



# David Livingstone Memorial Primary School and Nursery Class

August/  
September 2025



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

First of all, I would like to extend a very warm welcome to all of the new families to our school and nursery. We are delighted to have you as part of our DLMPS team.

It was lovely to see the children arrive back in school safe and well at the start of this session, all of them looking very smart in their new school uniform. This promotes a sense of identity and pride in our school. 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 their packed lunch box and water bottle) so that any lost property can be easily returned. Please also remember that jeans, tartan pinafores and hoodies are not part of our school uniform. Our recycling rail outside our office contains many new and almost new items of school uniform, so please help yourself to anything that your child needs. There is no charge for any of these items. Please could I also remind you that in the interests of health and safety children should not wear nail extensions to school either.

We have also welcomed a number of new members of staff to our school this session, namely Mrs Erskine (P2 teacher) and Miss Fleming (P7 teacher). Miss Smith (P2 teacher) has returned to the school after a career break and Mrs Magee (Early Years Practitioner) continues to work in our nursery until this post is advertised and filled.

I would like to take this opportunity to remind all families that school starts at **8.55am** not 9.00am, so we would appreciate your support in ensuring that your child arrives on time every morning. Please also remember that all children should be collected at 3.00pm and, if you are running late, we ask that you contact staff in our school office to let us know. We will assume that our P4 children are being collected by an adult, unless you have completed a form on Parentsportal to grant permission for your child to walk home on their own. As always, your support with this is greatly appreciated.

I trust that you find the information in this newsletter useful. Newsletters are normally 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*

## Instagram

The school has moved away from X (formerly known as Twitter) as a means of communication. Our new social media platform is Instagram @DLMPS2025. Please note that this is a closed and private group with only current parents/carers and staff permitted to follow. We will use this platform to share achievements and pictures of what is going on in the school and in your child's class. No pictures of children will be posted until we have permissions signed for this current session via Parentsportal. We have already issued a letter inviting you to follow us. If you require another copy of this, please contact Miss Lattimer, one of our DHTs, ([gw07lattimerjennifer@glow.sch.uk](mailto:gw07lattimerjennifer@glow.sch.uk)). Thank you.





### **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. This can be done via an email sent to the school office.

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 or jackets, should be worn at any time in school. Please also remember that crop tops are unsuitable for PE and should not be worn at any time.

Children are advised not to 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.

### **Care and Welfare – Parentsportal**

At the start of each session, we ask you to check/update a number of different forms, including the details that we hold on file for your child on Parentsportal. If you have not already done so, please can you do this **no later than Friday, 29<sup>th</sup> August** as it is crucial that all details are up-to-date in case we need to contact you for any reason. Please can you also ensure that you have completed the permission form to allow your child to participate in excursions in the local area. This includes walks around the vicinity of the school and walks to/from the church for our services at Easter and Summer. If you require any help to access Parentsportal, please speak to staff in our school office.



### **Religious and Moral Education**

Religious and Moral Education forms an important part of the Scottish curriculum and is delivered in class throughout the year. At David Livingstone Memorial Primary School, we primarily focus on two world religions (Judaism and Islam) and Christianity. However, teachers may also draw upon selected aspects of other religions in the context of interdisciplinary learning. Staff recognise that in the process of personal reflection not all children will adopt a religious standpoint and that it is perfectly acceptable for children to have their own individual thoughts and ideas, whilst still recognising that others are also entitled to their own views too.

### **Religious Observance**

Our school chaplain is Mr Murdo Macdonald from Livingstone Memorial Church. He participates in our whole school assemblies periodically throughout the session, focusing on the themes of citizenship, shared values, personal responsibility and emotional and spiritual wellbeing.



Under the terms of the Education (Scotland) Act 1980, parents/carers have the right to ask for their children to be withdrawn from religious observance and/or religious and moral education. Where a child is withdrawn, we will make suitable arrangements for the child to participate in a worthwhile alternative activity. If you wish your child to be withdrawn from religious and moral education and/or religious observance, please put this in writing for the attention of the Head Teacher. Thank you.



### **House Captains**

We will soon be holding elections for our House and Vice Captains, with many of our P7 children putting themselves forward for these important positions. All prospective candidates will deliver a speech to their peers, with fellow House members getting to vote for who they think is the best candidate. Results shall be announced at one of our forthcoming assemblies. Good luck to everyone involved!

### **Emergency Evacuation**

We would like to inform our parents/carers that our emergency evacuation location is St Joseph's Primary in Blantyre. If, in the event of an emergency at the school where we cannot re-enter the building, staff will walk children to St Joseph's Primary 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 notify you straight away.



### **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. All children are asked to bring their own water bottle to school every day. 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.

### **Breakfast Club**

Our Breakfast Club has already re-started and is proving popular with many families. There is no charge for this. 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 at 8.45am, at the same time as the school gates open for all our other pupils.



### **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 outwith 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.

### **School Improvement Plan and Standards and Quality Report**

A summary of last year's progress, together with a summary of our priorities for improvement for 2025/2026 has been sent home to all families via Parentsportal or our nursery Learning Journals, with links to a Google Form asking for your comments on these. These links are also available via our Instagram Bio. If you still wish to respond to our consultation, please can you complete this form **by Friday, 29<sup>th</sup> August**. An abridged version of our School and Nursery Improvement Plan is also available on our school website should you wish to read it.



### **Extra-Curricular Clubs**

We are in the process of consulting with children on what sort of extra-curricular clubs they would like before organising these for all stages of the school. Further details about the choice of clubs on offer will be issued in due course. We are always looking for volunteers to deliver lunchtime and after-school clubs. If, as a parent/carer, this is something you would like to do, please contact Miss Lattimer (DHT) to let her know. It is worth noting that, in the interests of child protection, all of our volunteer helpers are required to be PVG checked.



### **Pupil Equity Funding**

As a school, we receive money from the Scottish Government in relation to the number of children who receive free school meals. This money is known as 'Pupil Equity Funding' (PEF).

This year, we will use some of our money to fund Numeracy, Literacy and Health and Wellbeing resources to support the development of play in both our classes and out in the playground. We will also fund a 0.4 teacher to support the delivery of interventions across the school. Other funding will be used to promote increased equity amongst children, as well as to provide opportunities for extra-curricular clubs. We sent home a link to a Google Form via Parentsportal asking you what you think about our choice of spending and, in response to a request from a parent/carer a few years ago, we showed you a breakdown of the percentage distribution for each of the different areas in order to better inform your response. Thank you to those of you who have already responded to this consultation. If you still wish to contribute, please submit your response **by Friday, 29<sup>th</sup> August**. Again, this link is available via our Instagram Bio.



### **Parking**

We politely request that parents/carers do not park in front of local residents' driveways or in our crossing patrol area when dropping off/picking up your children. Please remember that our school car park should only be used by nursery parents/carers, after-school care staff and taxis collecting/dropping off children. The only exceptions to this are if you are dropping your child off for Breakfast Club first thing in the morning, or if you require to use one of our disabled spaces and have a valid blue badge to display. All other parents/carers are asked to park in the public car park across the road instead.

### **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, 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.



### **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.

### **Smart Watches**

We have noticed 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, nor should they be used to record audio or take pictures. If you wish to pass on information whilst your child is in school, this should be done via the school office. Please remember that Smart watches, the same as other jewellery, will need to be removed for PE. Thank you.



### **P5 FUNdamentals of Music**

Some of our P5 children are just about to start a block of music lessons known as 'FUNdamentals of Music'. These lessons are delivered by a visiting music specialist, Ms Hollinger, and will involve the children taking part in active music-making games to enhance their cognitive ability and build music performance skills.



### **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 the establishment, so your support with this is greatly appreciated.



### **Attendance at School**



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 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. Our overall school attendance rose significantly last session from 93.0% in 2023/2024, to 94.4% in 2024/2025. Our target for this session is to reach the magic 95.0% mark, so please support us as best you can to achieve this.

### **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.



### **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 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.

### **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](mailto:gw14dlmpsoffice@glow.sch.uk)). Thank you.

### **Nursery Learning Journals**

Our Early Years staff are currently arranging for all new parents/carers to sign-up for our nursery Learning Journals. This is a form of online communication that allows us to share information about your child's achievements and successes, as well as news about what is happening in the nursery.



### **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.***



### **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.



### **Scottish Child Payment**

Scottish Child Payment is a payment 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](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)



### **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](http://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.





### **Attachment Accreditation**

I am delighted to inform you that just before the end of last session, we were awarded SLC's final attachment pledge and so we have now become an Attachment-Informed Trauma Sensitive establishment, one of only 4 schools in the local authority to receive this prestigious award. This session, we will be sharing more information about attachment with our parents/carers so please look out for this.

### **Parent Council Meeting**

Our first Parent Council meeting for the new session will take place via Zoom on **Thursday, 4<sup>th</sup> September** starting at 6.30pm and all parents/carers are welcome to attend. This will begin with the Parent Council's Annual General Meeting (AGM) during which office bearers will be elected, followed by a Parent Council meeting focusing on school improvement and possible future fundraising activities. If you would like to participate in this meeting, please email the Parent Council ([dlmpsparentcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:dlmpsparentcouncil@gmail.com)) so that you can be sent the log-in details.



### **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.

### **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. Please note that any absences without contact from home will be classed as unauthorised.



### **School Committees**

Once again, all children will be part of a whole school committee this session. This is to allow them to have a say in what is happening in the school. Further details on these committees will be shared with you in our next newsletter. This year, we are also looking at ways to include our nursery children in these activities.

### **Health Week**

Our whole school and nursery will engage in a special Health Week starting on **Monday, 6<sup>th</sup> October**. During this week, the children will engage in a wide range of activities to support their mental, physical and emotional health. We will be sending home a letter shortly to find out if there are any parents/carers or other family members who may be able to contribute their skills/expertise as part of this week.



### **School Gates**

Please remember that until after September Weekend, only P1 and P2 parents/carers are allowed in playground in the mornings. All other parents/carers should drop their child at the main gate. From **Tuesday, 30<sup>th</sup> September**, all parents/carers will be asked to drop their child at the gate.

At the end of each day, P1-4 parents/carers should collect their child from the Infant playground where they will be dismissed from their classroom door by their class teacher. All P5-7 children will be escorted to the main gate by their class teacher and will be dismissed from there. Please ensure that your child knows who is collecting them from school each day or if they are walking home themselves. If someone is expected to collect your child and no one arrives, we will ask them to wait at the school office whilst we phone home.

### School Photos

School photographs have been booked for **Tuesday, 9<sup>th</sup> September**. These will consist of individual photographs, sibling groups (brothers and sisters only) and class photographs for P1 and P7. Siblings in the nursery can also be included in family groups.



Please can you ensure that your child comes dressed in full school uniform on the day of our photographs, including shirt and tie, even if they normally have PE on this day. Please also remember that we have an array of shirts/blouses at our front entrance should you need anything for your child. Children can also borrow a tie if need be.



### Save the Date

Our first set of Parent/Carer Consultations will take place on **Wednesday, 8<sup>th</sup> October**. All appointments will be booked via Parentsportal, so please ensure that you have this set up in advance of these being organised.

### School Closures

Please remember that the school will be closed on **Friday 26<sup>th</sup> September** and **Monday, 29<sup>th</sup> September** for the September Weekend holiday. Children should return, as normal, on **Tuesday, 30<sup>th</sup> September**. The school will also be closed from **Monday, 13<sup>th</sup> October** until **Friday, 17<sup>th</sup> October** for the October Week holiday. School will re-start again on **Monday, 20<sup>th</sup> October**.



### Useful Apps

Oxford Owl

Top Marks

Teach Your Monster To Read

Doorway Online

Reading Eggs

Teach Your Monster Number Skills



David Livingstone Memorial Primary School and Nursery Class



### Dates For Your Diary

Date	Event and Persons Involved
Tuesday, 26 <sup>th</sup> August	P4 swimming
Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> August	P5 FUNdamentals of Music
Friday, 29 <sup>th</sup> August	Consultation re School/Nursery Improvement Plan and PEF funding closes
Monday, 1 <sup>st</sup> September	School committees – All children
Monday, 1 <sup>st</sup> September	P6/7 Football (3.00pm – 4.00pm)
Tuesday, 2 <sup>nd</sup> September	P4 swimming
Thursday, 4 <sup>th</sup> September	P5 FUNdamentals of Music
Thursday, 4 <sup>th</sup> September	P7 Positive Play Leader training
Thursday, 4 <sup>th</sup> September	Parent Council AGM and Parent Council Meeting (6.30pm start) – All welcome
Monday, 8 <sup>th</sup> September	P7 House and Vice Captain elections



Tuesday, 9 <sup>th</sup> September	School photographs
Tuesday, 9 <sup>th</sup> September	P4 swimming
Thursday, 11 <sup>th</sup> September	P5 FUNdamentals of Music
Thursday, 11 <sup>th</sup> September	P7 Positive Play Leader training
Thursday, 12 <sup>th</sup> September	Parent Council meeting (6.30pm start) – All welcome
Monday, 15 <sup>th</sup> September	P6/7 Football (3.00pm – 4.00pm)
Tuesday, 16 <sup>th</sup> September	P4 swimming
Thursday, 18 <sup>th</sup> September	P5 FUNdamentals of Music
Thursday, 18 <sup>th</sup> September	P7 Positive Play Leader training
Monday, 16 <sup>th</sup> September	P6/7 Football (3.00pm – 4.00pm)
Monday, 22 <sup>nd</sup> September	Maths Week Scotland – All children
Monday, 22 <sup>nd</sup> September	Start of Fairtrade Fortnight – All children
Tuesday, 23 <sup>rd</sup> September	P4 swimming
Thursday, 25 <sup>th</sup> September	P5 FUNdamentals of Music
<b>Friday, 26<sup>th</sup> September</b>	<b>Holiday – School closed to children and staff</b>
<b>Monday, 29<sup>th</sup> September</b>	<b>Holiday – School closed to children and staff</b>
Tuesday, 30 <sup>th</sup> September	P4 swimming
Wednesday, 1 <sup>st</sup> October	Start of Black History Month – All children
Thursday, 2 <sup>nd</sup> October	P5 FUNdamentals of Music
Monday, 6 <sup>th</sup> October	Challenge Poverty Week and Health Week – All children
Monday, 6 <sup>th</sup> October	School committees – All children
Monday, 6 <sup>th</sup> October	P6/7 Football (3.00pm – 4.00pm)
Tuesday, 7 <sup>th</sup> October	P4 swimming
Wednesday, 8 <sup>th</sup> October	Parent/Carer Consultations – All children
Thursday, 9 <sup>th</sup> October	P5 FUNdamentals of Music
<b>Friday, 10<sup>th</sup> October</b>	<b>School closes at 3.00pm for October Week holiday</b>
<b>Monday, 20<sup>th</sup> October</b>	<b>School re-opens at 8.55am</b>

