done so, please return these forms as a matter of urgency since 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 still 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.

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. Please could you also ensure that all letters relating to holidays are handed in to the school office so that we do not disturb you whilst you are away.



Head Lice

Please could we ask that all parents/carers regularly check their child's hair for head lice and, if they do find any, that you get this treated straight away. There continues to be a lot of stigma regarding this condition, but please remember that it is not a sign of having dirty hair or poor personal hygiene. Thank you for your support with this.

Christmas Cards

Unless you have told us otherwise, all children will be designing their own Christmas card next week in school. Their artwork will then be sent home for you to see and, if you wish, you will be able to place an order to buy a pack of individualised cards. All money raised through this initiative will be given to the Parent Council who fund many fun activities and resources for the children in the school.



Dress Up/Dress Down Day Snacks

Thank you to our Parent Council who donated snacks for the children to enjoy on Dress Up/Dress Down Day on Friday, 29th October. We hope that the children that their class teachers organised for them on this day too.

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.



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.

Active Literacy Resources

We recently sent home an Active Literacy magnetic board with all of our P1 and P2 children. This is the resource that children use in class to support the development of their literacy skills, so we strongly encourage you to use this resource when you are supporting your child with their homework. To help you, Miss Marshall (our P1/2 teacher) has posted a video on how we use these boards in class on the Google Classroom for all the children involved. Again, please contact Miss Lattimer (Depute Head Teacher) if you are struggling to access this at home.



School Library

There has been great excitement in the school this week as our school lending library is now officially open! Children from all classes have been invited along to choose a book that they can take this home with them to read. This will now become a weekly event, so children will be able to swap their book for another one the next time that they visit the library.



We have also trained some of our P6 children as Junior Librarians so that they can oversee the borrowing and return of books. These children were successful in being appointed to these positions after having to fill in an application form, just like they would do in the world of work. Good luck to everyone involved!

Thank you, too, to Mr Burns (P7 teacher), Mrs Rice (visiting specialist support teacher) and Nancy (janitor) for helping to set up our library and making it such an inviting place for children to visit. We also hope to show this off to parents/carers once you are allowed back in our building.

Our Reading Schools Leadership Group are also in the process of organising a Book Swap for some of our classes, so please look out for information about this coming home soon.



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

Thank you to everyone who has engaged in our parent/carers telephone consultations prior to the October Week holiday. I hope that these were informative and useful. If you missed your appointment and you would still like to speak to your child's class teacher, please contact the school office so that alternative arrangements can be made. Thank you.



ParentPay

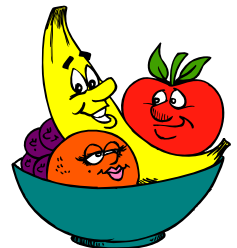
At DLMPS, we use a resource called ParentPay to allow families to pay for school lunches and milk, as well as to collect in any money that is requested for school activities since we are no longer expected to handle any cash.

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 yet registered with ParentPay, please could you contact Mrs Cockburn in our school office to find out how to do this as soon as possible. Thank you.

Wellbeing Wednesdays

We hope that all of our children enjoyed the special Wellbeing Wednesdays that took place during the month of October. These focused on different aspects associated with being healthy, including mental health, physical health and the importance of healthy eating and diet. Examples of the activities that the different classes completed have been posted on our school app, so please take the time to have a look. Thank you to Mrs Daly (one of our P3/4 teachers) and Mrs Crawford (Acting Principal Teacher) for taking responsibility for organising a fun-filled month of activities for the children.



School Recovery Plan

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

You said ...	We did ...
Parents/carers asked for clubs to be organised for P1-3 children.	We have now organised a P3 Multi-Sports club starting on 16 th November for a period of 4 weeks. We will look to organise a club for P1 and P2 children later in the session.

Harvest Donations

Following a plea that we received from Hamilton and District Foodbank, our Charities Committee have asked that children bring in toiletries for our Harvest donations this year. All donations will be gratefully received in the school up until **Wednesday, 3rd November**. Thank you for your support with this. As we are still unable to have large gatherings in the hall, we also recorded a virtual Harvest Assembly this session, with all classes getting the chance to hear one another sing their own choice of Harvest song.



Black History Month

Black History Month is celebrated every October in the UK. As part of this, the Pupil Council will be sharing information about their own choice of famous black person during our weekly assemblies. By doing this, we hope to raise children's awareness of and tolerance for cultural differences.

Anti-Bullying Week

This year's Anti-Bullying Week takes place from 15th to 19th November. The Pupil Council are in the process of organising a number of different activities for all classes, so please look out for information coming home over the next few weeks.



COP26

As I am sure you all know, the COP26 Summit is happening in Glasgow over the next few weeks, running from the 1st – 12th November. Fairtrade and WWF have teamed up with COP26 to try and get more school children involved to raise awareness of our global climate crisis.

As part of this, they are asking all children in schools to 'Make a Fair Promise for COP26'. Children in all classes will, therefore, spend some time learning about what COP26 and the climate crisis is, then they will be asked to make a promise to the planet about what **they** are going to try and do to help – for example, using a reusable water bottle or walking to school 3 times a week.

Children will be asked to write their 'promise to the planet' on a leaf, then the school's Fairtrade Committee will create our own school 'Tree of Promises'. Thank you to Miss Brown (our P1 teacher) for facilitating this.

Clothing Donations

Thank you to everyone who handed in either a Halloween costume or a jacket/coat as part of our recent clothing appeal. Many of these items have now been distributed, although we do still have a number of jackets still available. These items are readily available to all families from the main entrance, so please help yourself to anything that you fancy if you are keen to support recycling. Please also remember that we have new and nearly new items of school uniform available too.



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.

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.



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.***



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 now organised a few 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. Our recycling rail is available outside the main office 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.

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.

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. Please note that no homework is issued either the week before nor the week immediately after a school holiday lasting at least a week.

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.



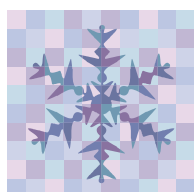


Poppies

Once again, we will be supporting The Scottish Poppy Appeal by allowing the children to receive a poppy in return for a small donation. Please help us to support this very important charity. Donations can be sent in to the school from **Tuesday, 2nd November**.

Parent Council Meeting

Our next Parent Council meeting will take place via Zoom on **Thursday, 11th November** starting at 6.30pm and all parent/carers are welcome to attend. If you would like to participate in this meeting, please email Karen Rouse (Chairperson) (dlmpsparentcouncil@hotmail.com) and she will send you the log-in details.



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.

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 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 or other agencies to visit your home 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 to children on **Monday, 15th November** as this is an In-Service Day for staff. Children should return, as normal, on **Tuesday, 16th November** at their allocated time.

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
Monday, 1 st November	P4 Library Club (lunchtime)
Tuesday, 2 nd November	Launch of Poppy Appeal in school
Tuesday, 2 nd November	Youth Music Initiative – P5 children
Tuesday, 2 nd November	P5 Multi-Sports (3.00pm – 4.00pm)
Wednesday, 3 rd November	Final day for Harvest donations
Monday, 8 th November	P4 Library Club (lunchtime)
Tuesday, 9 th November	Fluoride Varnishing (Nursery – P4 children)
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	Start of Anti-Bullying Week in school – details to follow
Tuesday, 16 th November	Youth Music Initiative – P5 children
Tuesday, 16 th November	P3 Multi-Sports (3.00pm – 4.00pm) – details to follow
Friday, 19 th November	Children in Need Day – details to follow
Monday, 22 nd November	Scots Week – all children (details to follow)
Monday, 22 nd November	P4 Library Club (lunchtime)
Tuesday, 23 rd November	Youth Music Initiative – P5 children
Tuesday, 23 rd November	P3 Multi-Sports (3.00pm – 4.00pm)
Monday, 29 th November	P4 Library Club (lunchtime)
Tuesday, 30 th November	Youth Music Initiative – P5 children
Tuesday, 30 th November	Scots Assembly – all children
Tuesday, 30 th November	P3 Multi-Sports (3.00pm – 4.00pm)
Tuesday, 7 th December	P3 Multi-Sports (3.00pm – 4.00pm) – final week

