



David Livingstone Memorial Primary School and Nursery Class

September 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

First of all, I would like to extend a very warm welcome to all of the new families to our school and nursery. We are delighted to have you as part of our DLMPs team.

It was lovely to see all of the children arrive back in school safe and well at the start of this session, all of them looking very smart in their new 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 box) so that any lost property can be easily returned. Please also remember that jeans, tartan pinafores and patterned hoodies are not part of our school uniform. Our recycling rail containing many new and almost new items of school uniform, 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 have also welcomed a number of new members of staff to our school this session, namely Miss Livingstone (P7 teacher), Miss Martin (P5 & P7 teacher), Mrs Park (P1/2, P4 and P4/5 CCC teacher) and Miss Ritchie (P3 teacher). In addition, we also welcome Mrs Hood, the new Acting Team Leader in our school office.

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 trust that you find the information in this newsletter useful. Newsletters are normally 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

Twitter

The school has a Twitter account and we use it to post information and photos from events within the school. This will replace our school app from the end of August. 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.



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 are unsuitable for PE and should not be worn at any time.

Children are advised not to 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.

Care and Welfare

At the start of each session, we issue 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 straight away as the information on these forms helps us to ensure the safety and wellbeing of your child.



Religious and Moral Education

Religious and Moral Education forms an important part of the Scottish curriculum and is delivered in class throughout the year. At David Livingstone Memorial Primary School we primarily focus on two world religions (Judaism and Islam) and Christianity. However, teachers may also draw upon selected aspects of other religions in the context of interdisciplinary learning. Staff recognise that in the process of personal reflection not all children will adopt a religious standpoint and that it is perfectly acceptable for children to have their own individual thoughts and ideas.

Religious Observance

We have 2 school chaplains: Mr Murdo Macdonald from Livingstone Memorial Church and Mr Malcolm Anderson from the Congregational Church. Both men 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. The ministers also attend our Harvest, 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.

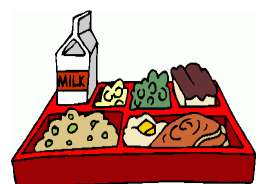


House Captains

We will soon be holding elections for our House and Vice Captains, with many of our P7 children putting themselves forward for these important positions. All prospective candidates will deliver a speech to their peers, with fellow House members getting to vote for who they think is the best candidate. Results shall be announced at one of our forthcoming assemblies so good luck to everyone involved!

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 P.E. days if they wish.

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.



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.

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 to visit your home to ensure that your child is safe.



School Recovery Plan and Standards and Quality Report

A summary of last year's progress, together with a summary of our priorities for improvement for 2023/2024 will be sent home to all families and we would be grateful if you could take the time to read and comment on these. Our School and Nursery Improvement Plans are also available on our school website, along with our Standards and Quality Report for 2022/2023.

Pupil Equity Funding

As a school, we receive money from the Scottish Government in relation to the number of children who receive free school meals. This money is known as 'Pupil Equity Funding' (PEF). After consultation with staff, children and parents/carers when PEF was first allocated to schools, we decided to use this money to fund an additional 2 members of permanent staff, namely a class teacher and a support assistant.



This year, we have also employed a new Youth Family Community Learning Officer 1 day per week. Her name is Mrs Caroline Stewart and she will be working with children and families to support positive health and wellbeing, as well as looking at ways to increase family engagement. We will also use some of our money to fund Numeracy and Literacy resources. Other funding will be used to promote increased equity across the school, as well as to provide opportunities for family learning and extra-curricular clubs. We will soon be sending out a Google Form to ask you what you think about our choice of spending and, in response to a request from a parent/carer a few years ago, we will show a breakdown of the percentage distribution for each of the different areas in order to better inform your response.



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.

Extra-Curricular Clubs

We are in the process of consulting with children on what sort of extra-curricular clubs they would like before organising these for all stages of the school. 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.



P5 FUNdamentals of Music

Some of our P5 children have just begun a block of music lessons known as 'FUNdamentals of Music'. These lessons are delivered by a new visiting music specialist, Mrs Cunningham, and will involve the children taking part in active music-making games to enhance their cognitive ability and build music performance skills.

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, 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.



Homework



We are in the process of consulting with children, staff and parents/carers about homework, with a Google form being posted on our school Twitter account. We are keen to hear your views so that we can tailor our provision for all stages, and we would be grateful if you could take the time to complete this form. Thank you.



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.

Promoting Positive Relationships Policy

We are in the process of reviewing our approach to discipline and are keen to find out your views as we prepare to establish a new Promoting Positive Relationships Policy. Once again, a Google form has been posted on our school Twitter and we would welcome your views. The results of this consultation will then help us to decide whether or not we should continue with our Ready Steady Learn books.



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 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). Thank you.

Nursery Learning Journals

Over the next few weeks, our Early Years staff will be contacting parents/carers to ask them to sign-up for our nursery Learning Journals. This is a form of online communication that allows us to share information about your child's achievements and successes, as well as news about what is happening in the nursery.



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 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.



Smart Watches

Parent Council Meeting

Our first Parent Council meeting for the new session will take place via Zoom on **Thursday, 14th September** starting at 6.30pm and all parent/carers are welcome to attend. This will begin with the Parent Council's Annual General Meeting (AGM) during which office bearers will be elected, followed by a Parent Council meeting focusing on school improvement and possible future fundraising activities. 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.



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.



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.

School Committees

This session, we have decided to change our approach to school committees to allow more children to have their say in activities that happen in the school. Previously, all of our committees comprised of just one representative for each class. Whilst this shall remain the same for our Pupil Council, all other committees will now be done in classes, with committee meetings taking place once per month across the school.



Our committees for this session are as follows:

- Pupil Council (P1-7, led by Mrs Callender, Head Teacher)
- P1, P1/2 and P2/3 = Play Committee
- P3 = Outdoors Committee
- P4 = Eco Committee
- P4/5 = Health Committee
- P5 = Fairtrade Committee
- P6 = Junior Road Safety Committee
- P6/7 = Charities Committee
- P7 = Rights Respecting Schools Committee

In addition, Mr Burns (our P6/7 teacher) will continue to lead a Reading Schools Committee to support the ongoing development of reading for pleasure. This shall be made up of selected children from P4-7, as well as a parent and a member of our wider community.



Health Week

Our whole school and nursery will be engaging in a special Health Week starting on **Monday, 9th October**. During this week, the children will engage in a wide range of activities to support their mental, physical and emotional health. We will be sending home a letter shortly to find out if there are any parents/carers or other family members who may be able to contribute their skills/expertise as part of this week.

School Closures

Please remember that the school will be closed on **Friday, 22nd September** and **Monday, 25th September** for the September Weekend holiday. Children should return, as normal, on **Tuesday, 26th September**. The school will also be closed from **Monday, 16th October until Friday, 20th October** for the October Week holiday. School will re-start again on **Monday, 23rd October**.



Useful Apps

Oxford Owl

Top Marks

Teach Your Monster To Read

Doorway Online

Reading Eggs

Teach Your Monster Number Skills



Dates For Your Diary

Date	Event and Persons Involved
Friday, 1 st September	Nursery flu vaccinations
Monday, 4 th September	P6/7 Football (3.00pm – 4.00pm)
Tuesday, 5 th September	P5 FUNdamentals of Music
Thursday, 7 th September	P7 Positive Play Leader training
Monday, 11 th September	P6/7 Football (3.00pm – 4.00pm)
Tuesday, 12 ^h September	P5 FUNdamentals of Music
Thursday, 14 th September	P7 Positive Play Leader training
Thursday, 14 th September	Harvest Assembly – details to follow
Thursday, 14 th September	Parent Council meeting (6.30pm start) – All welcome
Monday, 18 th September	P6/7 Football (3.00pm – 4.00pm)
Tuesday, 19 th September	P5 FUNdamentals of Music
Thursday, 21 st September	P7 Positive Play Leader training
Friday, 22nd September	Holiday – School closed to children and staff
Monday, 25th September	Holiday – School closed to children and staff
Tuesday, 26 th September	P5 FUNdamentals of Music
Friday, 29 th September	Parent Council Crazy Bingo Night (Miner's Welfare, Blantyre)
Monday, 2 nd October	P6/7 Football (3.00pm – 4.00pm)
Tuesday, 3 rd October	P5 FUNdamentals of Music
Monday, 9 th October	Health Week – all children
Monday, 9 th October	P6/7 Football (3.00pm – 4.00pm)
Tuesday, 10 th October	P5 FUNdamentals of Music
Tuesday, 10 th October	Parent/Carer Consultations – All children
Thursday, 12 th October	Parent Council meeting (6.30pm start) – All welcome
Friday, 13th October	School closes at 3.00pm for October Week holiday
Monday, 23rd October	School re-opens at 8.55am
Monday, 23 rd October	P6/7 Football (3.00pm – 4.00pm)
Tuesday, 24 th October	P5 FUNdamentals of Music
Monday, 30 th October	P6/7 Football (3.00pm – 4.00pm)
Tuesday, 31 st October	P5 FUNdamentals of Music

