



# David Livingstone Memorial Primary School and Nursery Class

**February 2025**  
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

January has flown by in a flash and it's lovely to see the days are starting to get slightly longer and the bulbs starting to grow. Nevertheless, it is still very chilly so please ensure that your child wears a warm, waterproof jacket to school every day. Please also remember that we have a number of new/nearly new jackets on our recycling rail at the main entrance should these be of support to you and your family.

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

## **P1 Enrolment**

Infant enrolment week for session 2025/2026 took place week beginning **Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January**. All P1 enrolments for children starting school in August 2025 should have been done online via South Lanarkshire Council's website ([www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk](http://www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk)). If you have not yet enrolled your child for school, even if you are wanting to defer them and request another year at nursery, you still need to complete the enrolment process. Please contact staff in our school office if you have any questions about this.



## **P7 Residential Visit**

Our P7s (and accompanying staff!) are getting very excited about their forthcoming 3-day residential visit to PGL in Dalguise near Perth. We have already sent home a kit list, but please remember to let us know if there is anything that you do not currently have so that we can try to support you with this.

## **Timekeeping**

Unfortunately, a number of children repeatedly 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 causes a lot of embarrassment for your child. Please remember that our school starts at **8.55am** so please support your child to be on time every day. Thank you.



***Did you know.....?***

- ***A child who arrives 15 minutes late every day misses out on 50 hours of learning over the course of a year***

## 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 so far for the month of January were as follows:

Date	P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	P6	P7	Average
6 <sup>th</sup> – 10 <sup>th</sup> Jan	98.97%	93.85%	98.46%	94.74%	97.84%	95.24%	97.95%	96.72%
13 <sup>th</sup> – 17 <sup>th</sup> Jan	96.41%	93.85%	98.46%	94.74%	97.84%	95.24%	97.95%	96.36%
20 <sup>th</sup> – 24 <sup>th</sup> Jan	96.79%	98.08%	93.59%	91.45%	97.30%	97.62%	98.08%	96.13%
27 <sup>th</sup> – 31 <sup>st</sup> Jan	95.38%	93.08%	96.92%	91.58%	93.68%	95.24%	98.08%	94.85%
Average per Stage (Jan)	96.88%	94.72%	96.86%	93.13%	96.67%	95.37%	98.08%	95.96%
Average per Stage (Aug – Jan)	94.92%	94.18%	92.94%	95.19%	94.62%	93.96%	94.86%	94.38%

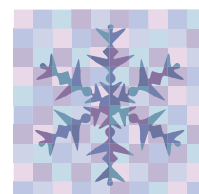
Over the next few days, all children will be issued with a letter showing their current level of attendance. Please support us in trying to increase our attendance to within national expectations. We are generally showing an improving picture, so your support with this is greatly appreciated. Thank you.

### *Did you know.....?*

- **96% attendance = 7-8 days of lost learning**
- **95% attendance = 2 weeks of lost learning**
- **93% attendance = 3 weeks of lost learning**
- **90% attendance = 1 month of lost learning**
- **80% attendance = 2 months of 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**

## 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 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 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.

### 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 16 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 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.



### 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.

### 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 **a school sweatshirt**, 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.

### 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.



### 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.

### 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](http://www.parentclub.scot)



### P7 Hoodies

A huge thank you to Mrs McCarthy, one of our parents, who organised Leavers' Hoodies for all our P7 children. As a special treat, all of our P7 children will be allowed to wear these as part of their school uniform between now and the end of session. They all look so smart!

### School Closures

Please remember that the school and nursery will be closed to children and staff for the mid-term holiday on **Monday, 17<sup>th</sup> February and Tuesday, 18<sup>th</sup> February.** **Children should also not attend on Wednesday, 19<sup>th</sup> February** either as this is an In-Service Day for staff. Children should return, as normal, on **Thursday, 20<sup>th</sup> February** at 8.55am.



### 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
Monday, 3 <sup>rd</sup> February	Monthly focus on 'Respected' wellbeing indicator starts – all classes
Monday, 3 <sup>rd</sup> February	Whole school committee meetings – all children
Monday, 3 <sup>rd</sup> February	P6/7 Football (3.00pm – 4.00pm)
Monday, 3 <sup>rd</sup> February	New P1s visiting school
Wednesday, 5 <sup>th</sup> February	P5-7 Glee Club (12.45pm – 1.15pm)
Thursday, 6 <sup>th</sup> February	P6/7 Cross Country (3.00pm – 4.00pm)
Friday, 7 <sup>th</sup> February	P5-7 German Club (12.45pm – 1.15pm)
Monday, 10 <sup>th</sup> February	P6/7 Football (3.00pm – 4.00pm)
Wednesday, 12 <sup>th</sup> February	P5-7 Glee Club (12.45pm – 1.15pm)
Thursday, 13 <sup>th</sup> February	P6/7 Cross Country (3.00pm – 4.00pm)
Friday, 14 <sup>th</sup> February	P5-7 German Club (12.45pm – 1.15pm)
<b>Monday, 17<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<b>Holiday</b>
<b>Tuesday, 18<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<b>Holiday</b>
<b>Wednesday, 19<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<b>In-Service Day – children do not attend</b>
Thursday, 20 <sup>th</sup> February	School re-opens
Thursday, 20 <sup>th</sup> February	P6/7 Cross Country (3.00pm – 4.00pm)
Friday, 21 <sup>st</sup> February	P5-7 German Club (12.45pm – 1.15pm)
Monday, 24 <sup>th</sup> February	P7 residential visit
Tuesday, 25 <sup>th</sup> February	P7 residential visit
Wednesday, 26 <sup>th</sup> February	P7 residential visit
Friday, 28 <sup>th</sup> February	P5-7 German Club (12.45pm – 1.15pm) – final week
Monday, 3 <sup>rd</sup> March	Monthly focus on 'Responsible' wellbeing indicator starts – all classes
Monday, 3 <sup>rd</sup> March	Nursery and P1-4 fluoride varnishing by Childsmile
Monday, 3 <sup>rd</sup> March	P6/7 Football (3.00pm – 4.00pm)
Monday, 3 <sup>rd</sup> March	Whole school committee meetings – all children
Wednesday, 5 <sup>th</sup> March	P5-7 Glee Club (12.45pm – 1.15pm)
Thursday, 6 <sup>th</sup> March	World Book Day – all children (details to follow)
Thursday, 6 <sup>th</sup> March	Hamilton Schools Cross Country Festival – details to follow
Thursday, 6 <sup>th</sup> March	P4 swimming – details to follow
Friday, 7 <sup>th</sup> March	Hamilton District Primary School Swimming Gala (6.00pm) – details to follow
Monday, 10 <sup>th</sup> March	STEM Open Afternoon – all classes (details to follow)

