



David Livingstone Memorial Primary School and Nursery Class

October 2024
Tel: 01698 823680



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 settled well 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. We currently have a lot of unclaimed sweatshirts, cardigans and jackets sitting outside Nancy's office. Please remember that 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 we remind all parents/carers to log on to Parentsportal. This is now our sole means of communication and is the way in which we send letters home, as well as permission forms to attend school events, including class trips. Parentsportal also allows you to access and update details on your child at any time, including emergency contact information. Please contact staff in the school office if you require assistance with logging on.

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 your child's Annual Data Check which provides a copy of the details that we hold on file for your child. This contains important information regarding who we can contact in the event of an emergency. Currently, we have only had 72% of our Annual Data Checks returned. If you have not already done so, please complete this via Parentsportal as a matter of urgency. Thank you.



Parent/Carer Consultations

Our first set of Parent/Carer Consultations will take place in the school on **Wednesday, 9th October**. All appointments will be booked via Parentsportal. During these consultations, you will also have the opportunity to look at your child's work. If you have not already done so, please log on to Parentsportal to book 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 for your child(ren). Any donations for this fair will be gratefully received.

In addition, our Parent Council will be raffling off a signed rugby ball for £1 per ticket, so please bring along some cash if you can. Staff from Calderside Academy will also be in attendance too.

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 for these elections were as follows:



Balmoral = Alexis (Captain); Tommy (Vice Captain)
Bothwell = Fraser (Captain); Jacob T (Vice Captain)
Edinburgh = Cameron (Captain); Grace (Vice Captain)
Stirling = Sofi (Captain); Zahra (Vice Captain)



Harvest

Thank you to everyone who contributed towards our Harvest donations. Everything that we collected was donated to Hamilton District Foodbank who were very appreciative of our offerings.

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.



Health Week

Our whole school and nursery will be engaging in a special Health Week starting on **Monday, 7th 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. If you have a health-related career and you would be willing to come in to talk to some classes, please contact her to let her know (gw07mcgeehanashleigh@glow.sch.uk). The children always love having visitors!

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 is in school, an 'Administration of Medicine' form must still be completed.



Only medication prescribed by a doctor and with written parental/carers 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.



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/tracksuits, 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.

Participatory Budget Consultation

Following a consultation with children, staff at all levels and parents/carers, it was decided that 10% of our Pupil Equity Funding (PEF) for this session (£6247.50) will be used to support targeted children. Last year, we put aside 8% of our PEF allocation to fund school excursions, as well as extra-curricular clubs. A consultation on this year's spending has already been sent out to all stakeholders, so please let us know your thoughts if you have not already done so. Remember your vote counts!



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.

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.



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.

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 30p 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.



Pupil Equity Funding Consultation

Thank you to everyone who responded to our Pupil Equity Funding (PEF) consultation. 85.7% of parents/carers who responded agreed with our planned spend. One parent/carer was concerned that our PEF spending only supports 23% of our pupils (the proportion of our school that qualifies for free school meals), whilst there are other families who are just above this threshold who may also need support.

PEF funding has been allocated to schools by the Scottish Government to close the poverty-related attainment gap. Many of our planned projects actually involve more than just our FME children, consequently a greater percentage of our children benefit. In addition, we also fully fund the cost of buses for all our children using our PEF funding, so every family across the school benefits from this.

School Improvement Plan Consultation

Thank you to everyone who responded to our School/Nursery Improvement Plan consultation. Please see table below for our response to comments that were made:



You said ...	Response
STEM and access to more after-school clubs put on by the school.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The development of STEM is one of the priorities on our School/Nursery Improvement Plan for this session and a working group has been established to take the lead on this. We have already arranged a few after-school clubs for this session and hope to arrange more with support from our Active Schools Coordinator. Any staff who organise an after-school club do this on a voluntary basis as this is not a contractual requirement for teachers. Consequently, we would also be keen to hear from any parents/carers who would like to take responsibility for delivering an after-school club for our children. Please contact Mrs Callender if this is of interest to you.
The Senior playground area requires more thought. There is a lack of activities to keep children amused when the boys especially go from playing football daily in P3 to the odd day in the MUGA.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The development of play, including a review of our school playground, is another of our priorities on our School/Nursery Improvement Plan for this session and another working group has been established to take the lead on this.



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.

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.



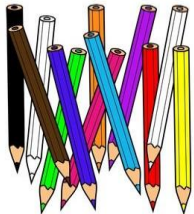
ParentPay

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 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

Concerns have been raised about dangerous parking at the junction between Morven Avenue and Coatshill Avenue. 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.



Homework

Homework will re-start after the October Week. Following a consultation completed with all stakeholders last session, this will consist of a termly grid for all classes, with children being able to choose which activities they wish to do. Staff have also listed a number of different websites that you can use to support your children's learning at home. If you require any resources to support your child to complete their homework (e.g. pencils, rubber, sharpener, paper, etc), please contact the school and we will issue these to 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.



Holidays During Term-Time

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



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.



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 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

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.



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

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.



School Committees

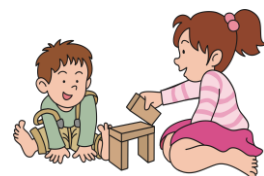
This session, we have decided to change our approach to school committees to allow more children to have their say in activities that happen in the school. Previously, all of our committees comprised of just one representative for each class. This session, all children are part of a committee, with committee meetings taking place once a month. Our committees for this session are as follows:

- P1-7 Pupil Council (led by Mrs Callender)
- P1-7 Rights Ambassadors (led by Mrs McGeehan)
- P4-7 Cost of the School Day Committee (led by Miss Lattimer)
- P1-3 Eco/Sustainability Group (led by Miss Brown)
- P1-3 Play Group (led by Miss Macdonald/Mrs Crawford)
- P1-3 Garden Gurus (led by Miss Marshall)
- P4-7 Charities Committee (led by Mrs Young)
- P1-7 Health Group (led by Mrs Jeffrey)
- P4-7 Eco/Sustainability Group (led by Miss Sharkey)
- P4-7 Junior Road Safety Committee (led by Mr McNally)
- P4-7 Digital Leaders (led by Miss Petrie/Mrs Sommerville)
- P4-7 Fairtrade Group (led by Miss Livingstone)
- P1-7 Reading Champions (led by Mr Burns)
- P4-7 Equalities and Diversity Group (led by Miss Martin)

If any parent/carer would be interested in supporting the work of one of these committees, please contact the school office to let us know (gwl4dlmpsoffice@glow.sch.uk).

Loose Parts Play

As part of our School/Nursery Improvement Plan for this session, we arranged for a company called Operation Play Outdoors to deliver a trailer full of lots of interesting loose parts during week beginning 2nd September. Over the course of the week, all classes had the opportunity to use these resources, and we are now in the process of trying to order some of the more popular items for our own school playground.



Attendance at School

The Scottish Government and Education Scotland are aiming for 95.0% attendance for all children at school. Last session, the average attendance for DLMPs was 93.0%. Our weekly attendance rates per stage have been as follows:

Date	P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	P6	P7
11 th – 17 th August	98.25%	100%	98.33%	99.10%	100%	96.03%	98.58%
18 th – 24 th August	97.63%	96.92%	98.50%	97.57%	96.67%	94.52%	96.74%
25 th – 31 st August	95.31%	97.69%	95.00%	97.84%	96.67%	97.38%	96.32%
1 st – 7 th September	97.44%	92.31%	93.25%	94.86%	94.72%	97.14%	94.75%
8 th – 14 th September	95.31%	96.92%	96.75%	95.95%	96.11%	97.38%	96.56%
15 th – 21 st September	90.51%	84.62%	96.00%	95.68%	90.56%	96.43%	93.17%
Average	95.74%	94.94%	96.31%	96.83%	95.79%	96.43%	96.02%

Please support us in trying to increase our attendance to within national expectations. Thank you.

Did you know.....?

- **96% attendance = 7-8 days lost learning**
- **95% attendance = 2 weeks lost learning**
- **93% attendance = 3 weeks lost learning**
- **90% attendance = 1 month lost learning**
- **80% attendance = 2 months lost learning**
- **Children who have an average of 90% attendance every year will have lost the equivalent of 1 year of schooling by the time they are in S3**

Timekeeping

Unfortunately, an increasing number of children are appearing 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 causes a lot of embarrassment for your child. 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.



Did you know?

- **Children who are 15 minutes late every day will have lost 50 hours of schooling over a year**



Parent Council Meeting

Our next Parent Council meeting will take place via Zoom on **Thursday, 14th 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 (dlmpsparentcouncil@gmail.com) so that you can be sent the log-in details.

School Closures

Please remember that the school will be closed from **Monday, 14th October until Friday, 18th October** for the October Week holiday. School will re-start again on **Monday, 21st October at 8.55am**. We hope that you all have a relaxing break.



Useful Apps

Top Marks

Oxford Owl

Doorway Online

Teach Your Monster To Read

Reading Eggs

Teach Your Monster To Count



Dates For Your Diary

Date	Event and Persons Involved
Tuesday, 1 st October	Start of Black History Month – all children
Wednesday, 2 nd October	P5-7 lunchtime choir
Thursday, 3 rd October	P5 FUNdamentals of Music
Thursday, 3 rd October	P5/6 Rock and Ride – selected children
Monday, 7 th October	Health Week – all children (sporty clothes all week please)
Monday, 7 th October	Challenge Poverty Week – all children
Monday, 7 th October	P6/7 Football (3.00pm – 4.00pm)
Tuesday, 8 th October	P6/7 Athletics (3.00pm – 4.00pm)
Wednesday, 9 th October	P5-7 lunchtime choir
Wednesday, 9 th October	Parent/Carer Consultations – All children
Thursday, 10 th October	P5 FUNdamentals of Music
Thursday, 10 th October	P5/6 Rock and Ride – selected children
Friday, 11th October	School closes at 3.00pm for October Week holiday
Monday, 21st October	School re-opens at 8.55am
Monday, 21 st October	P6/7 Football (3.00pm – 4.00pm)
Tuesday, 22 nd October	P6/7 Athletics (3.00pm – 4.00pm)
Wednesday, 23 rd October	P5-7 lunchtime choir
Wednesday, 23 rd October	P3 class showcase (2.00pm start)
Thursday, 24 th October	P5 FUNdamentals of Music
Thursday, 24 th October	P5/6 Rock and Ride – selected children
Monday, 28 th October	P6/7 Football (3.00pm – 4.00pm)
Tuesday, 29 th October	Fluoride Varnishing (am) – Nursery and P1-4 children
Tuesday, 29 th October	P1-3 Hallowe'en Party (1.15pm – 3.00pm) – details to follow
Wednesday, 30 th October	School photos – all children (full school uniform please)
Wednesday, 30 th October	P5-7 lunchtime choir
Wednesday, 30 th October	P6/7 Mixed Football Festival – selected children
Wednesday, 30 th October	P4-7 Hallowe'en Disco (6.30pm – 8.00pm) - TBC
Thursday, 31 st October	P5 FUNdamentals of Music
Thursday, 31 st October	P5/6 Rock and Ride – selected children
Thursday, 31 st October	P6/7 Sportshall Athletics Festival – selected children
Monday, 4 th November	P6/7 Football (3.00pm – 4.00pm)
Tuesday, 5 th November	P6/7 Athletics (3.00pm – 4.00pm)
Thursday, 7 th November	P5 FUNdamentals of Music
Friday, 8 th November	Flu immunisation – all children
Monday, 11th November	In-Service Day – school/nursery closed to all children

Tuesday, 12 th November	P6/7 Athletics (3.00pm – 4.00pm)
Wednesday, 13 th November	P5-7 lunchtime choir
Thursday, 14 th November	P5 FUNdamentals of Music
Thursday, 14 th November	Parent Council Meeting (6.30pm start) – all welcome
Monday, 18 th November	P6/7 Football (3.00pm – 4.00pm)
Tuesday, 19 th November	P6/7 Athletics (3.00pm – 4.00pm)
Wednesday, 20 th November	P5-7 lunchtime choir
Thursday, 21 st November	P5 FUNdamentals of Music
Monday, 25 th November	P6/7 Football (3.00pm – 4.00pm)
Tuesday, 26 th November	P6/7 Athletics (3.00pm – 4.00pm)
Thursday, 28 th November	P5 FUNdamentals of Music
Thursday, 28 th November	P6/7 Sportshall Athletics Festival – selected children
Friday, 29 th November	Scots Afternoon – all children

