



David Livingstone Memorial Primary School and Nursery Class

October 2022
Tel: 01698 823680



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 our first term already! Children have settled well into their new classes and into the routines of the school/nursery. Our P6 and P7 buddies have also been absolutely brilliant at supporting the younger children in both our nursery and P1 respectively.

I am pleased to inform you that we have now been allocated a new permanent Early Years Worker. Her name is Miss Angus and we are delighted to have her as part of our nursery team.

Thank you for your support in ensuring that children come to school wearing their school uniform. This promotes a sense of identity and pride in our school. Given that children wear many similar, if not identical items, it would be helpful if you could ensure that your child's name is written on their clothing and personal items (including packed lunch boxes and water bottles) so that any lost property can be easily returned. Please also remember that jeans and patterned hoodies are not part of our school uniform and should not be worn in school. Our recycling rail containing many new and almost new items of school uniform is always available outside the school office, so please help yourself to anything that your child needs. There is no charge for any of these items. Please could I also remind you that in the interests of health and safety children should not wear nail extensions to school either.

All children are expected to change into a pair of soft shoes every day in school and these should also be worn for PE in the gym hall. If your child has not already brought these into school, please could I encourage you to do this as soon as possible. Again, it would be helpful if these could be marked with your child's name to avoid any mix-ups.

We are continuing to trial having our P1-4 parents in the playground at the end of the day and this shall be reviewed at the end of this term. Please could I remind you that there should only be one adult per family to help reduce congestion for everyone.

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

School
App for
Parents

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 'School App for Parents'. 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. Thank you to our Parent Council who have funded the cost of this app for us this session.

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.



Victoria Falls Support Base

Unfortunately, the visit that we had planned from a child from Victoria Falls Support Base that is attached to our school had to be postponed last week because of absence. However, we are hoping to reschedule this visit before the end of term. The purpose of this visit is to allow this child the opportunity to explain the nature of some of the additional support needs that the children who attend this base have. These include social, emotional and behavioural needs.

Although Victoria Falls share our campus, they are not formally part of our school. Instead, all the children and staff are managed by Mr Govan, the Head Teacher of Kear Campus in Blantyre. Mr Govan very kindly attended a recent Parent Council meeting to explain more about the set-up of Victoria Falls and he is contactable by email should any parents/carers have any questions. (headteacher@kear.s-lanark.sch.uk).

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 as a matter of urgency 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, then possibly the Police. 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 PE days if they wish.

PE Times

As PE 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 PE, 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 PE 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 to wear jewellery to school on PE 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 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 Miss McArthur, one of our P5 teachers)
- Eco Schools (led by Miss Feeney, one of our P5 teachers and CCC teacher)
- Fairtrade (led by Miss Brown, P1 teacher)
- House and Vice Captains (led by Mrs Crawford, Principal Teacher)
- Charities (led by Mrs Young and Mrs Bannatyne, P2 teachers)
- Reading Schools (led by Mr Burns, P7 teacher)



Parent/Carer Consultations

Our first set of Parent/Carer Consultations will take place on **Wednesday, 12th October**. We are delighted that these will take place face-to-face so you will also have the opportunity to look at your child's work and any displays that are on the walls. If you have not already done so, please send in the form showing your preferred choice of appointment time.

A Book Fair will be available in our dinner hall during our Parent/Carer Consultations so please come along and have a browse. There will also be the opportunity for you to pick up a pre-loved Halloween costume or Christmas jumper for your child(ren). All donations of these items will be gratefully received.

House Captains

We will soon be holding elections for our House and Vice Captains, with many of our P7 children putting themselves forward for these important positions. All prospective candidates will deliver a speech to their peers, with fellow House members getting to vote for who they think is the best candidate. Results shall be announced at one of our forthcoming assemblies so good luck to everyone involved!



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.



Textile Recycling Bin

Our Parent Council have been successful in acquiring a textile recycling bin to help raise funds for the school. This bin is located in the Coatshill Avenue car park across the road from the school and it will take donations of wearable clothes, paired shoes and bags. It is estimated that a full bin can raise up to £400, so any donations that you have will be gratefully received. Last month, the Parent Council raised £131.20 for collecting 328kg worth of items, so please continue to support them in any way that you can. Thank you.

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.



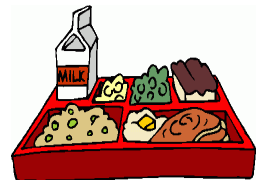
Breakfast Club

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 8.15am and 8.35am**. 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 at 8.45am, at the same time as the school gates open for all our other pupils.

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. Although P1-5 children do not need to pay for a school lunch, they still need to pay 26p 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 Assemblies

Our weekly whole school assemblies are an important way for us to share information with our children, as well as to celebrate their many successes and achievements.

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.

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

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.



Contacting Class Teachers

We understand that there may be occasions when you wish to contact your child's class teacher. 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.

Ready Steady Learn Books

Every child is issued with a new Ready Steady Learn book each 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.



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 Hill 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.

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 is available for any family 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.



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. They are also available at outside our school office for any other family members and/or visitors to our school.

Youth Family Community Learning Officer Support

Mrs Caroline Stewart, our Youth Family Community Learning Officer, is currently offering 2 different support opportunities for parents/carers and we have sent home flyers to notify you about these. The first event is a 5-week course on 'Understanding Children's Behaviour'. This is free of charge and will take place in the school on a Thursday morning from 9.00am – 10.30am starting on **Thursday, 6th October**. If you would like to attend this course, please contact the school office to let us know. The second event is a 'Wee Blether' which is an opportunity for you to meet with Caroline to discuss any form of support that you might need for either yourself or your family. This is an 'open door' session and it will take place in the school every Friday morning from 9.00am – 10.30am. Tea/coffee will also be served during these sessions.



Health Week

Our whole school and nursery will be engaging in a special Health Week starting on **Monday, 10th October**. During this week, the children should come dressed in sporty clothes every day as they will be engaging in a wide range of activities to support their mental, physical and emotional health. The Pupil Council were consulted on the sort of activities they would like us to do and both Mrs Crawford (Principal Teacher) and Mrs Stevenson (P3/4 teacher) have been busy trying to secure visitors and coaches to match these requests. It certainly promises to be a fun-filled week for everyone!

Harvest Service

Our Harvest Assembly will take place on **Friday, 7th October**. Unfortunately, this event shall be for pupils only. Our Charities Committee met to decide on which charity they would like to nominate for our donations, and they decided on the Hamilton Foodbank. A letter has already been sent home advising you on the items that the Foodbank are looking for this year, so please help us in any way that you can. Please could we also request that any donations are handed in to the school **no later than Thursday, 6th October**. 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.***

Staff from Money Matters will also be visiting the school on Monday, 10th October at 9.15am, so please feel free to come along if you are looking at any support or advice.



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 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



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



Parent Council Meeting

Our next Parent Council meeting will take place via Zoom on **Thursday, 10th November** and all parents/carers are welcome to attend. If you would like to participate in this meeting, please email the Parent Council (dlimpsparentcouncil@gmail.com) so that you can be sent the log-in details.



Save the Date

We will be hosting a Literacy Open Day on **Thursday, 17th November**. This will be an informal opportunity for you to visit your child's class and to join in with some of the activities that they do as part of their learning in Literacy. Please try to join us if you can.

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.

Please remember that no homework is issued during the week prior to a holiday nor the week immediately after a holiday.



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.



Crazy Bingo Night

Our Parent Council have organised a Crazy Bingo Night to help raise funds for the school. This will take place in the Miner's Welfare in Blantyre on **Friday, 7th October** starting at 7.30pm. Tickets cost £10 each, so please come along and offer your support.

October Week Holiday

School will be close on **Friday, 14th October** at 3.00pm for the October Week holiday. Children should return, as normal, on **Monday, 24th October** at 8.55am. We hope that you all enjoy a relaxing break and that we all see some sunshine!



Useful Apps

Oxford Owl

Top Marks

Teach Your Monster To Read

Doorway Online

Reading Eggs

Teach Your Monster Number Skills

**Dates For Your Diary**

Date	Event and Persons Involved
Monday, 3 rd October	P6/7 Football (3.00pm – 4.00pm)
Tuesday, 4 th October	Youth Music Initiative – P5 children
Wednesday, 5 th October	P5 swimming
Thursday, 6 th October	Understanding Children's Behaviour Course (9.00am – 10.30am) – All welcome
Thursday, 6 th October	P4 Multi-Sports (3.00pm – 4.00pm)
Friday, 7 th October	'Wee Blether' with YFCL Officer (9.00am – 10.30am) – All welcome
Friday, 7 th October	Harvest Assembly – All children
Friday, 7 th October	Parent Council 'Crazy Bingo Night' (7.30pm start) – All welcome
Monday, 10 th October	Health Week – All children (sporty clothes to be worn all week)
Monday, 10 th October	Money Matters in school (9.15am) – All welcome
Monday, 10 th October	Nursery parents' information session, including Money Matters (9.15am start)
Monday, 10 th October	P7 visiting Blantyre Library (details to follow)
Monday, 10 th October	P6/7 Football (3.00pm – 4.00pm)
Tuesday, 11 th October	Youth Music Initiative – P5 children
Wednesday, 12 th October	P5 swimming
Wednesday, 12 th October	Parent/Carer Consultations
Thursday, 13 th October	Understanding Children's Behaviour Course (9.00am – 10.30am) – All welcome
Thursday, 13 th October	P4 Multi-Sports (3.00pm – 4.00pm) – final week
Friday, 14 th October	'Wee Blether' with YFCL Officer (9.00am – 10.30am) – All welcome
Friday, 14th October	School closes at 3.00pm for October Week holiday
Monday, 24th October	School re-opens
Monday, 24 th October	P6/7 Football (3.00pm – 4.00pm)
Tuesday, 25 th October	Youth Music Initiative – P5 children
Wednesday, 26 th October	P5 swimming
Thursday, 27 th October	Understanding Children's Behaviour Course (9.00am – 10.30am) – All welcome
Friday, 27 th October	'Wee Blether' with YFCL Officer (9.00am – 10.30am) – All welcome
Monday, 31 st October	P6/7 Football (3.00pm – 4.00pm)
Tuesday, 1 st November	Youth Music Initiative – P5 children
Wednesday, 2 nd November	P5 swimming
Thursday, 3 rd November	Understanding Children's Behaviour Course (9.00am – 10.30am) – All welcome
Friday, 4 th November	'Wee Blether' with YFCL Officer (9.00am – 10.30am) – All welcome

