



# David Livingstone Memorial Primary School and Nursery Class

January 2024  
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

Happy New Year to all our families! I trust that you all had a lovely holiday and had the chance to relax over the festive period. Let's hope that the horizons are bright for all of us.

I am pleased to inform you that Mrs Dickson will be returning as our temporary Early Years Team Leader (Thursdays and Fridays) and we are delighted to have her back as part of our nursery team. We would also like to welcome Miss Mare, a temporary Early Years Practitioner to our nursery. Miss Mare is replacing Mrs Caskie who remains absent at present.

Thank you to everyone who supported the Parent Council's Christmas Fayre at the end of November during which over £3000 was raised! The Parent Council also very kindly funded the whole school pantomime on 12<sup>th</sup> December...oh, yes, they did!!!!

Please could we also ask that all parents/carers let their child know their arrangements for going home before they leave the house in the morning. Prior to the holidays, staff in the office received numerous phone calls just before the end of the day and it was often quite a rush to relay this information to children as they were getting ready to leave the school. Your support with this is greatly appreciated.

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](mailto:gw14dlmpsht@glow.sch.uk)

*Linda Callender*  
Head Teacher

## **Christmas Jumper Day**

Thank you to everyone who supported our Christmas Jumper Day organised by our Charities Committee (P6/7 class) on 12<sup>th</sup> December. As a result of donations that we received, we were able to send £67 to Save the Children, a charity which supports children both within the UK and beyond.



## **School Nativity**

Huge congratulations to our nursery, P1 and P2 children who delivered 2 fantastic Nativity performances towards the end of last term. It always amazes me how confident children are at such a young age. Each and every one of the children involved should feel extremely proud of themselves. Thank you, too, to all the staff who worked so hard to produce these performances.

## Peanuts

One of our members of staff has peanut allergy, so please could we ask that your child does not bring in any products containing peanuts for their snack or lunch. Your support with this is greatly appreciated.



## P1 Enrolment

Infant enrolment week for session 2023/2024 is from **Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2024 to Friday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2024**. All P1 enrolments for children starting school in August 2024 should be done online via South Lanarkshire Council's website ([www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk](http://www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk)).

This website will also let you know your child's catchment school if you type in your postcode. Please remember that even if your child attends DLMPS nursery class, he/she will not have the right to an automatic transfer to our school. You will still have to enrol your child at their catchment school. To complete this, you will need to scan in a copy of your child's full birth certificate, along with 2 proofs of residency (e.g. Council Tax letter, electricity bill, etc) dated within the last 6 months. The school will then contact you week beginning 15<sup>th</sup> January to confirm that your registration paperwork has been received.

Normally, children attend the school that serves the area where they live. However, there are times when parents want their children to go to another school. If your child is starting Primary 1 in August and you do not want them to attend their catchment school, you still need to register him/her at their catchment primary school, before also then completing a placing request form. This is available on SLC's website.

If you are unable to complete an online registration for due to technology issues, or if your property is not listed on SLC's mapping system, please contact your child's catchment school so that this can be completed over the phone. The parent must, however, still provide the full birth certificate and necessary proofs of residence by email, post or in person.

If your child has not had their 5th birthday before they are due to start primary school in August 2024, you may decide to make an application to defer your child's entry to primary school by a year. Your child will automatically get an extra year of early learning and childcare funding **if their 4th birthday is in the period 1 January 2024 to the end of February 2024 (inclusive)**.

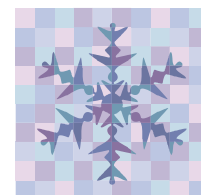
You can also request an extra year of early learning and childcare funding **if your child's 5th birthday is in the period 1 August to 31 December (inclusive)**. This will be decided as part of an admission scrutiny process involving staff based at SLC's HQ as an extra year of nursery funding will not automatically be provided for children in this category if it is felt that they are developmentally ready to come to school.

If you intend to defer the start of your child's primary education, you should still apply to register your child in the appropriate catchment primary school and indicate your intention to defer entry. You should discuss the deferred application with your child's current nursery establishment and they will provide and return the appropriate paperwork when completed to the Early Years Service for processing.

If your child's deferred entry is approved, you will receive a letter and you should confirm that you are accepting the deferral. Once HQ have received your confirmation, your child's place will be removed from their catchment primary.

## 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](http://www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk)) and, if possible, on X (formerly 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 a textile recycling bin located in the Coatshill Avenue car park across the road from the school. In this you can place unwanted 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.

### Parentsportal

Please could we remind all parents/carers to log on to Parentsportal as this will be our means of communication from now on. This helps us to become more eco-friendly as it reduces the number of letters that we need to send home, including permission forms for any outings. It also allows you to access and update details on your child at any time. Staff in the school office will be able to support you if you require any assistance with logging on and will be available for you to drop in any day from 1.45pm to 2.45pm.



### 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.

### 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.



### 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 Hood in our school office to find out how to do this as soon as possible. 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 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](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)



### **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 into 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.

### **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 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.



## Warm Clothing

As the weather is much colder, we would be grateful if all parents/carers could ensure that their child wears a warm, waterproof jacket when coming to school. We currently have a number of jackets on our recycling rail, should this be of any help to families. As well as jackets, we have a range of different items of school uniform (sweatshirts, shirts, skirts and trousers), all of them in very good condition, so please help yourself to anything that your child needs.

## 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 8.15am 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 5 minutes before their staggered start time.



## 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.

## Transition

Calderside Academy are in the process of organising a number of transition activities for our P7 children who will be moving on to secondary school in August. Last week, they enjoyed a visit from Mrs Clarke, a Technical teacher, who commented on how mannerly and welcoming the children were. Details regarding events planned for this term will be sent home in due course.



## 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. 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.



## 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.

## 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. 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)



## Parent Council Meeting

Our next Parent Council meeting will take place via Zoom on **Thursday, 11<sup>th</sup> January** and all parents/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 to children for the mid-term holiday on **Monday, 12<sup>th</sup> February and Tuesday, 13<sup>th</sup> February. Children should also not attend on Wednesday, 14<sup>th</sup> February either** as this is an In-Service Day for staff. Children should return, as normal, on **Thursday, 15<sup>th</sup> February** at 8.55am.



## Useful Apps

Oxford Owl

Top Marks

Doorway Online

Teach Your Monster To Read

Reading Eggs

Teach Your Monster to Count



## Dates For Your Diary

Date	Event and Persons Involved
Monday, 8 <sup>th</sup> January	P1 online Enrolment Week (see <a href="http://www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk">www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk</a> )
Monday, 8 <sup>th</sup> January	Monthly focus on 'Active' wellbeing indicator starts – all classes
Monday, 8 <sup>th</sup> January	Final PGL payment due – P7 families
Thursday, 11 <sup>th</sup> January	Parent Council meeting (6.30pm start) – all welcome
Monday, 15 <sup>th</sup> January	P4/5 visiting Blantyre Library (details to follow)
Monday, 15 <sup>th</sup> January	P6/7 Football (3.00pm – 4.00pm)
Monday, 22 <sup>nd</sup> January	P4 visiting Blantyre Library (details to follow)
Monday, 22 <sup>nd</sup> January	P6/7 Football (3.00pm – 4.00pm)
Tuesday, 23 <sup>rd</sup> January	Flu vaccination catch-up
Tuesday, 23 <sup>rd</sup> January	PGL Information Evening – P7 children and parents/carers (4.00pm – 5.00pm)
Monday, 29 <sup>th</sup> January	P3 visiting Blantyre Library (details to follow)
Monday, 29 <sup>th</sup> January	P6/7 Football (3.00pm – 4.00pm)
Monday, 6 <sup>th</sup> February	Monthly focus on 'Respected' wellbeing indicator starts – all classes
Monday, 29 <sup>th</sup> January	P2/3 visiting Blantyre Library (details to follow)
Monday, 5 <sup>th</sup> February	P6/7 Football (3.00pm – 4.00pm)
Thursday, 8 <sup>th</sup> February	Parent Council meeting (6.30pm start) – all welcome
<b>Monday, 12<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<b>Holiday</b>
<b>Tuesday, 13<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<b>Holiday</b>
<b>Wednesday, 14<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<b>In-Service Day – children do not attend</b>
Thursday, 15 <sup>th</sup> February	School re-opens
Monday, 19 <sup>th</sup> February	P1/2 visiting Blantyre Library (details to follow)
Monday, 20 <sup>th</sup> February	P6/7 Football (3.00pm – 4.00pm)
Monday, 27 <sup>th</sup> February	Start of Fairtrade Fortnight – all classes
Monday, 26 <sup>th</sup> February	P7 residential visit
Tuesday, 27 <sup>th</sup> February	P7 residential visit
Wednesday, 28 <sup>th</sup> February	P7 residential visit

