



David Livingstone Memorial Primary School and Nursery Class

May 2025
Tel: 01698 823680



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 we're already in the final term for this session. As always, there are lots of very exciting learning experiences planned for the children. Please remember to check Parentsportal for any letters that are sent home and ensure that any permission forms are completed online as we cannot allow a child to attend any educational excursion without written parental permission.

In recent weeks, we have noticed that a number of children are wearing their own choice of hoodie/sweatshirt to school. Please remember that White Fox sweatshirts and clothing associated with local clubs, including a local soccer academy, are not part of our uniform and should not be worn to school. In line with South Lanarkshire policy, no football colours are allowed. This includes professional teams and local clubs, as well as items such as packed lunch bags linked to football clubs. 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
This month we're testing a new digital layout as well, this is designed to be more accessible and easier to navigate on any device. Take a look at: <https://new.express.adobe.com/webpage/SVOpuA0si8P6c>.

Linda Callender
Head Teacher



World of Work Week

Thank you to all our parents/carers and other family members who supported us with our World of Work Week just before the Easter holidays. This was a hugely successful week for all the children as it gave them the opportunity to find out about different careers which they may like to pursue in the future. This year we had a special focus on careers linked to STEM in line with one of our priorities for school improvement. Thank you to Mr Burns, our Acting Principal Teacher, who coordinated all of our visitors.

Primary Dance Festival

This year's Primary Dance Festival will take place on **Wednesday, 6th May from 5.00pm – 6.00pm** at the Town House in Hamilton. Information on how to purchase tickets has already been posted on Parentsportal. Thank you to Mrs Stevenson (P4 teacher) and Miss Fleming (P7 teacher) who trained the children for this event as part of a lunchtime club.



P6/7 Cross Country

Congratulations to Emma Thompson (P6) who qualified for and participated in SLC's Cross Country Finals at Chatelherault Country Park on Wednesday, 25th March. What a fantastic achievement!

Hamilton District Primary Schools Annual Swimming Gala

Congratulations to all the children who participated in Hamilton District Primary Schools' Annual Swimming Gala on Friday, 20th March. Lots of medals were won across a range of different events, with our school coming in 2nd overall in the team scores. Everyone who attended should be very proud of their achievements! Thank you to Mrs Young (one of our P3 teachers) who coordinated this event.



Davie Cooper Soccer 7s

Congratulations to all our P6/7 children who represented the school at the Davie Cooper Soccer 7s Competition that was held at the Palace Grounds in Hamilton on Sunday, 26th April. They all made us proud and showed excellent sportsmanship throughout. We would also like to thank Gavin and Jamie, our 2 volunteer coaches, who have led our after-school football club for several years, but who now are stepping down from this role. Their contributions have been invaluable, and we will miss them greatly.

We are now on the lookout for new coaches. If you have a coaching background and would be interested in supporting us with our after-school football club next session, please contact Mrs Hood in our school office (gw14dlmpsoffice@glow.sch.uk) so that she can explain what would be involved. Thank you.

P7 Transition

Transition arrangements for our P7 pupils are well underway. So far, they have received visits from pupils and staff from Calderside Academy, as well attended a Learning Community Wellbeing Day. In addition, our P7 children will have the opportunity to spend 2 days at Calderside Academy on **Tuesday, 19th May** and **Wednesday, 20th May** so that they can familiarise themselves with the school prior to starting S1 in August. Secondary staff are also in the process of organising an Information Evening for future S1 pupils and their parents/carers. Details on this will be forwarded to our relevant families as soon as we receive it.



P1 Inductions

In February, we had all the children who are due to start P1 in August visit the school for a short tour and staff from our school are currently visiting our new pupils in their nursery setting. We also have 2 Induction Days planned on **Thursday, 21st May** and **Thursday, 28th May** both from **9.15am to 10.30am**. During these sessions, children will get the chance to be in a P1 classroom, whilst parents/carers find out key information about our school.

School Uniform

A few parents have been in touch regarding the supply of our school uniform. If you wish to have the school badge on your child's clothing, this is available to order online from Scotcrest in Hamilton (www.Scotcrest.co.uk). However, please remember that this is not a mandatory requirement and many supermarkets also sell items of clothing in our school colours at a cheaper cost. In addition, please also bear in mind that we also have a recycling rail containing lots of new and nearly new clothing that is available free of charge outside our main office.



False Nails and Make-Up in School

Please remember that false nail extensions are unacceptable for school as they restrict the things that the child can do in class and they could cause injury to either the child or someone else if they inadvertently bump into them. Make-up is not permitted in school either, unless it is for a special event, such as a class party. 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. It is also important that you let us know the reason for your child's absence, since this will let us know what code to record on the register for them.



Sun Safety

Now that the warmer weather is here, we strongly encourage all parents/carers to ensure that their child is protected by suncream before coming to school in the mornings and that he/she also wears a sun hat/cap. Please also ensure that your child brings a water bottle to school every day so that they can remain hydrated. If you have difficulty providing a water bottle, please contact the school office to let us know and we will try our best to help.

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 March were as follows:

Date	P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	P6	P7	Average
2 nd – 6 th March	94.44%	96.92%	92.00%	93.89%	97.84%	93.14%	91.22%	94.21%
9 th – 13 th March	97.22%	98.97%	87.20%	93.89%	98.38%	89.71%	97.07%	94.63%
16 th – 20 th March	88.33%	98.21%	86.40%	91.67%	91.62%	93.71%	92.20%	91.73%
23 rd – 27 th March	91.67%	96.41%	88.80%	95.00%	96.22%	95.43%	95.61%	94.16%
30 th March – 2 nd April	90.28%	95.83%	81.00%	91.32%	89.19%	95.36%	85.67%	89.81%
20 th – 24 th April	97.78%	98.97%	94.40%	93.33%	97.30%	93.14%	96.10%	95.86%
Average per Stage (March & April)	93.9%	97.4%	88.8%	93.1%	95.4%	94.0%	93.1%	93.67%
Average for School (Aug – April)	93.68%							

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 still 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**

Changes to the Price of School Lunches

The cost of a school lunch for P6 and P7 children has increased to £2.71. Milk will continue to be charged at 30p. 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 30p 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 can we also ask that all families check that they have sufficient funds in their child's ParentPay account so as to avoid accruing a debt which will ultimately need to be paid off. Thank you for your support with this.



Sports Day

Our P1-7 Sports Day will take place on **Wednesday, 27th May**. The format for this will be as follows:



- 9.30am – 10.30am = P1-3 potted sports
- 11.00am – 12.00pm = whole school races for children who have qualified for final (parents/carers of children involved will be notified in advance)
- 1.30pm – 2.45pm = P4-7 potted sports

Once again, parents/carers are invited to attend if the weather is dry. A reserve date of **Wednesday, 3rd June** has been pencilled in should the weather be unkind.



Loose Parts Play

This year, as part of our School Improvement Plan, we booked more pupil sessions from Operation Play Outdoors. A letter advising you of the dates for your child's class was sent home via Parentsportal and upcoming sessions 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 or sunscreen and a hat if it is hot. There will also be the opportunity for each class to engage in activities alongside a parent/carer, so please come along and join in the fun if you can! Dates for these sessions have already been sent home and are also shown in the Diary Dates section of this newsletter.

Parent/Carer Workshops

During the course of this session, we have organised a number of different parent/carer workshops with Mrs Rice (our visiting specialist support teacher) and other external agencies. The latest of these is an information session from Lanarkshire Carers. This will take place in the school on **Wednesday, 6th May from 2pm – 3pm**. Thank you to Miss Lattimer (Principal Teacher/Depute Head Teacher) for coordinating all of these sessions. Please contact her (gw07lattimerjennifer@glow.sch.uk) if you would like to attend this upcoming session.



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.

Textile Recycling Bin

Our Parent Council have a textile recycling bin which is used 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.



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.



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.

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.



Family Holidays

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.



Parent/Carer Consultations

Our second set of Parent/Carer Consultations will take place in the school on **Thursday, 14th May**, with appointments going live on Parentsportal on **Tuesday, 5th May**. During these consultations, you will also have the opportunity to look at your child's work. This will be set out on a table in our dining room, so please look for your child's class.



A raffle will be available on the night with the opportunity to win fantastic prizes. All tickets will cost £1 each. Please note that we are only able to accept cash on this occasion.

Staff from Calderside Academy will be in attendance too, so please introduce yourselves and ask them any questions that you may have.



School Excursions

We have organised a school excursion for all classes. If your child's class has not yet been on a school trip so far this session, this will take place before we close at the end of June. Please see dates below for individual classes. Thank you to all our parent/carers volunteers who have offered to support us on one of these outings.

Parent Council Meeting

Our next Parent Council meeting will take place via Zoom on **Thursday, 7th May 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) so that you can be sent the log-in details.



School Closures

Please remember that schools and nurseries will be closed for the May holidays on **Monday, 4th May, Friday, 22nd May and Monday, 25th May**. We will also be closed on **Thursday, 7th May** for the last in-service day of the session.

Useful Apps

Oxford Owl

Top Marks

Doorway Online

Teach Your Monster To Read

Reading Eggs

Teach Your Monster to Count



PARENTAL ENGAGEMENT

Working Together to Support Our Children



At David Livingstone Memorial Primary School, we are committed to strengthening our partnership with families. Thank you for sharing your views throughout the year. Here is an update on what you told us, and what we have done in response.

Christmas Events

You said: The Christmas Service was AMAZING, but I think there should still be input from the church.

We did: We will consider this for our next Christmas event to ensure it reflects the values and traditions important to our community.

School Events & Showcases

You said: The gym hall works better than the classroom for showcases.

We did: We will now use the gym hall for future showcases to improve visibility, comfort and accessibility.

Communication

You said: Keep parents up to date - "kids don't tell us anything!"

We did: We continue to share Monthly Newsletters and regular updates on Parents Portal and Instagram.

Surveys & Feedback

You said: Some survey wording can be unclear.

We did: We have worked to use clear, concise language in all correspondence and will aim to space surveys more evenly across the year.

Parent Workshops

You said: You would like to attend more Parent Workshops.

We did: We ran a block of EarlyBird Plus sessions and arranged a SAMH workshop on Listening to and Supporting Your Child.

EarlyBird Plus

You said: Excellent course. Being able to communicate directly with school has been invaluable. Caroline is excellent and very down to earth about the realities of living with a child with autism.

You said: It was good to meet other parents experiencing the same issues.

You said: Parent conversations really useful. Contact with school really good.

You said: Excellent course. Being able to communicate directly with school has been invaluable. Caroline is excellent and very down to earth about the realities of living with a child with autism.

Support for Families

You said: Having Lanarkshire Carers attend school regularly would be beneficial.

We did: We have contacted Lanarkshire Carers to arrange an initial session which will be on Wednesday, 6th May at 2pm.

Participation at Events

You said: It would be helpful to have the words available at the Christmas Service so parents can join in.

We did: We will ensure song words are available at future events.

Learning at Home

You said: You would be interested in anything that helps you support learning at home.

We did: We will consider future parent/child workshops where learning together can happen.

Shared Reading

You said: You would like to attend Shared Reading events with your child.

We did: We have scheduled Shared Reading events for next session to align with Scottish Book Week.



Dates For Your Diary

Friday, 1 st May	Librarian in to see Reading Committee
Friday, 1 st May	P5 Bikeability (change to this week only)
Monday, 4th May	Holiday
Tuesday, 5 th May	Monthly focus on 'Included' wellbeing indicator starts – all classes
Tuesday, 5 th May	P1 multi-sports (12.45pm – 1.15pm)
Tuesday, 5 th May	P5 Bikeability
Wednesday, 6 th May	P1/2 visit to Sealife Centre
Wednesday, 6 th May	P6 drumming
Wednesday, 6 th May	Lanarkshire Carers workshop for parents/carers (2.00pm – 3.00pm)
Wednesday, 6 th May	Primary Dance Festival (5.00pm start)
Thursday, 7th May	In-Service Day – school and nursery closed to all children
Thursday, 7 th May	Parent Council meeting (6.30pm start) – all welcome
Monday, 11 th May	English Department from Calderside Academy visiting P7s
Tuesday, 12 th May	SAMH workshops for P5 & P7
Tuesday, 12 th May	P5 Bikeability
Thursday, 14 th May	P5, P6 & P6/7 hockey
Thursday, 14 th May	P5-7 Glee club (12.45pm – 1.15pm)
Thursday, 14 th May	Parent/Carer Consultations
Friday, 15 th May	Amy's Animal Adventures visiting P5
Monday, 18 th May	Walk to School/Nursery Week – all children
Monday, 18 th May	P6 visit to The Kelpies
Monday, 18 th May	Maths Department from Calderside Academy visiting P7s
Monday, 18 th May	Calderside Academy Transition Information Evening – time TBC
Tuesday, 19 th May	P7 Transition Day 1 at Calderside Academy – details to follow
Tuesday, 19 th May	P5 Bikeability – final week
Wednesday, 20 th May	P7 Transition Day 2 at Calderside Academy – details to follow
Wednesday, 20 th May	African drummer visiting school
Thursday, 21 st May	P1 Induction Day (9.15am – 10.30am)
Thursday, 21 st May	Loose Parts Play parent/carers sessions: P2 = 9.30am; P1/2 = 11.00am; P1 = 1.30pm
Thursday, 21 st May	P5, P6 & P6/7 hockey
Thursday, 21 st May	P5-7 Glee club
Friday, 22nd May	Holiday
Monday, 25th May	Holiday
Tuesday, 26 th May	P5 visit to 5 Sisters Zoo – details to follow

Wednesday, 27 th May	Sports Day (if dry)
Thursday, 28 th May	Loose Parts Play parent/carer sessions: P3 = 9.30am; P4/5 = 11.00am; P4 = 1.30pm
Thursday, 28 th May	P1 Induction Day (9.15am – 10.30am)
Thursday, 28 th May	P5, P6 & P6/7 hockey
Thursday, 28 th May	P5-7 Glee club
Thursday, 28 th May	P6/7 Nil By Mouth Workshop
Monday, 1 st June	Committee meetings – all children
Wednesday, 3 rd June	Sports Day (reserve)
Thursday, 4 th June	Loose Parts Play parent/carer sessions: P7 = 9.30am; P6/7 = 11.00am; P6 = 1.30pm
Thursday, 4 th June	P5, P6 & P6/7 hockey
Thursday, 4 th June	P5-7 Glee club
Thursday, 11 th June	P2 visit to Museum of Rural Life – details to follow
Thursday, 11 th June	P5, P6 & P6/7 hockey
Thursday, 11 th June	P5-7 Glee club
Thursday, 11 th June	Nursery Graduation (2.00pm)
Friday, 12 th June	P7 Record of Achievement Assembly (1.30pm)
Wednesday, 17 th June	P7 Party in the Park – details to follow
Thursday, 18 th June	P5, P6 & P6/7 hockey
Thursday, 18 th June	P5-7 Glee club
Thursday, 18 th June	P7 Party (6.30pm)
Friday, 19 th June	Moving On visits to new classroom – all P1-6 children
Monday, 22 nd June	P1 visit to Almond Valley – details to follow
Monday, 22 nd June	Nursery summer fun day at David Livingstone Birthplace – details to follow
Tuesday, 23 rd June	Leavers' Service in church (9.30am)
Thursday, 25 th June	School closes at 1.00pm 😊

