



David Livingstone Memorial Primary School and Nursery Class

February 2022
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

January has flown by in a flash and it's lovely to see the days are starting to get slightly longer. Nevertheless, it is still very chilly so please ensure that your child wears a warm waterproof jacket to school every day. Please also remember that we have a number of new/nearly new jackets on our recycling rail at the main entrance should these be of support to you and your family.

Despite some restrictions being lifted in the community, schools are still expected to follow the same Covid mitigations that we have had in place for some time now. There are, however, some changes in relation to who needs to self-isolate and for how long, so please ensure that you read the new guidance listed below so that we can protect all of our children and staff. In line with these changes, our Risk Assessment and Safe Systems of Work have also been updated on our school website and nursery Learning Journals, so please take the time to read them if you can.

Please remember that the school is here to support you during these challenging times. If there is anything personal that you would like to discuss relating to your family, please either phone the school or send me an email at the following address and I will do my best to help: gw14dlmpsht@glow.sch.uk

*Linda Callender
Head Teacher*

Covid-19

Please remember that if your child has any of the coronavirus symptoms listed below, he/she should isolate straight away. You should book a PCR test via www.nhsinform.scot, or by calling 0800 028 2816 and your child should remain off of school/nursery until their test results have been received. 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

In line with the new guidelines, children can return to school/nursery if someone in their household or one of their close contacts receives a positive PCR test. However, they should take daily lateral flow tests (LFTs) for a period of 7 days and must test negative every day. If a child has a positive LFT and develops symptoms, he/she should then arrange a PCR test. If a child tests positive on a LFT but has no symptoms, there is no longer a requirement to book a PCR test to confirm the LFT result, but your child should still self-isolate for a period of 10 days. You can, however, end the isolation before the end of the 10 days provided your child has returned 2 consecutive LFTs taken at least 24 hours apart, with the first test being completed no earlier than Day 6. Even if both these tests are negative, your child should still not return if he/she has a fever. For further guidance on self-isolation, please look at the NHS Inform website.

LFTs can be collected from a local pharmacy, local collection points, as well as from regional and local test sites. They can also be ordered online for home delivery.

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.

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.

Workers who earn less than the living wage and have been asked to isolate by Test and Protect may be eligible for the £500 Self-Isolation Support Grant. Practical support, such as food or essential medicine deliveries, are available through the self-isolation assistance service, and the national Coronavirus Helpline – available on 0800 111 4000, Monday to Friday from 9am to 5pm – to ensure that people who are required to self-isolate have the support they need.

P1- P7 Online Learning

If your child has been asked to isolate because of Covid-19, a member of staff will contact you to find out if he/she is fit enough to continue with their learning at home. If so, this will be posted up on Google Classroom.

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 recently posted some QR codes on our website and school app. If you scan these with your phone/iPad, you will be taken straight to a series of guides to support you with the use of Google Classroom, including how to post up completed work. We still have a few Chromebooks that we are able to loan out to families to support them with learning at home should you require an additional device. Please either phone or email Miss Lattimer if this something that you require.



Google Classroom



Nursery Learning Journals

If a child from our nursery has to self-isolate but is keeping well, our Early Years staff will begin posting up learning activities on the child's online Learning Journal and we will continue to use this resource as a way of communicating information with you. Please also use your child's Learning Journal to share any achievements or successes from home. Like the rest of the school, staff will comment on anything that is posted up.

P5-7 Rugby

Now that we are able to bring visiting coaches back into schools, all of the children in our P5-7 classes will receive a 3-week block of rugby sessions delivered by coaches from Hamilton Rugby Club. These sessions will take place every Monday until 21st February, so please ensure that your child comes dressed in his/her PE kit if they are in one of these stages.



Mobile Phones

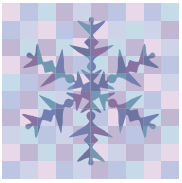
We strongly discourage children from bringing their mobile phones to school as we cannot be held responsible if they are damaged or stolen. If your child does bring his/her mobile phone to school, it must be switched off at all times whilst in the building and in the playground. Any messages that you need to get to your child during the school day should be delivered via staff in our school office.

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 ...
More sporting opportunities in school like rugby, cricket and other niche sports	We have now managed to arrange for coaches from Hamilton Rugby Club to deliver rugby sessions for P5-7 children during their PE times.



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.

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.***



Take A Break Fund

'Take a Break' is Scotland's short breaks fund for parents/carers of disabled children, young people and their families. Take a Break grants can be used for a break away, towards leisure activities or outings; sports equipment and much, much more.

Take a Break Scotland can accept applications from a parent/carer of a disabled child or young person. They can only accept one application per household or family unit, with new applications set to be open in April/May 2022.

If you can say 'Yes' to the following, 'Take a Break' may be able to offer a grant:

- I have lived in Scotland continuously for six months or longer
- I am a UK resident and have recourse to public funds
- I am caring for a disabled or seriously ill child or young person aged 0-20 years who lives at home with me
- My child or young person is not subject to a care order or Looked After by the Local Authority (e.g the child is in foster care).

Please see info@takeabreakscotland.org.uk for more details.



Scottish Child Payment

Scottish Child Payment is a new benefit which started in 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, please access www.mygov.scot/benefits or call 0800 182 2222.

Family Fund

'Family Fund' is an organisation 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



P1 Enrolment

Infant enrolment week for children starting P1 in session 2022/2023 is now complete. If you know of any families who have yet to enrol their child for school starting in August 2022, please ask them to look at South Lanarkshire Council's website (www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk) for more details.

If you have applied to defer your child's entry to school, you should have discussed this with your child's current nursery establishment. They will then provide and return the appropriate paperwork when completed to the Early Years Service at SLC HQ for processing. If your child's deferred entry is approved, you will receive a letter and you should confirm that you are accepting the deferral. Once HQ have received your confirmation, your child's place will be removed from their catchment primary.

P1-3 21st Century Families Play Award

Just after the February holiday, we will be launching a 21st Century Families Play Award for all our P1-3 children. This is designed to encourage parents/carers to engage in lots of fun activities with their children, without costing them any money. Miss Marshall (our P1/2 teacher) has created an interactive PowerPoint explaining exactly what is involved in this project and this will be posted on all of our P1-3 Google Classrooms for you to see. She has also given you lots of ideas for free things that you can do in our local area if you have spare time after school or at a weekend.



Please encourage your child to become involved as there will be a special celebration ceremony for all those who participate towards the end of session. Many children engaged in a similar project last year, with the feedback that we received from them being extremely positive. Should you have any questions about this project, please contact the school office (gw14dlmpsoffice@glow.sch.uk) and we will arrange for Miss Marshall to give you a call.

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.

Nursery Admissions

There has been a change to Nursery admissions across all South Lanarkshire establishments. Please note that the closing date for August 2022 entries is now **28th February 2022**. (This is earlier than in previous years). Parents/carers will also be advised of outcomes just after the Spring Break, which should make it easier for families to organise any necessary childcare arrangements.



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.



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. Children who do bring this in to school will be asked to leave their bottle in their schoolbag until the next break time. 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 or tracksuits, 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.

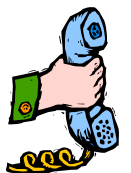


Ready Steady Learn Books

Every child will be 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.



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.

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.



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.

Breakfast Club

Our Breakfast Club has 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

Last term, we 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.



Homework

All children receive weekly homework, apart from the week immediately before and after a holiday. 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.



At the start of session, all children were issued with a pack of resources to support them with their homework. If your child now requires any additional resources to support them with their home learning (e.g. jotters, pencils, etc), please contact the school office (gw14dlmpsoffice@glow.sch.uk) and we will arrange for these to be sent home. Thank you.

NSPCC Workshops

To help support all children to feel safe, as well as let them know what they can do if they do not feel safe, all classes will be engaging in workshop activities during week beginning 7th February. These workshops will be delivered virtually by the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, with this year's theme being 'Speak Out, Stay Safe'.



P7 Transitions

As part of the transition process, letters have been issued to our P7 parents/carers, asking them to state their preferred choice of secondary school for their child next session. Please return this to the school as soon as possible. Thank you.



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



Visitors to School

All establishments continue to be asked to restrict the number of visitors that they have to their premises. These will primarily be professional staff who support children's learning and/or wellbeing. 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.

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 (P6 to S6) and/or school clothing grants (P1 to S6) to eligible families.



All P5 children are now entitled to a free school meal starting in January 2022. Please remember that although P1-5 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.



School Photographs

Should Covid restrictions allow it, we are hoping to have a photographer visit our school at the start of Term 4. Please look out for information about this being sent home in due course.

Parent Council Meeting

Our next Parent Council meeting will take place via Zoom on **Thursday, 10th February** 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.



School Closures

Please remember that the school will be closed to children for the mid-term holiday on **Monday, 14th February and Tuesday, 15th February. Children should also not attend on Wednesday, 16th February either** as this is an In-Service Day for staff. Children should return, as normal, on **Thursday, 17th February** at their allocated time.

**Dates For Your Diary**

Date	Event and Persons Involved
Tuesday, 1 st February	Monthly focus on 'Respected' wellbeing indicator starts – all classes
Tuesday, 1 st February	P6 guitar lessons
Wednesday, 2 nd February	P1 Homework Club (selected children) (2.45pm – 3.45pm)
Wednesday, 2 nd February	P3 Maths Club (selected children) (2.45pm – 3.45pm)
Wednesday, 2 nd February	P6/7 Cross Country (3.00pm – 4.00pm)
Monday, 7 th February	NSPCC 'Speak Out, Stay Safe' workshops this week – all children
Monday, 7 th February	P5-7 rugby lessons
Monday, 7 th February	P7 Reading Club (12.15pm – 12.45pm)
Monday, 7 th February	P6/7 football (3.00pm – 4.00pm)
Monday, 7 th February	P4 Maths Club (selected children) (3.00pm – 4.00pm)
Monday, 7 th February	P5 Literacy Club (selected children) (2.45pm – 3.45pm)
Tuesday, 8 th February	P6 guitar lessons
Tuesday, 8 th February	Safer Internet Day – all children
Wednesday, 9 th February	P1 Homework Club (selected children) (2.45pm – 3.45pm)
Wednesday, 9 th February	P3 Maths Club (selected children) (2.45pm – 3.45pm)
Wednesday, 9 th February	P6/7 Cross Country (3.00pm – 4.00pm)
Thursday, 10 th February	Parent Council meeting (6.30pm start) – all welcome
Monday, 14th February	Holiday
Tuesday, 15th February	Holiday
Wednesday, 16th February	In-Service Day – children do not attend
Thursday, 17 th February	School re-opens
Monday, 21 st February	P5-7 rugby lessons – final week
Monday, 21 st February	P7 Reading Club (12.15pm – 12.45pm)
Monday, 21 st February	P6/7 football (3.00pm – 4.00pm)
Monday, 21 st February	P4 Maths Club (selected children) (3.00pm – 4.00pm) – final week
Monday, 21 st February	P5 Literacy Club (selected children) (2.45pm – 3.45pm) – final week
Tuesday, 22 nd February	P6 guitar lessons
Wednesday, 23 rd February	P1 Homework Club (selected children) (2.45pm – 3.45pm) – final week
Wednesday, 23 rd February	P3 Maths Club (selected children) (2.45pm – 3.45pm)
Wednesday, 23 rd February	P6/7 Cross Country (3.00pm – 4.00pm)
Monday, 28 th February	Start of Fairtrade Fortnight (details to follow)
Monday, 28 th February	P7 Reading Club (12.15pm – 12.45pm)
Monday, 28 th February	P6/7 football (3.00pm – 4.00pm)
Wednesday, 2 nd March	P3 Maths Club (selected children) (2.45pm – 3.45pm)
Wednesday, 2 nd March	P6/7 Cross Country (3.00pm – 4.00pm)

Thursday, 3 rd March	World Book Day – all children (details to follow)
Monday, 7 th March	P7 Reading Club (12.15pm – 12.45pm)
Monday, 7 th March	P6/7 football (3.00pm – 4.00pm)
Wednesday, 2 nd March	P3 Maths Club (selected children) (2.45pm – 3.45pm) – final week
Wednesday, 2 nd March	P6/7 Cross Country (3.00pm – 4.00pm)
Thursday, 10 th March	Parent Council meeting (6.30pm start) – all welcome
Monday, 14 th March	P7 Reading Club (12.15pm – 12.45pm)
Monday, 14 th March	P6/7 football (3.00pm – 4.00pm)
Wednesday, 16 th March	P6/7 Cross Country (3.00pm – 4.00pm)
Monday, 21 st March	P7 Reading Club (12.15pm – 12.45pm)
Monday, 21 st March	P6/7 football (3.00pm – 4.00pm)
Wednesday, 21 st March	P6/7 Cross Country (3.00pm – 4.00pm)
Monday, 28 th March	P7 Reading Club (12.15pm – 12.45pm)
Friday, 1st April	School closes for Spring Break at 2.30pm
Tuesday, 19th April	School re-opens

Useful Apps

Sumdog *

School App for Parents

RM Easimaths *

Top Marks

Doorway Online

Teach Your Monster To Read

* Please contact your child's class teacher if they cannot remember their log-in details.

