



David Livingstone Memorial Primary School and Nursery Class

December 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

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.

With the festive season fast approaching, we are currently planning a number of activities as a school. Please see this newsletter for further details.

Can we remind all parents/ carer's that only authorised vehicles are allowed in the drop off area car park before and after school.

We 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.

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*

Ashleigh McGeehan & Jennifer Lattimer
Depute Head Teachers

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.



Scottish Poppy Appeal

Thank you to everyone who donated money towards The Scottish Poppy Appeal this session. The amount donated will be confirmed soon.

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. We are aware that there have been a few issues with the app. You do not need to enter your email address, simply click 'not now.' If you are not seeing the lunches within the dates section you may need to delete and reinstall.



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.

Literacy Open Day

We would like to thank all parents/carers who attended our Literacy Open Day on **Thursday, 17th November**. We hope you enjoyed seeing some of the Literacy activities that your child does in class. The feedback from all of you was very positive. Look out for our Numeracy Open Afternoon on Wednesday, 23rd February 2023.



Scottish Book Week

As part of Scottish Book Week, the whole school learned some words and phrases in Scots during week beginning 28th 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. The children showcased their learning with a Scots Afternoon performance on Wednesday, 30th November.



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.

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.



Anti-Bullying Week

The whole school took part in a range of activities to support Anti-Bullying Week during week beginning 14th November. As part of this, everyone created an arm as part of the theme 'Reach Out' that will be displayed outside our Nurture Room.

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 8.15am 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.



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, 11th November, raising an amazing £265.50 for this very worthwhile cause. Thank you to everyone who contributed.

School Nativity

Our nursery, P1 and P2 children are in the process of practising for their Nativity this year. We are looking forward to welcoming parents/carers into our building at this time. A letter has gone out regarding tickets, this is limited to 2 per family and issued on a first come, first served basis. Any extra tickets will be balloted. The performances will take place on Wednesday 14th December at 9.45am and Thursday 15th, December at 1.45pm.



Christmas Lunch



Our school Christmas lunch will take place on **Wednesday, 14th December**. A flyer has been sent home informing you of the choice of menu that will be available on this day and orders have not been gathered at the office. If you still have your slip to return, please do so by Monday 5th 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 are currently being sold via Parent Pay at the cost of £1 each. They will also be sold at our Christmas Fayre on **Thursday, 8th December**. The Parent Council are continuing to look for donations for their tombola and bottle stalls, so please send in anything you can. Thank you.



Christmas Parties



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

P5/6, P6 & P7	Friday, 16th December (pm)
P5 & P5/6	Monday, 19th December (pm)
Nursery	Tuesday, 20th December (am)
P1, P1/2 & P2	Tuesday, 20th December (pm)
P3, P3/4 & P4	Wednesday, 21st December (pm)

Where possible, children should come dressed in their party clothes or a Christmas jumper/t-shirt. Children can be collected from the school on the day of their party at 12pm if you wish them to go home to get changed. No child will be allowed to leave at 12pm without an adult collecting them. Children should return for lunchtime finishing at 1.15pm 😊 **Please could we also remind you that in the interests of health and safety children should not wear nail extensions to school.**

School Pantomime

Thank you to our Parent Council who have offered to fund the cost of a whole school pantomime. This year's performance is 'Aladdin' and will be performed by Geez a Break Productions. The Parent Council have also supplied popcorn and water for the children to enjoy afterwards. Another parent, Mrs Farquhar, has also provided chocolate lollipops for all of the children to enjoy. Thank you very much!



Christmas Service



Our annual Christmas Service will take place in the school on **Friday, 23rd December starting at 9.30am**. A warm welcome is extended to all our families and friends who are able to attend. Due to limited space in our gym hall, we would ask that only **one adult per family** attend.

Christmas Post

Our school Christmas Post will start on **Monday, 6th December** and will run until **Friday, 16th 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 P1 & P1/2 classes with help from their buddies, so please make sure that names and classes are written clearly on all envelopes. Thank you.



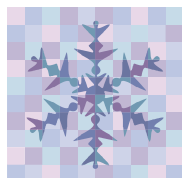
Christmas Jumper Donations



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, 9th December** at the latest. The Charities Committee are organising a Christmas Jumper Day in aid of charity on **Friday, 16th 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 Pinchbeck 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.***

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 P1-5 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.



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.



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 News

Mrs Dickson will be starting as Acting Team Leader in our Nursery very soon. The Nursery have a trip to Chatelherault Country Park on Wednesday, 7th December, to see Santa and take part in some Christmas themed activities.

Ready Steady Learn Books

Ready Steady Learn books are sent home once per week and are 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 **Friday, 23rd December**. Children should return, as normal, on **Monday, 9th January**.





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Dates For Your Diary

Date	Event and Persons Involved
Thursday, 1 st December	Whole School Pantomime (am)
Friday, 2 nd December	Final day for Christmas hamper donations
Monday, 5 th December	Christmas post starts
Monday, 5 th December	P6/7 Football (Training at Calderside: last session before Christmas)
Tuesday, 6 th December	Dance Club – P5 & P6 children
Wednesday, 7 th December	Nursery trip to Chatelherault Country Park.
Thursday, 8 th December	Christmas Fayre
Tuesday, 13 th December	Dance Club – P5 & P6 children (final session: parents welcome at 3.45pm to watch performance)
Wednesday, 14 th December	Christmas lunch – all children
Wednesday, 14 th December	Nativity (9.45am)
Thursday, 15 th December	Nativity (1.45pm)
Friday, 16 th December	Christmas Jumper Day – details to follow from our Charities Committee
Friday, 16 th December	P5/6, P6 & P7 party (pm)
Monday, 19 th December	P5 & P5/6 party (pm)
Tuesday, 20 th December	Nursery, P1, P1/2 & P2 party (pm)
Wednesday, 21 st December	P3/4 & P4 party (pm)
Thursday, 22 nd December	Whole School Talent Show
Friday, 23 rd December	Christmas Service at 9.30am
Friday, 23rd December	School closes
Monday, 9th January	School re-opens