



David Livingstone Memorial Primary School and Nursery Class

February 2023
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

I am delighted to be back in school following my lengthy absence. I missed everyone so much! Nevertheless, I would personally like to say 'thank you' to Mrs McGeehan and Miss Lattimer, my 2 DHTs, who did a sterling job 'steering the ship' whilst I was off.

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.

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. In addition, 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

We have just recently been made aware that HM Inspectors from Education Scotland will be visiting us to conduct an inspection in both our school and our nursery during the week commencing 20th February 2023. You can find out more about inspection, from the [Inspection and review documentation](#) pages of Education Scotland's website.



As part of the inspection, Inspectors gather the views of stakeholders via an online survey which is available from <https://forms.education.gov.scot/s/04&seed=8520321&t=1> (parents/carers of P1-P7 children) or <https://forms.education.gov.scot/s/03&seed=8520321&cs=CS2003015288&t=1> (parents/carers of nursery children).

You are encouraged to complete the survey. Inspectors will also be meeting with groups of parents during the inspection so to be part of that discussion you should complete the survey with additional links provided to indicate your interest in taking part.

Please complete the survey by **Wednesday, 8th February 2023** for one child or for each of your children in attendance.



Scottish Showcase

Huge congratulations to our P3, P3/4 and P4 children who organised and delivered an outstanding Scottish Showcase for families, friends and invited guests from Victoria Nursing Home in Blantyre on Wednesday, 25th January. Each and every one of the children involved should feel extremely proud of themselves as their singing, dancing, acting, jokes and amazing array of facts entertained everyone who was present. Thank you, too, to all the staff who worked so hard to produce this performance.

Be Bright Be Seen Day

Congratulations to our Junior Road Safety Officer Committee who organised a successful Be Bright Be Seen Day on Friday, 20th January. It was so strange seeing so many bright colours around the school in place of our usual school uniform! The purpose of this day was to remind children of the need to wear bright colours when they are outside in the dark, so please support us to keep all of our children as safe as possible.



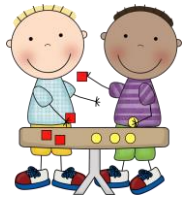
Class Library Visits

Our class visits to Blantyre Library are continuing as part of our ongoing work to receive a Gold Reading Schools Award. The Children's Librarian is always so impressed with the behaviour and attitude of the children during these visits, and the children always report that they have thoroughly enjoyed their visit. Remember that our public library is a free resource that is open to everyone in our community, so please pop along for a visit if you can. We know how much the children of DLMPs love reading!



Numeracy Open Day

We would like to warmly invite all parents/carers to attend our Numeracy Open Day on **Wednesday, 22nd February from 1.30pm to 2.30pm**. This event is designed to let you see some of the Numeracy activities that your child does in class and perhaps join in a few too! Feedback from our Literacy Open Day in November was extremely positive so we hope that our latest event will be just as successful.



P7 Residential Visit

Our P7s (and accompanying staff!) are getting very excited about their forthcoming 3-day residential visit to PGL in Dalguise near Perth. There will be an Information Session for parents/carers and children in preparation for this in the school on **Monday, 6th February from 4.30pm to 5.30pm**. We have already sent home a kit list, but please remember to let us know if there is anything that you do not currently have so that we can try to support you with this.



Youth Family Community Learning Officer Support

Mrs Caroline Stewart, our Youth Family Community Learning Officer, is currently offering a new course for parents/carers and we have sent home flyers to notify you about this. This course is called 'Steps to Excellence for Personal Success' (STEPS) and aims to help you to understand the workings of your mind in order to allow you to use it more effectively so that you can do the things in life that you want to do. All training is free of charge and will take place in the school on a Friday morning for a period of 8 weeks from 9.15am – 11.15am starting on **Friday, 10th February**. If you would like to attend this course, please contact the school office to let us know or, alternatively, email Caroline herself (gw14stewartcaroline@glow.sch.uk).



Timekeeping

Unfortunately, an increasing 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.

P1 Enrolment

Infant enrolment week for session 2022/2023 took place on **Monday 9th January 2022 to Friday 13th January 2023**. All P1 enrolments for children starting school in August 2023 should be done online via South Lanarkshire Council's website (www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk). If you have not yet enrolled your child for school, even if you are wanting to defer them and request another year at nursery, you still need to complete the enrolment process. Please contact staff in our school office if you have any questions about this.



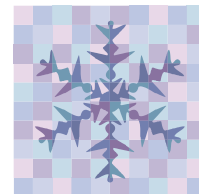


Peanuts

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.

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.



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.



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



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.

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.





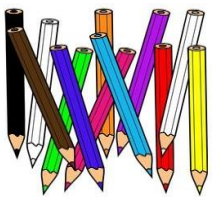
Administering Medicine

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.



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.

Breakfast Club

Our Breakfast Club continues to run every morning. 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.



P7 Transition

Calderside Academy continue to organise a number of transition activities for our P7 children who will be moving on to secondary school in August. On Monday, 30th January, Mrs Scott, one of the English teachers, came down to see the children participate in a Literacy lesson with Mr Burns before then teaching a separate lesson for herself. This was a great opportunity to experience what learning might be like when they move on to secondary school.

Scottish Parliament Visit

As part of their interdisciplinary learning, our P7 pupils visited the Scottish Parliament on Tuesday, 17th January. As well as having a tour around the building, the children had the opportunity to speak to our First Minister, Nicola Sturgeon, and ask her questions. This was totally unexpected, but the children did themselves and our school proud by asking very insightful questions. Well done everyone!





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.

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.

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



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 **25p** 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 Closures

Please remember that the school and nursery will be closed to children on **Friday, 3rd February** due to industrial action. It will also be closed for the mid-term holiday on **Monday, 13th February and Tuesday, 14th February**. **Children should also not attend on Wednesday, 15th February either** as this is Development Day for staff. Children should return, as normal, on **Thursday, 16th February** at 8.55am.

Useful Apps

Top Marks

Oxford Owl

Doorway Online

Teach Your Monster To Read

Reading Eggs

Teach Your Monster to Count

Dates For Your Diary

| Date | Event and Persons Involved |
|--|---|
| Wednesday, 1 st February | P6/7 Cross Country (3.00pm – 4.00pm) |
| Thursday, 2 nd February | P5 Multi-Sports (3.00pm – 4.00pm) |
| Friday, 3rd February | School and nursery closed due to industrial action |
| Monday, 6 th February | Monthly focus on 'Respected' wellbeing indicator starts – all classes |
| Monday, 6 th February | Children's Mental Health Week – all classes |
| Monday, 6 th February | Nursery library visit |
| Monday, 6 th February | P6/7 Football (3.00pm – 4.00pm) |
| Monday, 6 th February | PGL Parent/Carer Information Session (4.30pm – 5.30pm) – P7 children |
| Wednesday, 8 th February | P6/7 Cross Country (3.00pm – 4.00pm) |
| Friday, 10 th February | STEPS course for parents/carers with YFCL Officer (9.15am – 11.15am) |
| Monday, 13th February | Holiday |
| Tuesday, 14th February | Holiday |
| Wednesday, 15th February | Development Day for staff – children do not attend |
| Thursday, 16 th February | School re-opens |
| Friday, 17 th February | STEPS course for parents/carers with YFCL Officer (9.15am – 11.15am) |
| Monday, 20 th February | P3 library visit |
| Monday, 20 th February | P6/7 Football (3.00pm – 4.00pm) |
| Wednesday, 22 nd February | Numeracy Open Day - all classes and nursery (1.30pm – 2.30pm) |
| Wednesday, 22 nd February | P6/7 Cross Country (3.00pm – 4.00pm) |
| Friday, 24 th February | STEPS course for parents/carers with YFCL Officer (9.15am – 11.15am) |
| Monday, 27 th February | P7 residential visit to Dalguise |
| Monday, 27 th February | Start of Fairtrade Fortnight – all classes |
| Monday, 27 th February | P6/7 Football (3.00pm – 4.00pm) |
| Tuesday, 28 th February | P7 residential visit to Dalguise |
| Wednesday, 1 st March | P7 residential visit to Dalguise |
| Thursday, 2 nd March | World Book Day (all classes and nursery) – details to follow |
| Friday, 3 rd March | STEPS course for parents/carers with YFCL Officer (9.15am – 11.15am) |

