



David Livingstone Memorial Primary School and Nursery Class

November 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

Thank you to everyone who attended our Parent/Carer Consultations before the October Week. It was so nice to have families back in our building again. Please accept my apologies if I did not get to speak to you in person on the night. Unfortunately, I took unwell towards the end of the afternoon session and I had to go home early. However, I do hope that I will see you all in person again soon.

I hope that your child enjoyed our Dress Up/Dress Down activities on Wednesday, 26th October. Thank you to the Parent Council for organising our P4-7 disco and for providing snacks for all the children.

I am pleased to inform you that we have now managed to recruit a temporary Early Years Team Leader who will replace Miss Bell when she goes off on her maternity leave on 11th November. Her name is Mrs Dickson and we are delighted to have her as part of our nursery team. We do not yet have a starting date for Mrs Dickson, but I will share this information with our nursery parents/carers as soon as I receive it.

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.

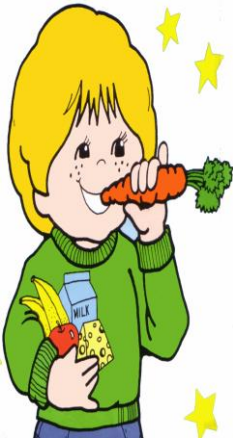
All children are expected to change into a pair of soft shoes every day in school and these should also be worn for PE in the gym hall. If your child has not already brought these into school, please could I encourage you to do this as soon as possible. Again, it would be helpful if these could be marked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

We will continue to have our P1-4 parents in the playground at the end of the day as this appears to be working well. Please could I remind you that there should only be one adult per family to help reduce congestion for everyone.

Finally, thank you to everyone who supported the Parent Council 'Crazy Bingo Night' at the end of last term. This raised a whopping £2005, so well done to everyone who was involved in the organisation of this.

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



Health Week

Thank you to Mrs Crawford (Principal Teacher) and Mrs Stevenson (P3/4 teacher) who organised a fantastic Health Week for all our children just before the October Week. They managed to secure visitors and coaches to match the requests suggested by our Pupil Council, with everyone commenting on how polite and well-mannered the children were. Some classes also visited places in our local community, something which we hope to build on as the year progresses. We would also like to thank Jenny, our school cook, and all her catering team for the support that they provided to classes throughout the week, as well as the Parent Council for providing free pancakes for everyone as part of 'Feel Good Friday'. In addition, a special thank you is extended to all our families who sponsored the children to take part in a silent disco during the course of the week. This was such a fun experience for the children and, so far, we have managed to raise an incredible £2288 for school funds, with more still to be collected.

Christmas Cards

The deadline for ordering copies of your child's own Christmas card has now passed. All orders are now sitting with the Print Room at South Lanarkshire Council Headquarters and we will send home packs of cards as soon as we receive them. 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.



Literacy Open Day

We would like to warmly invite all parents/carers to attend our Literacy Open Day on **Thursday, 17th November**. This event is designed to let you see some of the Literacy activities that your child does in class and perhaps join in a few too! The times for this event will be sent home shortly.

21st Century Families Award

We were delighted to receive a 21st Century Families Award in recognition of the work that we did last session to promote play and family engagement amongst our P1-3 children. This is now safely stored in our trophy cabinet outside the main office, so please take a look at it the next time that you are in school. We hope to participate in this award again this session and information will be sent out to parents/carers in due course.



Harvest Donations

A huge big thank you to everyone who handed in donations as part of our Harvest Appeal this session. As an establishment, we managed to donate non-perishable food items and toiletries weighing 244.30kg, which is a phenomenal achievement. Hamilton District Foodbank have advised us that emergency food supplies were provided to 5,910 local people in crisis during 2021/2022, of which 2,055 went to children, so I am sure that all of our donations will be very gratefully received.

Peanuts

One of our children has an intolerance to peanuts, so please could we ask that your child does not bring in any products containing peanuts for their snack. Your support with this is greatly appreciated.



**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 @dliivies. 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

We are hoping the visit that we had planned from a child from Victoria Falls Support Base that is attached to our school will be rescheduled for later this week. The purpose of this visit is to allow this child the opportunity to explain the nature of some of the additional support needs the children who attend this base have, including 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 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. 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, 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 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.



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.

House Captains

Congratulations to all of our P7 children who put themselves forward for the position of House and Vice Captain this session and to those who were successfully nominated for these important roles. The successful candidates were as follows:



Balmoral = Rachel (House Captain); Laura (Vice Captain)
Bothwell = Max (House Captain); Cali (Vice Captain)
Edinburgh = Grace (House Captain); Kacie Jo (Vice Captain)
Stirling = Finlay (House Captain); Summer (Vice Captain)



Administering Medicine

South Lanarkshire Council has guidelines on the administration of medication. Should your child require to take prescribed medication in school, it is essential that you complete an 'Administration of Medicine' form. A copy of this form is available on request from the school office. Pupils may carry inhalers with them, if necessary. However, should you wish your child to carry an inhaler whilst he/she is in school, an 'Administration of Medicine' form must still be completed.

Only medication prescribed by a doctor and with written parental/carer consent will be able to be administered. It is the responsibility of parents/carers to ensure that medication is within its 'use by' date. Please also remember to keep us up-to-date regarding any health-related issues for your child as we are aware that these can change at any time.

Mobile Phones

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



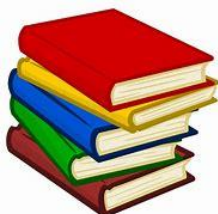
Breakfast Club

Our Breakfast Club has already re-started and is proving popular with many families. There is no charge for this and children will be offered the choice of Weetabix/toast/fresh fruit and a cup of water/milk. Children coming to Breakfast Club should enter the school via the main door **between 8.15am 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.



Library Visits

Every week, a different class visits Blantyre Library as part of our Reading Schools work to help promote increased opportunities for reading for pleasure. Before children can go on any excursion, we need written parent/carer permission, so please could you ensure that any permission forms that are sent home are returned to the school as soon as possible. Thank you.

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. The first session took place on Thursday, 27th October, but if you are still interested in attending 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 until Friday 17th November. Tea/coffee will also be served.

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.

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 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 outside our school office for any other family members and/or visitors to our school.



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.

Financial Support for Families

South Lanarkshire Council are keen to provide as much support as possible for all our families. Please see the information below on Money Matters should this be of support to you:

*We offer **free, confidential and impartial advice** - we can help check your benefit entitlement, assist with the claims process, challenge decisions and represent you at Social Security appeal tribunals. For debt issues we look at your financial circumstances, contact creditors, discuss options and give budgeting advice. **Contact number: 0303 123 1008.***

*Our Telephone Advice Line offers a similar service specifically aimed at pregnant women and families with young children. **Contact number: 01698 453154.***



Scottish Child Payment

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

Family Fund

'Family Fund' is an 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 Club

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.



In-Service Day

Please remember that children should not attend school on **Monday, 14th November** as this is an In-Service Day for staff. School will re-open as normal on Tuesday, 15th November.



Dates For Your Diary

Date	Event and Persons Involved
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	Flu vaccinations – All children
Friday, 4 th November	‘Wee Blether’ with YFCL Officer (9.00am – 10.30am) – All welcome
Monday, 7 th November	Childsmile visiting Nursery and P1-4 children
Monday, 7 th November	P5 visiting Blantyre Library (details to follow)
Monday, 7 th November	P6/7 Football (3.00pm – 4.00pm)
Tuesday, 8 th November	Youth Music Initiative – P5 children
Wednesday, 9 th November	P5 swimming
Thursday, 10 th November	Understanding Children’s Behaviour Course (9.00am – 10.30am) – All welcome
Thursday, 10 th November	Parent Council meeting (6.30pm start) – All welcome
Friday, 11 th November	‘Wee Blether’ with YFCL Officer (9.00am – 10.30am) – All welcome
Monday, 14th November	In-Service Day for staff – children do not attend
Tuesday, 15 th November	Start of Anti-Bullying Week – All children
Tuesday, 15 th November	Youth Music Initiative – P5 children
Wednesday, 16 th November	P5 swimming
Thursday, 17 th November	Understanding Children’s Behaviour Course (9.00am – 10.30am) – All welcome
Thursday, 17 th November	Literacy Open Day (details to follow) – All welcome
Friday, 18 th November	‘Wee Blether’ with YFCL Officer (9.00am – 10.30am) – All welcome (final week)
Monday, 21 st November	P4 visiting Blantyre Library (details to follow)
Monday, 21 st November	P6/7 Football (3.00pm – 4.00pm)
Tuesday, 22 nd November	Youth Music Initiative – P5 children
Tuesday, 22 nd November	Vision screening for pre-school nursery children
Wednesday, 23 rd November	P5 swimming (final week)
Thursday, 24 th November	Understanding Children’s Behaviour Course (9.00am – 10.30am) – All welcome
Monday, 28 th November	P3/4 visiting Blantyre Library (details to follow)
Monday, 28 th November	P6/7 Football (3.00pm – 4.00pm)
Tuesday, 29 th November	Youth Music Initiative – P5 children
Wednesday, 30 th November	Scots Afternoon (details to follow)
Thursday, 1 st December	Whole school pantomime (in school)

