



# David Livingstone Memorial Primary School and Nursery Class

March 2026  
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 all parents/carers that you have a responsibility to contact us if your child is absent from school. This can be done by phoning or emailing the school office ([gw14dlmpsoffice@glow.sch.uk](mailto:gw14dlmpsoffice@glow.sch.uk)). At present, office staff are spending a lot of time every morning trying to make contact with families to ensure that children are safe and accounted for at home when they have not reported to school.

Please can I also remind all families that in line with South Lanarkshire Council policy, no football colours or items showing a football club badge should be worn or brought to school. This includes football shirts, tracksuits, joggers, jackets and lunch boxes. 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](mailto:gw14dlmpsht@glow.sch.uk)

*Linda Callender*  
Head Teacher

## Sensory Room Update

Our sensory room is now complete, with the grand opening taking place on Friday of last week. All classes will now get the opportunity to visit this at some point this week. Sincere thank you to Mrs Morton, one of our support assistants, who has designed and created this wonderful space for our school.



## World Book Day

This year's World Book Day takes place on **Thursday, 5<sup>th</sup> 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 will be shared via Parentsportal.

## Outdoor Play

As part of our School Improvement Plan, we have booked more pupil sessions from Operation Play Outdoors. Each class will engage in 3 weeks of activities on Thursdays, starting on Thursday, 5<sup>th</sup> March. A letter advising you of the dates for your child's class will be sent home via Parentsportal and they are also included on our diary dates at the end of this newsletter. 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.





## World of Work Week

The whole school will be involved in a World of Work Week **starting on Monday, 23<sup>rd</sup> March**. If you or another family member would be interested in coming into the school to talk about your job, please contact Mr Burns (Acting PT) to let him know ([gw16burnsalistair@glow.sch.uk](mailto:gw16burnsalistair@glow.sch.uk)). We have also sent home a letter asking for volunteers. The children love hearing about different careers so any support that you can offer with this would be greatly appreciated.

## 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 February were as follows:

Date	P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	P6	P7	Average
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> Feb</b>	95.56%	96.92%	84.00%	90.56%	96.49%	93.14%	92.44%	92.73%
<b>9<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> Feb</b>	96.39%	96.41%	94.40%	94.72%	96.49%	95.71%	97.56%	95.95%
<b>16<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> Feb</b>	93.06%	94.87%	90.00%	95.83%	91.89%	98.57%	98.17%	94.70%
<b>23<sup>rd</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> Feb</b>	96.11%	94.62%	94.40%	92.22%	91.89%	92.57%	98.54%	94.36%
<b>Average per Stage (Feb)</b>	95.28%	95.71%	90.70%	93.33%	94.19%	95.00%	96.68%	94.44%
<b>Average for School (Aug – Feb)</b>	93.70%							

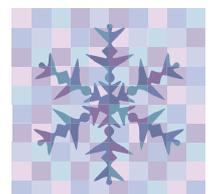
Please support us in trying to increase our attendance to within national expectations. Our attendance took a dip last month, so your support in helping to improve this is greatly appreciated. Thank you.

## *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***

## 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 were 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.



### **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](http://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

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. This debt will remain on your child's account, even if they move school, including when they transfer to secondary school. Thank you.



### 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 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 permission consented via Parentsportal. If you require support to join Instagram, please contact Miss Lattimer, one of our DHTs, ([gw07lattimerjennifer@glow.sch.uk](mailto:gw07lattimerjennifer@glow.sch.uk)). Thank you.

### 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)



### 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.

### Peanuts

One of our pupils and a member of staff both have a 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.



### 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.

## 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 Tuesday, 31<sup>st</sup> March**. 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, 12<sup>th</sup> 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 ([dlimpsparentcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:dlimpsparentcouncil@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 Tuesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> April**. Children should return, as normal, on **Monday, 20<sup>th</sup> April at 8.55am**. We hope that you all have a lovely holiday.



**Dates For Your Diary**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event and Persons Involved</b>
Monday, 2 <sup>nd</sup> March	Monthly focus on 'Responsible' wellbeing indicator starts – all classes
Monday, 2 <sup>nd</sup> March	P7 residential visit
Monday, 2 <sup>nd</sup> March	P6 football (3.00pm – 4.00pm)
Tuesday, 3 <sup>rd</sup> March	P7 residential visit
Tuesday, 3 <sup>rd</sup> March	P2 multi-sports (12.45pm – 1.15pm)
Tuesday, 3 <sup>rd</sup> March	P4/5 class showcase (1.30pm – 2.30pm)
Tuesday, 3 <sup>rd</sup> March	P5 Bikeability (Group 1)
Wednesday, 4 <sup>th</sup> March	P7 residential visit
Wednesday, 4 <sup>th</sup> March	P6/7 drumming
Wednesday, 4 <sup>th</sup> March	Early Bird Plus training with Specialist Support Teacher – selected families
Thursday, 5 <sup>th</sup> March	World Book Day – all children (details to follow)
Thursday, 5 <sup>th</sup> March	Loose Parts Play – P5, P6, P6/7 & P7
Thursday, 5 <sup>th</sup> March	Hamilton Schools Cross Country Festival – selected P6/7 children
Thursday, 5 <sup>th</sup> March	P3, P4 & P4/5 hockey
Thursday, 5 <sup>th</sup> March	P5-7 Glee club (12.45pm – 1.15pm)
Monday, 9 <sup>th</sup> March	British Science Week – all children
Monday, 9 <sup>th</sup> March	School committees – all children
Monday, 9 <sup>th</sup> March	P6/7 football (3.00pm – 4.00pm)
Tuesday, 10 <sup>th</sup> March	P2 multi-sports (12.45pm – 1.15pm)
Tuesday, 10 <sup>th</sup> March	P5 Bikeability (Group 1)
Wednesday, 11 <sup>th</sup> March	P6/7 visit to Stirling Castle – details to follow
Wednesday, 11 <sup>th</sup> March	P6 drumming
Wednesday, 11 <sup>th</sup> March	SLC Swimming Championships at Larkhall Leisure Centre – selected children
Thursday, 12 <sup>th</sup> March	Loose Parts Play – P1, P1/2 & P2
Thursday, 12 <sup>th</sup> March	P3, P4 & P4/5 hockey
Thursday, 12 <sup>th</sup> March	P5-7 Glee club (12.45pm – 1.15pm)
Thursday, 12 <sup>th</sup> March	Parent Council meeting (6.30pm start) – all welcome
Friday, 13 <sup>th</sup> March	P6 class showcase (9.30am – 10.30am)
Monday, 16 <sup>th</sup> March	National Neurodiversity Awareness Week – all children
Monday, 16 <sup>th</sup> March	P6/7 football (3.00pm – 4.00pm)
Tuesday, 17 <sup>th</sup> March	Nursery and P1-P4 fluoride varnishing
Tuesday, 17 <sup>th</sup> March	P2 multi-sports (12.45pm – 1.15pm) – final week
Tuesday, 17 <sup>th</sup> March	P5 Bikeability (Group 1)
Wednesday, 18 <sup>th</sup> March	P4-7 STEMazing workshops

Wednesday, 18 <sup>th</sup> March	P6 drumming
Thursday, 19 <sup>th</sup> March	Loose Parts Play – P3, P4 & P4/5
Thursday, 19 <sup>th</sup> March	P3, P4 & P4/5 hockey
Thursday, 19 <sup>th</sup> March	P5-7 Glee club (12.45pm – 1.15pm)
Thursday, 19 <sup>th</sup> March	P6/7 class showcase (1.30pm – 2.30pm)
Friday, 20 <sup>th</sup> March	P1 and P7 dental inspections
Friday, 20 <sup>th</sup> March	Hamilton Primary Schools Swimming Gala at Larkhall Leisure Centre – selected children
Monday, 23 <sup>rd</sup> March	World of Work Week – all children
Monday, 23 <sup>rd</sup> March	P6/7 football (3.00pm – 4.00pm)
Tuesday, 24 <sup>th</sup> March	P5 Bikeability (Group 1)
Wednesday, 25 <sup>th</sup> March	P3, P4 & P4/5 Hockey Festival – details to follow
Wednesday, 25 <sup>th</sup> March	P6 drumming
Thursday, 26 <sup>th</sup> March	Loose Parts Play – P5, P6, P6/7 & P7
Thursday, 26 <sup>th</sup> March	P3, P4 & P4/5 hockey - TBC
Thursday, 26 <sup>th</sup> March	P5-7 Glee club (12.45pm – 1.15pm)
Monday, 30 <sup>th</sup> March	P5 class showcase (1.30pm – 2.30pm)
Monday, 30 <sup>th</sup> March	P6/7 football (3.00pm – 4.00pm)
Tuesday, 31 <sup>st</sup> March	Easter Service in church (9.30am) – all welcome
Tuesday, 31 <sup>st</sup> March	P5 Bikeability (Group 1) – final week
Wednesday, 1 <sup>st</sup> April	Mixed Football Festival – selected P6/7 children
Wednesday, 1 <sup>st</sup> April	P6 drumming
Wednesday, 1 <sup>st</sup> April	Pupil Reports out to parents/carers – all children
Thursday, 2 <sup>nd</sup> April	Autism Awareness Day – all children
Thursday, 2 <sup>nd</sup> April	Loose Parts Play – P1, P1/2 & P2
<b>Thursday, 2<sup>nd</sup> April</b>	<b>School closes at 2.30pm</b>
<b>Monday, 20<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>School re-opens at 8.55am</b>
Tuesday, 21 <sup>st</sup> April	School committees – all children
Tuesday, 21 <sup>st</sup> April	P5 Bikeability (Group 2)
Wednesday, 22 <sup>nd</sup> April	P6 drumming
Wednesday, 22 <sup>nd</sup> April	P7 visit to Summerlee – details to follow
Thursday, 23 <sup>rd</sup> April	Loose Parts Play
Thursday, 23 <sup>rd</sup> April	P5-7 Glee club (12.45pm – 1.15pm)
Sunday, 26 <sup>th</sup> April	Davie Cooper Soccer 7s – details to follow
Monday, 27 <sup>th</sup> April	P6/7 football (3.00pm – 4.00pm)
Tuesday, 28 <sup>th</sup> April	P5 Bikeability (Group 2)
Wednesday, 29 <sup>th</sup> April	P6 drumming
Thursday, 30 <sup>th</sup> April	Loose Parts Play
Thursday, 30 <sup>th</sup> April	P3 visit to Blair Drummond Safari Park – details to follow