



David Livingstone Memorial Primary School and Nursery Class

March 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

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, 6th 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 be shared via Parentsportal.



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!

Outdoor Play

As part of our School Improvement Plan, we have booked more pupil sessions from Operation Play Outdoors. Each class will engage in a 3-week block of activities, in addition to the opportunity to participate in lunchtime play out in our MUGA pitch. A letter advising you of the dates for your child's class was sent home via Parentsportal. Please note that these sessions will take place **regardless of the weather**, so please ensure that your child comes dressed appropriately with a warm, waterproof jacket.





STEM Open Day

We look forward to seeing all our parents/carers at our inaugural STEM Open Day on **Monday, 10th March from 1.30pm to 2.30pm**. During this event you will have the opportunity to engage in a number of different STEM activities in your child's class.

World of Work Week

The whole school will be involved in a World of Work Week **starting on Monday, 24th March**. If you or another family member would be interested in coming into the school to talk about your job, please contact Mrs McGeehan (DHT) to let her know (gw07mcgeehanashleigh@glow.sch.uk). The children love hearing about different careers so any support that you can offer with this would be greatly appreciated,



Dogs in Playground

Please remember that no dogs are allowed in our school playground (even if they are being carried) and there are signs on our gates to show this. If you need to bring your dog with you when you collect your child, please can you either wait outside the gates, or leave your dog tied up outside the school. Thank you.



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
3 rd – 7 th Feb	94.87%	90.00%	95.38%	97.37%	94.59%	95.24%	97.44%	94.98%
10 th – 14 th Feb	94.36%	93.85%	91.28%	95.26%	85.41%	99.05%	91.28%	92.93%
17 th – 21 st Feb	94.87%	88.46%	92.31%	86.84%	93.24%	97.62%	89.74%	91.87%
24 th – 28 th Feb	95.38%	93.85%	93.33%	96.84%	95.14%	99.05%	94.87%	95.49%
Average per Stage (Feb)	94.87%	91.54%	93.08%	94.08%	92.10%	97.74%	93.33%	93.82%
Average for School (Aug – Feb)	94.43%							

Please support us in trying to increase our attendance to within national expectations. Our attendance took a dip last month, so your support in helping to improve 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**

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.

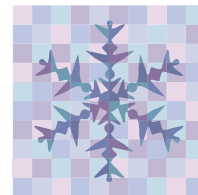


Did you know.....?

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

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 regularly 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.



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.***



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 be paid for via ParentPay. Please contact staff in the school office if you have any difficulties accessing this at home.

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. Please can we encourage all families to check the balance that they have saved on their child's ParentPay account and to pay off any acquired debt as soon as possible.



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 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.



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 2nd April**. 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 to 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, 13th 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 (dlmpsparentcouncil@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 Friday, 4th April**. Children should return, as normal, on **Tuesday, 22nd April at 8.55am**. We hope that you all have a lovely holiday.



**Dates For Your Diary**

Date	Event and Persons Involved
Monday, 3 rd March	Monthly focus on 'Responsible' wellbeing indicator starts – all classes
Monday, 3 rd March	Nursery and P1-4 fluoride varnishing by Childsmile
Monday, 3 rd March	P6/7 Football (3.00pm – 4.00pm)
Monday, 3 rd March	Whole school committee meetings – all children
Tuesday, 4 th March	P3 club (12.45pm – 1.15pm)
Wednesday, 5 th March	Outdoor Play sessions – P3, P3/4 & P5
Wednesday, 5 th March	P5-7 Glee Club (12.45pm – 1.15pm)
Thursday, 6 th March	World Book Day – all children
Thursday, 6 th March	World Book Day lunch – see Parentsportal
Thursday, 6 th March	Hamilton Schools Cross Country Festival – selected P6/7 children
Thursday, 6 th March	P4 swimming
Friday, 7 th March	Fairtrade Day – all children
Friday, 7 th March	Hamilton District Primary School Swimming Gala (6.00pm)
Monday, 10 th March	STEM Open Afternoon (1.30pm – 2.30pm) – all children
Monday, 10 th March	P6/7 Football (3.00pm – 4.00pm)
Tuesday, 11 th March	P3 club (12.45pm – 1.45pm)
Wednesday, 12 th March	Outdoor Play sessions – P3, P3/4 & P5
Wednesday, 12 th March	P5-7 Glee Club (12.45pm – 1.15pm)
Wednesday, 12 th March	Mixed Football – selected P6/7 children
Thursday, 13 th March	Outdoor Play sessions – P1, P1/2 & P2/3
Thursday, 13 th March	P6/7 Dance Club (12.45pm – 1.15pm)
Thursday, 13 th March	P4 swimming
Thursday, 13 th March	Parent Council meeting (6.30pm start) – all welcome
Monday, 17 th March	Neurodiversity Week – all children
Monday, 17 th March	P6/7 Football (3.00pm – 4.00pm)
Tuesday, 18 th March	P7 visiting Sky Academy – details to follow
Tuesday, 18 th March	P3 club (12.45pm – 1.15pm)
Wednesday, 19 th March	Outdoor Play sessions – P4/5, P6, P6/7 & P7
Wednesday, 19 th March	P5-7 Glee Club (12.45pm – 1.15pm)
Wednesday, 19 th March	P6 class showcase (1.30pm) – P6 parents/carers
Thursday, 20 th March	Outdoor Play sessions – P1, P1/2 & P2/3
Thursday, 20 th March	P4 swimming
Friday, 21 st March	Earth Hour activities – all children
Monday, 24 th March	World of Work Week – all children

Monday, 24 th March	P7 Calderdale Learning Community 'Makiing Rights Real' Event – details to follow
Monday, 24 th March	Big Walk and Wheel 2025 – all children (details to follow)
Monday, 24 th March	P6/7 Football (3.00pm – 4.00pm)
Tuesday, 25 th March	P3 club (12.45pm – 1.15pm) – final week
Wednesday, 26 th March	Outdoor Play sessions – P4/5, P6, P6/7 & P7
Wednesday, 26 th March	P5-7 Glee Club (12.45pm – 1.15pm)
Thursday, 27 th March	Outdoor Play sessions – P1, P1/2 & P2/3
Thursday, 27 th March	P4 swimming
Thursday, 27 th March	Community library open in school (3.15pm – 3.45pm) – all welcome
Friday, 28 th March	P2/3 visit to Five Sisters Zoo – details to follow
Tuesday, 1 st April	P4/5 visit to Transport Museum – details to follow
Tuesday, 1 st April	P6/7 'Nil by Mouth' workshop
Wednesday, 2 nd April	Easter Service in church (9.30am start) – all welcome
Wednesday, 2 nd April	P5-7 Glee Club (12.45pm – 1.15pm)
Thursday, 3 rd April	P4 swimming
Friday, 4th April	School closes at 2.30pm
Tuesday, 22nd April	School re-opens at 8.55am
Wednesday, 23 rd April	P6 visit to Blair Drummond Safari Park – details to follow
Wednesday, 23 rd April	P7 class showcase (9.30am) – P7 parents/carers
Thursday, 24 th April	Outdoor Play sessions – P4/5, P6, P6/7 & P7
Thursday, 24 th April	P4 swimming
Friday, 25 th April	P5 Bikeability starts – details to follow
Monday, 28 th April	P6/7 Football (3.00pm – 4.00pm)
Tuesday, 29 th April	P5 class showcase (1.30pm) – P5 parents/carers
Wednesday, 30 th April	P1/2 visit to Sealife Centre – details to follow
Thursday, 4th May	In-Service Day – school/nursery closed to all children
Monday, 2 nd May	P5 Bikeability

