

David Livingstone Memorial Primary School and Nursery Class

December 2025
Tel: 01698 823680

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 is hard to believe that we are almost at the end of Term 2 already! With the festive season fast approaching, we are currently planning a number of activities for the children, so please see this newsletter for more details.

We continue to have a lot of unclaimed lost property in the 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 packed lunch boxes and water bottles) so that any lost property can be easily returned. Please speak to Nancy, our janitor, if you think your child has lost anything.

I would also like to take this opportunity to highlight our adverse weather plan. Should we experience a lot of snow or ice, Nancy will clear one path to the main entrance for our school. On these occasions, it is likely that our school playground will remain closed, and so all children should enter the school via our main entrance.

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. As always, please remember to contact the school if there is anything that you need clarified or want to ask.

Linda Callender
Head Teacher

Scottish Poppy Appeal

Thank you to everyone who donated money towards The Scottish Poppy Appeal this session. Our children also contributed towards a community display of poppies at High Blantyre Cemetery as part of a project that was organised by Bonnie Blantyre in partnership with a few local primary schools.



Children in Need Day

Thank you to everyone who supported our Children in Need Day on Friday, 14th November. Through your generous donations on Parentpay, we managed to raise £183 for this very worthwhile charity.

Warm Clothing

As the weather has now turned much colder, all parents/carers should ensure that their child wears a warm, waterproof jacket when coming to school. We currently have a number of jackets on our recycling rail outside our main office, should this be of any help to families.



Peanuts

One of our members of staff has peanut allergy, so please could we ask that your child does not bring in any products containing peanuts for their snack or lunch. Your support with this 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 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.



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 November have been as follows:

Date	P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	P6	P7
3 rd – 7 th Nov	92.50%	90.51%	92.00%	88.89%	89.73%	85.71%	93.41%
10 th – 14 th Nov	97.22%	94.87%	85.00%	90.97%	89.86%	92.86%	96.95%
17 th – 21 st Nov	95.56%	95.38%	82.40%	96.39%	83.24%	97.71%	90.49%
24 th – 28 th Nov	93.33%	94.87%	91.20%	90.56%	91.35%	83.43%	91.56%
Average per Stage	94.65%	93.91%	87.65%	91.70%	88.55%	89.93%	93.10%
School Average	91.36%						

This week we will be sending home letters to the parents/carers of all children whose attendance is currently less than 90% to find out what supports we can put in place to support you and your child.

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**

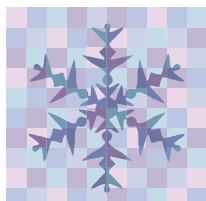
Timekeeping

Unfortunately, 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.....?

- **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 our school X account, South Lanarkshire Council's website (www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk) and, if possible, on local radio stations. It is also vitally important that you keep us informed of any changes to your contact details.

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.





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/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.



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.



School Nativity

Our nursery, P1 and P2 Nativity will take place on **Tuesday, 9th December (1.45pm)** and **Wednesday, 10th December (9.45am)**. In the first instance, tickets are limited to 2 per family, with the closing date for requests being **Friday, 28th November**. Thereafter, we will allocate additional tickets requested via a ballot. Remember that there is no charge for this event. There will, however, be raffle tickets and lucky programmes on sale on the day at a cost of £1 each (cash only). Please bring along loose change if you can.

Christmas Lunch

Our school Christmas lunch will take place on **Tuesday, 9th December**. A flyer has already been sent home informing you of the choice of menu that will be available on this day.

Please note that there will be no cold snacks on offer on this day. Children who do not wish to have a hot school lunch are asked to bring in their own packed lunch instead.



School Pantomime

Thank you to our Parent Council who have offered to fund the cost of a whole school pantomime on **Tuesday, 2nd December**. This year's performance is 'Beauty and the Beast', which promises to be a lot of fun – oh yes, it will!



Christmas Fayre

The Parent Council have organised a Christmas Fayre again this year. This will take place on **Thursday, 4th December from 6.00pm – 8.00pm**, so please come along and join in the fun. Please note that all children must be accompanied by an adult. Debi, our Parent Council chairperson, is also desperate for people to help support her to set up things for the Fayre on the afternoon of Thursday, 4th December, so if you are available, please email her to let her know (dlmpsparentcouncil@gmail.com)

Christmas Hampers

Thank you to everyone who donated something for our class hampers that will then be used as a raffle by our Parent Council to help raise funds. Photos of these amazing prizes have been posted on Parentsportal, with raffle tickets then being available for purchase via ParentPay from **Monday, 1st December until Wednesday, 3rd December**. Tickets will also be on sale at our Christmas Fayre on Thursday, 4th December, with winners being announced that night. Good luck everyone!



Christmas Parties

Our class Christmas parties have been arranged for the following dates:



**P6/7 & P7
P5 & P6
P4 & P4/5
P2 & P3
Nursery
P1 & P1/2**

**Monday, 8th December (pm)
Wednesday, 10th December (pm)
Thursday, 11th December (pm)
Friday, 12th December (pm)
Wednesday, 15th December (pm)
Wednesday, 17th December (pm)**

If you wish your child to go home to get changed for their party, they may be collected from the school at 12.00pm. Alternatively, your child may bring their party clothes in a bag and get changed over lunchtime.



Christmas Post

Our school Christmas Post will start on **Monday, 8th December** and will run until **Wednesday, 17th December**. This allows children to post their Christmas cards to pupils and staff using the special postbox that is located in the main office. This year, mail will be sorted by children in our P1 class with support from P6/7, so please make sure that names and classes are written clearly on all envelopes. We would also appreciate it if no Christmas cards are brought into school before the starting date. Thank you.

Christmas Jumper Donations

As a way of supporting our families, we have launched an appeal for pre-loved Christmas jumpers and t-shirts. If you have anything that you would be able to donate, please could we ask that all donations are handed in to the school by **Thursday, 4th December** at the latest. Our Charities Committee will be organising a Christmas Jumper Day/Christmas Colours Day at their next committee meeting on Monday, 1st December, so please look out for more details about this being sent home shortly if your child wishes to participate.



Christmas Service

In the past, we have organised a Christmas Service in the school and it is always lovely to have so many of our families attend this, with our numbers increasing year on year. So that we can safely accommodate everyone who would like to come along and join in our festivities, we are making a change this year. This means that rather than having a Christmas Service, we will be organising a Christmas Celebration instead. During this event, each pair of classes will take it on turn to be on the stage and they will entertain you with 2 different songs. Children will remain in their classrooms unless it is their time to perform, so it will only be adults that are sitting in the hall.



Our Christmas Celebration will take place on **Tuesday, 16th December at 9.30am and again on Wednesday, 17th December at 9.30am**. To ensure that there are tickets available for all families, **only 2 tickets per family** will be available. Details on how you can order these have been sent home via Parentsportal.

XInstagram

The school has moved away from X (formerly known as Twitter) as a means of communication. Our new social media platform is Instagram @DLMP2025. 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). Thank you.



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.

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



Christmas Holiday

Please remember that the school closes on **Friday, 19th December at 2.30pm**. Children should return on **Monday, 5th January at 8.55am**.

Thank you to all our families for your continued support throughout the year. It really is very much appreciated by everyone in the school. We hope that everyone has a relaxing and peaceful holiday.





Dates For Your Diary

Date	Event and Persons Involved
Monday, 1 st December	P6/7 Football (3.00pm – 4.00pm) – final week
Tuesday, 2 nd December	Whole school pantomime (Beauty and the Beast)
Tuesday, 2 nd December	P5 Multi-Sports (12.45pm – 1.15pm) – final week
Wednesday, 3 rd December	P6/7 Mixed Football Festival – selected children
Wednesday, 3 rd December	Parent/Carer Information Session re Sleep (2.00pm – 3.00pm)
Thursday, 4 th December	P5 FUNdamentals of Music
Thursday, 4 th December	P5-7 Glee Club (12.45pm – 1.15pm)
Thursday, 4 th December	Glee Club visiting Victoria House Care Home (pm)
Thursday, 4 th December	Christmas Fayre (6.00pm – 8.00pm)
Friday, 5 th December	Christmas Jumper/Christmas Colours Day – all children
Monday, 8 th December	Christmas Post starts
Monday, 8 th December	P6/7 and P7 Christmas party (pm)
Tuesday, 9 th December	Christmas lunch
Tuesday, 9 th December	Nursery, P1 and P2 Nativity (1.45pm)
Wednesday, 10 th December	Nursery, P1 and P2 Nativity (9.45am)
Wednesday, 10 th December	P5 and P6 Christmas party (pm)
Thursday, 11 th December	P5 FUNdamentals of Music
Thursday, 11 th December	P5-7 Glee club (12.45pm – 1.15pm)
Thursday, 11 th December	P4 and P4/5 Christmas party (pm)
Friday, 12 th December	Glee Club performing at Asda in Blantyre (11.00am – 12.00pm)
Friday, 12 th December	P2 and P3 Christmas party (pm)
Monday, 15 th December	Nursery Christmas party (pm)
Tuesday, 16 th December	Christmas Celebration (9.30am)
Wednesday, 17 th December	Christmas Celebration (9.30am)
Wednesday, 17 th December	P1 and P1/2 Christmas party (pm)
Wednesday, 17 th December	Christmas Post finishes
Thursday, 18 th December	P5 FUNdamentals of Music
Thursday, 18 th December	School Talent Show – all children
Friday, 19th December	School closes at 2.30pm
Monday, 5th January	School re-opens at 8.55am
Monday, 5 th January	P1 Enrolment Week – see South Lanarkshire Council website for details
Thursday, 8 th January	P5 FUNdamentals of Music

