



David Livingstone Memorial Primary School and Nursery Class

March 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

It's hard to believe that March is here already! It's so nice to see buds on the trees and things starting to grow again. Here's hoping this is a sign of positive days ahead for all of us.

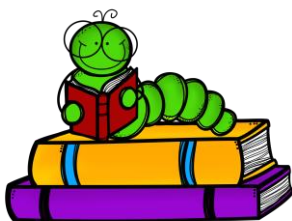
Please can I remind everyone that it is only P1 parents/carers who should be entering the playground in the morning. All other children should be dropped off at the main gate. Your support with this is greatly appreciated.

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

Linda Callender
Head Teacher

World Book Day

This year's World Book Day takes place on **Thursday, 7th March**. As part of this, children will participate in a number of different activities in their classes. In line with Cost of the School Day, children are not asked to dress up on this day but should continue to wear their normal school uniform. All children will be issued with a World Book Day book token that they can then redeem in local shops. There will also be a special themed lunch organised by Facilities and details on this will be shared shortly.



Class Library Visits

Our class visits to Blantyre Library are continuing and those that have had to be postponed due to inclement weather will be rescheduled at a later date. 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!

P1 Storysacks

Mrs Caroline Stewart, our Youth Family Community Learning Officer, is continuing to organise Storysacks sessions for all our P1 pupils. These are taking place in 3-week blocks between February and June, with letters being sent home to each group when it is their turn. Each storysack contains a book, as well as lots of accompanying activities, such as games, jigsaws, puppets, etc. We look forward to seeing our P1 parents/carers and other family members when it is your child's turn to participate.





P6/7 Cross Country

Good luck to all our P6 and P7 children who have been selected to take part in the Hamilton Schools Cross Country Competition at Blantyre Leisure Centre on **Thursday, 7th March**. Thank you, too, to Mrs Simpson, one of our class teachers, for preparing the children for this event.

Primary Dance Festival

A number of our P5-7 children will soon be participating in an after-school dance club organised by Miss Livingstone (P7 teacher). It is then hoped that they will attend the Primary Dance Festival on **Wednesday, 1st May**. We do not yet have details regarding ticket allocations for this, but will send these out to you as soon as they are received as we know how popular this event is for all our families.

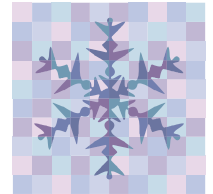


P7 Residential Visit

Our P7s (and accompanying staff!) had a great time at their 3-day residential visit to PGL in Dalguise near Perth. All children were excellent ambassadors for our school, engaging in many activities that challenged them both physically and mentally. Everyone who attended should be very proud of their achievements!

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.

Parentsportal

Please could we remind all parents/carers to log on to Parentsportal as this is now our sole means of communication. 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.



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.



If you have not yet registered with ParentPay, please could you contact either Mrs Hood or Mrs Pinchbeck in our school office to find out how to do this as soon as possible. Thank you.

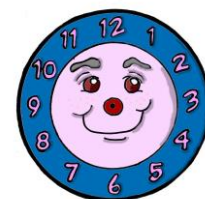


Mobile Phones

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.

Timekeeping

Unfortunately, we still have a number of children who arrive late for school. This can then cause disruption in class as teachers may need to go back over something that a child has missed. It also has an impact on our catering staff as they prepare/cook school meals to order and, on some occasions, they are then unable to fulfil a first choice. 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.



Silly Science Workshops

Thank you to our Parent Council who have funded Silly Science workshops for all our children in both our nursery and our school. These will take place on **Tuesday, 12th March** and **Wednesday, 13th March**. If last year's workshops were anything to go by, all the children are in for a treat!

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.



Raffle Prizes

Rather than just waiting until a few weeks before an event, the Parent Council have asked that parents/carers begin handing in any donations of raffle prizes any time throughout the year. All donations will then be stored securely until the next Parent Council event. Thank you to those who have already contributed.

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



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.

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



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 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. We have a number of children and staff who are medically vulnerable, so your support with this is greatly appreciated.

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.



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.

Easter Service

We would warmly like to invite all our parents/carers and other family members to join us at our Easter Service. This will take place in Livingstone Memorial Church at **9.30am on Wednesday, 27th March**. We look forward to seeing you there!



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 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.

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.



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 Council Meeting

Our next Parent Council meeting will take place via Zoom on **Thursday, 7th March starting at 6.30pm** 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) so that you can be sent the log-in details.

School Closures

Please remember that schools will close for the Spring Break at **2.30pm on Thursday, 28th March**. Children should return, as normal, on **Monday, 15th April at 8.55am**. We hope that you all have a lovely holiday.





Dates For Your Diary

Date	Event and Persons Involved
Monday, 4 th March	Monthly focus on 'Responsible' wellbeing indicator starts – all classes
Monday, 4 th March	P1 library visit
Tuesday, 5 th March	P5 class showcase (2.00pm) – P5 parents/carers
Tuesday, 5 th March	P5-7 Dance (3.00pm – 4.00pm)
Thursday, 7 th March	P6/7 Cross Country Festival at Blantyre Leisure Centre – selected children
Thursday, 7 th March	P3 Fun Fitness (12.45pm – 1.15pm)
Thursday, 7 th March	P1 Storysacks (2.15pm – 3.00pm) – Group 2 children and parents/carers
Thursday, 7 th March	World Book Day – all classes
Thursday, 7 th March	Nursery book swap – details to follow
Thursday, 7th March	No Cross Country after school today
Thursday, 7 th March	Parent Council meeting (6.30pm start) – All welcome
Monday, 11 th March	P6/7 Football (3.00pm – 4.00pm)
Tuesday, 12 th March	Silly Science workshops – All children
Tuesday, 12 th March	Nursery visual screening
Tuesday, 12 th March	P5-7 Dance (3.00pm – 4.00pm)
Wednesday, 13 th March	Silly Science workshops – All children
Wednesday, 13 th March	P6 class showcase (9.15am) – P6 parents/carers
Wednesday, 13 th March	Mixed Football – selected P6/7 children
Thursday, 14 th March	International School Meals Day (details to follow) – all children
Thursday, 14 th March	P3 Fun Fitness (12.45pm – 1.15pm) – final week
Thursday, 14 th March	P4 visiting Glasgow Science Centre
Thursday, 14 th March	P1 Storysacks (2.15pm – 3.00pm) – Group 3 children and parents/carers
Thursday, 14 th March	P6/7 Cross Country (3.00pm – 4.00pm) – final week
Thursday, 14 th March	Community library open in school (3.15pm – 3.45pm) – all welcome
Friday, 15 th March	Hamilton Baths Swimming Gala at Larkhall Leisure Centre – details to follow
Monday, 18 th March	'Wee Blether' with YFCL Worker (9.00am – 10.30am) – all welcome
Monday, 18 th March	Loose Parts Play – all children
Monday, 18 th March	P6/7 Football (3.00pm – 4.00pm)
Tuesday, 19 th March	P5-7 Dance (3.00pm – 4.00pm)
Wednesday, 20 th March	P4 swimming starts – details to follow
Thursday, 21 st March	P6/7 class showcase (1.30pm) – P6/7 parents/carers
Thursday, 21 st March	P1 Storysacks (2.15pm – 3.00pm) – Group 3 children and parents/carers
Friday, 22 nd March	Nursery Stay and Grow (2.00pm) – provisional date
Monday, 25 th March	P2/3 class showcase (1.30pm) – P3 parents/carers only

Monday, 25 th March	P6/7 Football (3.00pm – 4.00pm)
Tuesday, 26 th March	P7 visit to Scottish Parliament
Tuesday, 26 th March	P5-7 Dance (3.00pm – 4.00pm)
Wednesday, 27 th March	Easter Service in church (9.30am start) – all welcome
Wednesday, 27 th March	P4 swimming
Thursday, 28 th March	P1 Storysacks (2.15pm – 3.00pm) – Group 3 children and parents/carers
Thursday 28th March	School/nursery closes at 2.30pm
Monday, 15th April	School re-opens at 8.55am
Monday, 15 th April	Nursery – P4 fluoride varnishing
Monday, 15 th April	P6/7 Football (3.00pm – 4.00pm)
Tuesday 16 th April	P5-7 Dance (3.00pm – 4.00pm)
Wednesday, 17 th April	P4 swimming
Thursday, 18 th April	P4/5 visit to Dundonald Castle
Thursday, 18 th April	P1 Storysacks (2.15pm – 3.00pm) – Group 4 children and parents/carers
Thursday, 18 th April	Community library open in school (3.15pm – 3.45pm) – all welcome
Monday, 22 nd April	P6/7 Football (3.00pm – 4.00pm)
Tuesday, 23 rd April	P5-7 Dance (3.00pm – 4.00pm)
Wednesday, 24 th April	P4 swimming
Thursday, 25 th April	P4/5 class showcase (1.30pm) – P4/5 parents/carers
Thursday, 25 th April	P1 Storysacks (2.15pm – 3.00pm) – Group 4 children and parents/carers
Friday, 26 th April	P1/2 visit to Glasgow Science Centre
Monday, 29 th April	P6/7 Football (3.00pm – 4.00pm)
Tuesday, 30 th April	P5-7 Dance (3.00pm – 4.00pm) – final week

