



David Livingstone Memorial Primary School and Nursery Class

April/May 2023
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

I hope that you all enjoyed a relaxing Spring Break. As we enter the final term for this session, there are lots of very exciting learning experiences planned for the children. Please remember to check your personal emails, as well as your child's schoolbag for any letters that are sent home and, if you have the time, check out our school website, our school app and Twitter for news of our successes.

Unfortunately, Miss Feeney, one of our reduced class contact teachers, will be leaving us on Friday, 21st April. Nevertheless, at the same time we are delighted to be welcoming back Miss Sharkey as she returns from her maternity leave. Miss Sharkey will take over the role that Miss Feeney has been doing since August, which is teaching Maths, PE and French to a number of different classes across the school.

Please remember that the school is here to support you and your family at all 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

School and Nursery Inspection Visit

As you know, both our school and nursery were inspected by HM Inspectors from Education Scotland week beginning 20th February. We are still awaiting the publication of the official reports following these visits, but we will notify you as soon as this becomes available and we will also share this with you via our usual channels.



World of Work Week

Thank you to all our parents/carers and other family members who supported us with our World of Work Week just before the Easter holidays. This was a hugely successful week for all the children as it gave them the opportunity to find out many different careers which they may like to pursue in the future. Thank you to Mrs McGeehan, one of our DHTs, who coordinated all of our visitors.

Primary Dance Festival

This year's Primary Dance Festival has now been rescheduled for **Thursday, 4th May** from 4.15pm – 6.00pm at the Town House in Hamilton. Tickets for this event are scheduled to go on sale on **Wednesday, 19th April** and we will let you know how you can purchase these as soon as we receive this information. Thank you to Mrs Stevenson (P3/4 teacher) who trained the children for this event as part of an after-school club.



P6/7 Cross Country

Congratulations to all our P6/7 children who took part in the Hamilton Schools Cross Country Competition at Blantyre Leisure Centre on Thursday, 9th March, with a special 'well done' to Connie Milligan (P6) who qualified for the South Lanarkshire Finals on Thursday, 30th March. Thank you, too, to Miss Feeney (CCC teacher) who helped to train the children for these events.



ParentsPortal

Schools throughout the Hamilton area have recently launched a new online resource known as Parentsportal. This is a digital resource that is designed to help replace the need for us to send home paper copies of documents. All children recently received a letter about this new service, including details on how you can register for this. If you have any problems accessing this, please contact Mrs Hill in our school office and she will try her best to help. Thank you.

P1 Inductions

Just before the Spring Break, we had all the children who are due to start in P1 in August visit the school for a short tour. We are now in the process of organising our P1 Induction sessions and will be in touch with the parents/carers of the children concerned over the next few weeks. We are also hoping that staff from our school will be able to visit each of our new pupils in their nursery setting too.



Timekeeping

Unfortunately, we continue to notice that a number of children are appearing late for school. This can then cause disruption in class as teachers may need to go back over something that a child has missed. Please remember that our school starts at **8.55am** so we would be grateful if you could support your child to be on time every day. Thank you.

P7 Residential Outing

Just before the Spring Break, our P7 children attended a 3-day residential outing to Dalguise in Perthshire. During this visit the children participated in a wide range of different outdoor activities, including archery, rope climbing and group problem solving. Thank you to Mrs Crawford, Mr Burns, Mrs Duffy and Mrs Burns who accompanied the children on this outing. All 4 members of staff reported that the children were a credit to both themselves and the school, which is always very pleasing to hear.



Textile Recycling Bin

Our Parent Council have been successful in acquiring a textile recycling bin to help support sustainability, as well as 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.

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.

School
App for
Parents



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.

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. 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.

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.***



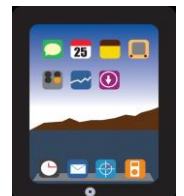
Scottish Child Payment

Scottish Child Payment is a new benefit which started 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



Fairtrade Fortnight

Thank you to our school's Fairtrade Committee who arranged for all children to receive a Fairtrade banana split as part of Fairtrade Fortnight on Friday, 10th March. These looked absolutely delicious! Thank you, too, to Miss Brown (P1 teacher) who organised this event.



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.

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.



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.

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.



Pupil Reports

Staff are in the process of writing Pupil Reports and these will be issued to you later this term. Parent/Carer Consultations will also take place on **Thursday, 18th May**, with details regarding appointments being sent home shortly.

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.



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.

False Nails

Prior to the Spring Break, a number of children came to school with false nail extensions. Please note that these are unacceptable for school as they restrict the things that the child can do in class and they could cause injury to either the child or someone else if they inadvertently bump into them.



Breakfast Club

Our Breakfast Club continues to increase in popularity which is great to see. There is no charge for this and children will be offered the choice of Weetabix/toast/fresh fruit and a cup of water/milk. Due to our change of starting time, 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 where they will be supervised by support staff.

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 P1-P5 children are entitled to a free school meal. However, please remember that although P1-5 children do not need to pay for a school lunch, they still need to pay **29p** every day if they wish a carton of milk, unless they qualify for a free school meal (**please note revised price as of April 2023**). All milk needs to be paid for via ParentPay. Please contact staff in the school office if you have any difficulties accessing this at home. **As of April 2023, school meal prices will also increase to £2.05 for all P6 and P7 children who are not in receipt of FME.**

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 encourage good sleeping habits in their children, and coping with distressed behaviour. Please visit the following link to find out more: www.parentclub.scot



Family Holidays

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 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.



Parent Council Meeting

Our next Parent Council meeting will take place via Zoom on **Thursday, 11th May starting at 6.30pm** and all parents/carers are welcome to attend. If you would like to participate in this meeting, please email the Parent Council (dmpsparentcouncil@gmail.com) so that you can be sent the log-in details.

School Closures

Please remember that the school will be closed for the Bank Holiday on **Monday, 1st May**, followed by an inset day on **Tuesday, 2nd May**. There will be another holiday on **Monday, 8th May** for the King's coronation, followed by 2 days' holiday on **Friday, 26th May** and **Monday, 29th May**.





Dates For Your Diary

Date	Event and Persons Involved
Wednesday, 19 th April	P4 swimming
Wednesday, 19 th April	P7 David Livingstone Birthplace project (at museum)
Friday, 21 st April	STEPS course for parents/carers with YFCL Officer (9.15am – 11.15am)
Friday, 22 nd April	P7 enhanced transition meetings – selected children
Monday, 24 th April	P6/7 Football (3.00pm – 4.00pm)
Monday, 24 th April	P6/7 Dance (3.00pm – 4.00pm)
Tuesday, 25 th April	P7 showcase for parents/carers (details to follow)
Wednesday, 26 th April	P4 swimming
Wednesday, 19 th April	P7 David Livingstone Birthplace project (in school)
Monday, 1st May	Holiday – school closed to children and staff
Tuesday, 2nd May	In-Service Day – school closed to children
Wednesday, 3 rd May	P4 swimming
Wednesday, 3 rd May	P7 David Livingstone Birthplace project (at museum)
Thursday, 4 th May	King Charles Coronation Theme Day Lunch – all children (details to follow)
Thursday, 4 th May	Primary Dance Festival at Town House in Hamilton – selected P6/7 children
Monday, 8th May	Holiday – school closed to children and staff
Wednesday, 10 th May	P4 swimming
Thursday, 11 th May	Parent Council meeting (6.30pm start) – All welcome
Sunday, 14 th May	Davie Cooper Soccer 7s – details to follow
Monday, 15 th May	P6/7 Football (3.00pm – 4.00pm)
Wednesday, 17 th May	P4 swimming
Thursday, 18 th May	Parent/Carer Consultations – all children
Monday, 22 nd May	P6/7 Football (3.00pm – 4.00pm)
Wednesday, 24 th May	P4 swimming
Wednesday, 24 th May	P7 visit to Calderside Academy – details to follow
Wednesday, 24 th May	P1 Induction – details to follow
Thursday, 25 th May	P7 visit to Calderside Academy – details to follow
Thursday, 25 th May	P1 Induction – details to follow
Friday, 26th May	Holiday – school closed to children and staff
Monday, 29th May	Holiday – school closed to children and staff
Wednesday, 31 st May	P4 swimming

