



# David Livingstone Memorial Primary School and Nursery Class

October 2023  
Tel: 01698 823680

SOUTH  
LANARKSHIRE  
COUNCIL

Our Vision = We aim to provide an inclusive and nurturing environment where everyone can learn and grow.

Our Values = Respect, Inclusion, Nurture

Motto = 'I will 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 well settled 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.

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. Please remember that our school uniform consists of the following:

- Black trousers/skirt
- Light blue shirt/blouse
- Royal blue polo shirt
- Royal blue or black sweatshirt or cardigan
- DLMPs school tie

Jeans, patterned hoodies and tartan pinafores are not part of our school uniform and any proposed changes to our school uniform has to go through a consultation process involving all stakeholders. 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. 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.

We are continuing to trial having our P1-4 parents/carers in the playground at the end of the day and this shall be reviewed at the end of this term. However, please could I remind you that now that the children have settled into their new class, only P1 parents/carers should now be in the playground at the start of the day.

Please could we remind all parents/carers to log on to Parentsportal. This reduces the number of letters that we need to send home, including permission forms. It also allows you to access and update details on your child at any time. Please contact staff in the school office if you require assistance with logging on.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to remind all families that school starts at **8.55am** not 9.00am, so we would appreciate your support in ensuring that your child arrives on time every morning.

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

## 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.



## Parent/Carer Consultations

Our first set of Parent/Carer Consultations will take place in the school on **Tuesday, 10<sup>th</sup> October**. As part of these, 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 recently held elections for our House and Vice Captains, with many of our P7 children putting themselves forward for these important positions. All prospective candidates delivered a speech to their peers, with fellow House members getting to vote for who they thought was the best candidate. Results shall be announced at our assembly on **Friday, 29<sup>th</sup> September** so good luck to everyone involved!



## Harvest

Thank you to everyone who contributed towards our Harvest donations. Everything that we collected was donated to Hamilton District Foodbank. Thank you to Mr Burns and his P6/7 class for delivering a fantastic Harvest Assembly and coordinating all of our donations.

## X/Twitter

The school has an X account (formerly Twitter) and we use it to post information and photos from events within the school. This replaced our school app from the end of August. The X 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. Miss Lattimer (DHT) will be available during our Parent Consultations to help you log on if you are finding this a challenge.



## PE Times

As PE forms part of our national curriculum, it is expected that all pupils will participate in this activity. The days when your child's class has PE this session was issued in a letter to all parents/carers last week. If, for any reason, your child is unable to take part in PE, please notify his/her class teacher in writing.

All children are required to come dressed in suitable clothing in order to take part in PE. This means that they should wear leggings/joggers, a school/plain 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. Please also remember that crop tops and very short shorts are unsuitable for PE and should not be worn at any time.

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.

## Religious Observance

We have just recently been informed that one of our school chaplains, Mr Malcolm Anderson from the Congregational Church in Blantyre, has decided to step down from his role. On behalf of everyone associated with the school, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr Anderson for all that he has done to support the school during his 9-year tenure.



This will mean that our sole school chaplain will now be Mr Murdo Macdonald from the Livingstone Memorial Church in Blantyre. Mr Macdonald will participate in our whole school assemblies periodically throughout the session, focusing on the themes of citizenship, shared values, personal responsibility and emotional and spiritual wellbeing. He will also attend our Christmas, Easter and Summer assemblies.

Under the terms of the Education (Scotland) Act 1980, parents/carers have the right to ask for their children to be withdrawn from religious observance and/or religious and moral education. Where a child is withdrawn, we will make suitable arrangements for the child to participate in a worthwhile alternative activity. If you wish your child to be withdrawn from religious and moral education and/or religious observance, please put this in writing for the attention of the Head Teacher. Thank you.



## Homework Consultation

Thank you to everyone who contributed to our recent consultation on homework. We are in the process of analysing results and these shall be shared with you shortly. Whilst we will take into account everyone's views, any new approaches will be based on what the majority of stakeholders have asked for.

## Youth Family Community Learning Officer Support

Mrs Caroline Stewart, our Youth Family Community Learning Officer, is currently offering another drop-in session for parents/carers. Known as a 'Wee Blether', this gives you the opportunity to discuss with Caroline any form of support that you might need for either yourself or your family. This is an 'open doors' session and it will take place in the school on **Monday, 9<sup>th</sup> October** from 9.10am – 11.00am. Everyone is welcome and tea/coffee will also be available.



## Health Week

Our whole school and nursery will be engaging in a special Health Week starting on **Monday, 9<sup>th</sup> 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 Mrs McGeehan (DHT) has been busy trying to secure visitors and coaches to match these requests. It certainly promises to be a fun-filled week for everyone!

## Participatory Budget Consultation

Following our recent consultation with children, staff at all levels and parents/carers, it has been decided that 8% of our Pupil Equity Funding for this session (£5,011.20) will be used to support targeted children with the funding of school excursions, as well as extra-curricular clubs. Last year, we put aside 5% of our PEF allocation to fund the same things, but the increase in the amount this session is to take account of the rising bus costs that we are experiencing every time the children are out of school.



## Wider Achievements

Our Friday assemblies are an important part of our school week. As part of these, we are keen to celebrate children's achievements out of school. Should your child achieve something in an activity or club out of school, please encourage them to let their class teacher know. Those who have been awarded a medal, certificate or trophy are encouraged to bring these in to school to show their peers. We are also keen to formally recognise anything that a child has done to support a charity.

## 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 29p 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.



## 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.

## Breakfast Club

Our Breakfast Club is proving popular with many families. There is no charge for this and children are 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.



## Pupil Equity Funding Consultation

Thank you to everyone who contributed to our Pupil Equity Funding consultation. 95.8% of parents/carers who responded agreed with our planned spend. One parent/carer asked for more information on what Literacy, Numeracy and Health and Wellbeing resources have been purchased. To date, this has consisted of the following:

### Literacy

- IDL Literacy = an online interactive resource used to support targeted children with their reading and spelling
- New reading assessments
- New home learning materials

### Numeracy

- IDL Numeracy = an online interactive resource used to support targeted children with their mental maths skills
- Power of 2 books = a resource used to support targeted children in P6/7 with their mental maths skills
- New Maths textbooks = designed to increase pupil motivation and engagement

### Health and Wellbeing

- Play resources to support the development of play pedagogy in P1 and P2
- Nurture resources to support targeted children to manage their emotions and the establishment of 'Nurture Nooks' for all classes

One parent also asked if the additional part-time teacher that we have funded should be paid for out of school budget rather than our PEF funding. As a school, we are allocated a certain quota of staff based on our school roll and our class configurations. We have, however, chosen to employ an additional teacher over and above this on the equivalent of 2 days a week to allow us to continue with both our Nurture groups and the Writing intervention groups that were so successful last session.

## **Pupil Absence**

Please note that it is the parent/carer's responsibility to notify the school or nursery if their child is going to be absent 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.



## **Indoor 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 and when walking around the corridors. These shoes should also be appropriate for them to engage in physical activity in the gym hall. If your child has not yet brought in a change of shoes, we would be grateful if this could be arranged as soon as possible. We also have a small supply of soft shoes at our school office should these be of benefit.

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.

## **Promoting Positive Relationships Policy**

Thank you to everyone who shared their views on our approach to discipline as we prepare to establish a new Promoting Positive Relationships Policy. This is in the final stages of development and will be shared with families shortly. The development of this new policy will also form part of our Nurturing Schools application which we hope to submit over the next few weeks.



## **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 Hood 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.

## **Parking**

We politely request that parents/carers do not park in front of local residents' driveways when dropping off/picking up your children. Thank you to everyone for also helping to keep our crossing patrol area clear of cars too.



## **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.

## 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.



## 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.

## 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.



## Emergency Evacuation



We would like to inform our parents/carers that our emergency evacuation location has changed at the start of this new session. In the event of an emergency at the school, children and staff will now be evacuated to the St Joseph's Primary School in Blantyre, where arrangements will be made to send pupils home. It is, therefore, important that you keep us informed about any changes to your contact details so that we are able to phone you straight away.

## Textile Recycling Bin

Our Parent Council have a textile recycling bin located in the Coatshill Avenue car park across the road from the school. This bin will take donations of wearable clothes, paired shoes and bags. It is estimated that a full bin can raise up to £400 for school funds, so any donations that you have will be gratefully received.



## 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](mailto:gw14dlmpsoffice@glow.sch.uk)). Thank you.

## Financial Support for Families

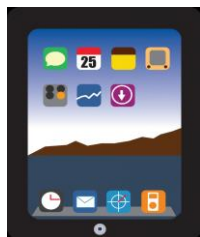
South Lanarkshire Council are keen to provide as much support as possible for all our families. Please see the information below on Money Matters should this be of support to you:

*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.***

## Scottish Child Payment

Scottish Child Payment is a new benefit which started on Monday, 15<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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](http://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](http://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.



## Playground

Please could we remind all families that no bikes or scooters should be used in our school playground. Children know to dismount these when they enter the school grounds and the same rules apply until they leave through the main gate at the end of the day. Your support in ensuring that your child and any younger siblings follow these rules is greatly appreciated.

## Smart Watches

It has come to our attention that a number of children are wearing Smart watches to school. Please remember that these should be used solely for the purpose of telling the time when in school and should not be used to send messages to your child. If you wish to pass on information whilst your child is in school, this should be done via the school office. Thank you.



## Parent Council Meeting

Our next Parent Council meeting will take place via Zoom on **Thursday, 9<sup>th</sup> November** starting at 6.30pm and all parent/carers are welcome to attend. If you would like to participate in this meeting, please email the Parent Council ([dlimpsparentcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:dlimpsparentcouncil@gmail.com)) so that you can be sent the log-in details.

## School Closures

Please remember that the school will be closed from **Monday, 16<sup>th</sup> October until Friday, 20<sup>th</sup> October** for the October Week holiday. School will re-start again on **Monday, 23<sup>rd</sup> October**. We hope that you all have a relaxing break.





## Dates For Your Diary

Date	Event and Persons Involved
Friday, 29 <sup>th</sup> September	Parent Council Crazy Bingo Night (Miner's Welfare, Blantyre)
Monday, 2 <sup>nd</sup> October	P6/7 Football (3.00pm – 4.00pm)
Tuesday, 3 <sup>rd</sup> October	P5 FUNdamentals of Music
Wednesday, 4 <sup>th</sup> October	Oral Health team visiting Nursery, P1, P1/2 and P2/3
Monday, 9 <sup>th</sup> October	Health Week – All children (sporty clothes all week please)
Tuesday, 10 <sup>th</sup> October	P5 FUNdamentals of Music
Tuesday, 10 <sup>th</sup> October	Parent/Carer Consultations – All children
Wednesday, 11 <sup>th</sup> October	P3 class showcase (1.30pm start)
Thursday, 12 <sup>th</sup> October	October Theme Day lunch – details to follow
<b>Friday, 13<sup>th</sup> October</b>	<b>School closes at 3.00pm for October Week holiday</b>
<b>Monday, 23<sup>rd</sup> October</b>	<b>School re-opens at 8.55am</b>
Monday, 23 <sup>rd</sup> October	P6/7 Football (3.00pm – 4.00pm)
Tuesday, 24 <sup>th</sup> October	P5 FUNdamentals of Music
Wednesday, 25 <sup>th</sup> October	P7 class showcase (1.30pm start)
Thursday, 26 <sup>th</sup> October	P4-7 Hallowe'en Disco organised by Parent Council (6.30pm – 8.00pm)
Monday, 30 <sup>th</sup> October	P1-3 Hallowe'en Party (1.15pm – 3.00pm)
Monday, 30 <sup>th</sup> October	P7 visit to Blantyre Library (revised date)
Monday, 30 <sup>th</sup> October	P6/7 Football (3.00pm – 4.00pm)
Tuesday, 31 <sup>st</sup> October	P5 FUNdamentals of Music
Wednesday, 1 <sup>st</sup> November	P4 class showcase (1.30pm start)
Monday, 6 <sup>th</sup> November	P6/7 Football (3.00pm – 4.00pm)
Tuesday, 7 <sup>th</sup> November	P5 FUNdamentals of Music
Thursday, 9 <sup>th</sup> November	Parent Council meeting (6.30pm start) – All welcome
<b>Monday, 13<sup>th</sup> November</b>	<b>In-Service Day – school and nursery closed to all children</b>
Tuesday, 14 <sup>th</sup> November	P5 FUNdamentals of Music
Friday, 17 <sup>th</sup> November	P1-7 flu vaccinations
Monday, 20 <sup>th</sup> November	P6/7 visit to Blantyre Library
Monday, 20 <sup>th</sup> November	P6/7 Football (3.00pm – 4.00pm)
Tuesday, 21 <sup>st</sup> November	P5 FUNdamentals of Music
Monday, 27 <sup>th</sup> November	P6 visit to Blantyre Library
Monday, 27 <sup>th</sup> November	P6/7 Football (3.00pm – 4.00pm)
Tuesday, 28 <sup>th</sup> November	P5 FUNdamentals of Music
Thursday, 30 <sup>th</sup> November	Scots Afternoon – All children

