



David Livingstone Memorial Primary School and Nursery Class

December 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

Thank you to everyone who attended the Christmas Fayre organised by our Parent Council, as well as to those who donated items for our class hampers and the tombola. Your generosity is greatly appreciated. In addition, I would like to say a personal thank you to all our Parent Council members who gave up their time and organised such a wonderful event. Well done everyone!

Once again, we have a slight change to our staff. Mrs Buchan has started with us and she will now cover Mrs Crawford's P3 class commitment, taking over from Mrs Simpson and Mrs Grady. Mrs Whelan, one of support assistants, has also left the school to take up another post in a different establishment. As soon as we are allocated someone to replace Mrs Whelan, I will let you know.

It is hard to believe that we are almost at the end of Term 2 already! DLMPS continues to be a very busy school and nursery, with lots of different activities going on. With the festive season fast approaching, we are currently planning a number of activities for the children, so please see this newsletter for more details.

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. At the present time, we still have about 60 children whose parents/carers have not logged on to Parentsportal. As a consequence, we are still having to send information home via lots of different channels, which is frustrating and time-consuming for everyone involved. If you have not yet registered, please could I urge you to do this **no later than Friday, 15th December** so that we can then become a paperless school at the start of the New Year. **Anyone who has signed up will then be entered into a draw to win a £50 gift voucher.** Staff in the school office will be able to support you if you require any assistance with logging on.

Please could we also ask that all parents/carers let their child know who is meant to be collecting them at the end of the day. On a few occasions recently, children have been unsure about arrangements, causing them to become upset and anxious. Your support with this is greatly appreciated.

Finally, 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. As always, please remember to contact the school if there is anything that you need clarified or want to ask.

*Linda Callender
Head Teacher*

Scottish Poppy Appeal

Thank you to everyone who donated money towards The Scottish Poppy Appeal this session. Our P6 and P7 children also contributed towards a community display of poppies at High Blantyre Cemetery as part of a project that was organised by Bonnie Blantyre in partnership with a few local primary schools.





School Nativity

Our nursery, P1 and P2 Nativity will take place on **Wednesday, 13th December (pm)** and **Thursday, 14th December (am)**. In the first instance, tickets will be limited to 2 per family, with the closing date for requests being **Monday, 4th December**. Thereafter, we will allocate additional tickets requested via a ballot. Remember that there is no charge for this event. There will, however, be raffle tickets on sale on the day at a cost of £1 each.

Christmas Lunch

Our school Christmas lunch will take place on **Wednesday, 13th December**. A flyer has already been sent home informing you of the choice of menu that will be available on this day. Children are required to order in advance and all orders should be returned to the school **no later than Wednesday, 6th December**.



Please note that there will be no cold snacks on offer on this day. Children who do not wish to have a hot school lunch are asked to bring in their own packed lunch instead.



School Pantomime

Thank you to our Parent Council who have offered to fund the cost of a whole school pantomime on **Tuesday, 12th December**. This year's performance is 'Jock and the Beanstalk', which promises to be a lot of fun – oh yes, it will!

Christmas Parties

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

P6/7 & P7	Friday, 15th December (pm)
P5 & P6	Monday, 18th December (pm)
P4 & P4/5	Tuesday, 19th December (pm)
P2/3 & P3	Wednesday, 20th December (pm)
P1 & P1/2	Thursday, 21st December (pm)
Nursery	Thursday, 21st December (am)



If you wish your child to go home at lunchtime to get changed for their Christmas party, they may be collected from the school office at 12.00pm.



Christmas Cards

Thank you to everyone who ordered a pack of their child's individualised Christmas card. All money raised through this initiative will be given to the Parent Council who fund many fun activities and resources for the children in the school. We hope that these cards will be delivered very soon.

Christmas Post

Our school Christmas Post will start on **Monday, 11th December** and will run until **Wednesday, 20th December**. This allows children to post their Christmas cards to pupils and staff using the special postbox that is located in the main office. This year, mail will be sorted by children in our P1 class with support from their P7 buddies, so please make sure that names and classes are written clearly on all envelopes. We would also appreciate it if no Christmas cards are brought into school before the starting date. Thank you.



Christmas Jumper Donations

As a way of supporting our families, we have launched an appeal for pre-loved Christmas jumpers and t-shirts. If you have anything that you would be able to donate, please could we ask that all donations are handed in to the school by **Friday, 8th December** at the latest. Our P6/7 Charities Committee are organising a Christmas Jumper Day/Christmas Colours Day in aid of charity on **Tuesday, 12th December**, so please look out for more details about this being sent home shortly if your child wishes to participate.

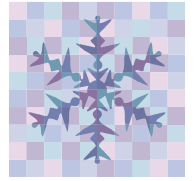


Christmas Service

We would like to invite all parents/carer and other family members to attend our Christmas Service. This will take place in the school starting at 9.30am on **Thursday, 21st December**. We look forward to seeing you there!

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 X as well as on 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.



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.

Handwashing

Covid and other infections continue to be prevalent amongst all of us. To help minimise the spread of disease, we are all encouraged to follow good hygiene, including regular handwashing. Please remember that if your child has suffered from sickness or diarrhea, 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. Please note that we have some medically vulnerable children and staff in our school, so your support with this is greatly appreciated.



Parking

Concerns have been raised about dangerous parking at the junction between Morven Avenue and Coatshill Avenue, as well as cars being fully parked on the pavements around our school. Please could we ask that all parents/carers consider the safety of all our children when parking your car. We also politely request that parents/carers do not park in front of local residents' driveways when dropping off/picking up children.

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, email 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.



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.

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.



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.



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.

Financial Support for Families

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

*We offer **free, confidential and impartial advice** - we can help check your benefit entitlement, assist with the claims process, challenge decisions and represent you at Social Security appeal tribunals. For debt issues we look at your financial circumstances, contact creditors, discuss options and give budgeting advice. **Contact number: 0303 123 1008.***

*Our Telephone Advice Line offers a similar service specifically aimed at pregnant women and families with young children. **Contact number: 01698 453154.***



Family Fund

'Family Fund' is an 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





Christmas Holiday

Please remember that the school closes on **Friday, 22nd December at 2.30pm**.
Children should return on **Monday, 8th January at 8.55am**.

Thank you to all our families for your continued support throughout the year. It really is very much appreciated by everyone in the school. We hope that everyone has a relaxing and peaceful holiday.



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Dates For Your Diary

Date	Event and Persons Involved
Monday, 4 th December	P5 visit to Blantyre Library
Monday, 4 th December	P6/7 Football (3.00pm – 4.00pm)
Thursday, 7 th December	P1 Lunchtime Club – final week
Friday, 8 th December	P4/5 visiting Victoria House Care Home – details to follow
Friday, 8 th December	PGL payment due – P7 children
Monday, 11 th December	Christmas Post starts
Monday, 11 th December	P6/7 Football (3.00pm – 4.00pm) – final week
Tuesday, 12 th December	School pantomime – All children
Wednesday, 13 th December	Christmas lunch – All children
Wednesday, 13 th December	Nursery, P1 and P2 Nativity (1.45pm start)
Thursday, 14 th December	Nursery, P1 and P2 Nativity (9.45am start)
Friday, 15 th December	P6/7 and P7 Christmas Party
Monday, 18 th December	P5 and P6 Christmas Party
Monday, 18 th December	Nursery Stay and Play (9.00am and 2.00pm)
Tuesday, 19 th December	P4 and P4/5 Christmas Party
Tuesday, 19 th December	Nursery Stay and Play (9.00am and 2.00pm)
Wednesday, 20 th December	Christmas Post finishes
Wednesday, 20 th December	School talent show – All children
Wednesday, 20 th December	P2/3 and P3 Christmas Party
Thursday, 21 st December	Christmas Service in school (9.30am start) – All welcome
Thursday, 21 st December	Nursery, P1 and P1/2 Christmas Parties
Friday, 22nd December	School closes at 2.30pm
Monday, 8th January	School re-opens at 8.55am
Monday, 8 th January	PGL payment due – P7 children
Thursday, 11 th January	Parent Council meeting (6.30pm start) – All welcome