



David Livingstone Memorial Primary School and Nursery Class

December 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

It is hard to believe that we are almost at the end of Term 2 already. DLMPs continues to be a very busy school and nursery, with lots of different activities going on. Children across all stages have also shown their support for others less fortunate than themselves via their support for Children in Need, Hamilton Food and the Scottish Poppy Appeal so thank you to everyone for all your kindness and generosity.

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.

With the festive season fast approaching, we are currently planning a number of activities as a school, whilst still following the restrictions that we have in place in schools. Please see this newsletter for further details.

I would also like to congratulate Mrs Crawford (formerly Miss Lamont) who was successful at interview for our 0.4 FTE Principal Teacher post a few weeks ago. In addition, I extend a warm welcome to Miss Sandilands, a new temporary Early Years Worker, who has replaced Miss Findlay in our nursery, as well as Miss Macdonald, a new teacher who will be covering Mrs Hillis's maternity leave. Miss Collins and Miss MacIntyre also remain with us whilst we have other teaching staff absent.

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. **Children should self-isolate and book a PCR if anyone in their household has tested positive. They should also self-isolate if someone that they live with has symptoms and is still awaiting the results of a PCR test.**



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.

Scottish Poppy Appeal

Thank you to everyone who donated money towards The Scottish Poppy Appeal this session. 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.



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.

Scottish Book Week

As part of Scottish Book Week, the whole school learned some words and phrases in Scots during week beginning 22nd November. 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 on our school app.



Thank you, too, to Miss Smith (one of our P3/4 teachers) and our Reading Schools Committee who organised a successful Book Swap for our P4-7 children as part of this week. We hope to organise a similar event for our nursery and P1-3 children after Christmas.



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

Thank you to everyone who ordered a pack of their child's individualised Christmas card. 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. We hope that these cards will be delivered to your home address very soon.



Anti-Bullying Week

The whole school took part in a range of activities to support Anti-Bullying Week during week beginning 15th November. As part of this, everyone created a brick that will be erected on our 'Kindness Wall'. The Pupil Council also organised an Odd Socks Day to raise awareness of people's differences and a 'Design a Sock' competition linked to this. The prize winners in each class were announced at last week's assembly.

In addition, as part of Anti-Bullying Week, we launched 'Friendship Friday' which is an opportunity for children to enjoy interval with their peers in other classes. Needless to say, this is proving to be very popular across the school!

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.



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. 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 to anything that your child needs.

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.



Children in Need

Congratulations to our Charities Committee and Mrs Young who organised a very successful fundraiser in aid of Children in Need on Friday, 12th November, raising an amazing £203 for this very worthwhile cause. Thank you to everyone who contributed.



School Nativity

Our nursery, P1 and P2 children will be organising a slightly different Nativity this year. In line with Covid restrictions, this will involve a range of songs performed by our younger classes, which will then all be joined together into one large performance. Unfortunately, we are unable to invite parents/carers into our building at this time, so we will be posting a video of this performance on our Google Classroom for families to enjoy on **Friday, 17th December**. If you do not want images of your child to be included in this video, please let us know as soon as possible.

Christmas Lunch

Our school Christmas lunch will take place on **Wednesday, 15th December**. A flyer will be sent home shortly informing you of the choice of menu that will be available on this day. Children are required to order in advance and all orders should be returned to the school **no later than Wednesday, 8th December**.



Please note that there will be no cold snacks on offer on this day. Children who do not wish to have a hot school lunch are asked to bring in their own packed lunch instead.



Christmas Hampers

Thank you to everyone who has already contributed towards our class Christmas hampers. Raffle tickets for these amazing prizes will soon go on sale via ParentPay at the cost of £1 each. Please could we ask that all donations are sent in to the school no later than **Friday, 3rd December** so that we can post up photographs of what you might win in advance of tickets going on sale from **Monday, 6th December to Wednesday, 15th December**.

Winners will be announced at our whole school virtual assembly on **Friday, 17th December**, then we will contact the lucky recipients to make arrangements for these to be collected from the school prior to the Christmas holidays.

Christmas Parties

Our class Christmas parties have been arranged for the following dates:

P6/7 & P7	Monday, 13th December (pm)
P5 & P5/6	Tuesday, 14th December (pm)
P4 & P3/4	Wednesday, 15th December (pm)
P2 & P3	Thursday, 16th December (pm)
P1 & P1/2	Monday, 20th December (pm)
Nursery	Monday, 20th December (am)



Where possible, children should come dressed in their party clothes or a Christmas jumper/t-shirt as our changing rooms remain closed at present.



School Pantomime

Thank you to our Parent Council who have offered to fund the cost of a whole school virtual pantomime performed by Eva Long Productions. This year's performance is 'Aladdin', with unlimited viewing being available from 5th – 31st December – oh yes, it will! Once the children have had a chance to watch the performance in school, we will then post up a link for this on our Google Classrooms so that our families can enjoy it at home too.

Christmas Service

Unfortunately, we will be unable to invite parents/carers and other family members into the school to enjoy our Christmas Service. Instead, we will be organising a virtual Service involving all classes and will post this on our Google Classrooms for you to enjoy on **Tuesday, 21st December**.



Christmas Post

Our school Christmas Post will start on **Monday, 6th December** and will run until **Friday, 17th December**. This allows children to post their Christmas cards to pupils and staff using the special postbox that is located in the Open Area. This year, mail will be sorted by children in our P5 class, so please make sure that names and classes are written clearly on all envelopes. We would also appreciate it if no Christmas cards are brought into school before this date. Thank you.

Christmas Jumper Donations

As a way of supporting our families, we have launched an appeal for pre-loved Christmas jumpers and t-shirts. If you have anything that you would be able to donate, please could we ask that all donations are handed in to the school by **Friday, 10th December** at the latest. The Charities Committee are organising a Christmas Jumper Day in aid of charity on **Friday, 17th December**, so please look out for more details about this being sent home shortly if your child wishes to participate.

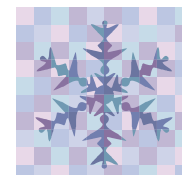


Mobile Phones

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.

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 Twitter and 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.



As a school, we also have an Adverse Weather Plan in place. This means that should we experience adverse weather conditions, the janitor will prioritise the clearing of snow and ice in a pathway leading from the main gates at the front of the school to the main entrance. There will also be one route cleared from the car park to the main entrance, but both parents and staff enter the car park at their own risk.



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.



School Recovery Plan

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

You said ...	We did ...
Parents/carers asked for more notice of special days when children need to dress down.	Where possible, we include information about forthcoming dress down days in our monthly newsletters. We also make sure that children and parents/carers understand that these events are completely optional.

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 currently 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.

All P5 children will also be entitled to a free school meal starting in January 2022.



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 sports clubs will be required to take place after school at the present time.

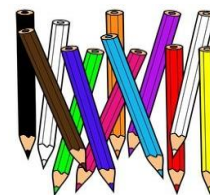


Visitors to School

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.

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.



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.

Parent Council Meeting

Our next Parent Council meeting will take place via Zoom on **Thursday, 9th December** 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) (dlimpsparentcouncil@hotmail.com) and she will send you the log-in details.



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.

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. We will let you know when we are able to resume this very valuable and popular service within our school.



Christmas Holiday

Please remember that the school closes on **Wednesday, 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, 5th 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*



Dates For Your Diary

Date	Event and Persons Involved
Friday, 3 rd December	Final day for Christmas hamper donations
Monday, 6 th December	Christmas post starts
Monday, 6 th December	Raffle tickets for Christmas hampers go on sale via ParentPay (£1 each)
Monday, 6 th December	P2 Homework club (3.00pm – 4.00pm)
Tuesday, 7 th December	P6 guitar lessons
Tuesday, 7 th December	Youth Music Initiative – P5 children
Tuesday, 7 th December	P3 Multi-Sports (3.00pm – 4.00pm) – final week
Thursday, 9 th December	Parent Council meeting (6.30pm start) – all welcome
Friday, 10 th December	Human Rights Day – RRSA Committee organising activities in school
Friday, 10 th December	Final day for Christmas jumpers/t-shirt donations
Monday, 13 th December	P6/7 and P7 party (pm)
Monday, 13 th December	P2 Homework club (3.00pm – 4.00pm) – final week
Tuesday, 14 th December	P6 guitar lessons
Tuesday, 14 th December	Youth Music Initiative – P5 children
Tuesday, 14 th December	P5 & P5/6 party (pm)
Wednesday, 15 th December	Christmas lunch – all children
Wednesday, 15 th December	P3/4 & P4 party (pm)
Wednesday, 15 th December	Last day to buy raffle tickets for Christmas hampers
Thursday, 16 th December	P2 & P3 party (pm)
Friday, 17 th December	Christmas Jumper Day – details to follow from our Charities Committee
Friday, 17 th December	Last day for Christmas post
Friday, 17 th December	Christmas hamper draw
Friday, 17 th December	Christmas Nativity posted on Google Classrooms
Monday, 20 th December	Nursery party (am)
Monday, 20 th December	P1 and P1/2 party (pm)
Tuesday, 21 st December	Christmas Service posted on Google Classrooms
Wednesday, 22nd December	School closes (see staggered finishing times listed above)
Wednesday, 5th January	School re-opens (staggered starts to continue)
Wednesday, 5 th January	Free school meals start for P5 children

