David Livingstone Memorial Primary School and Nursery Class

October 2026
Tel: 01698 823680

Our Vision = We aim to provide an inclusive and nurturing environment where everyone can learn and grow.

Our Values = Respect, Include, 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 our first term already! Time certainly flies when you're having fun!

Thank you for your support in ensuring that children come to school wearing their school uniform. This promotes a sense of identity and pride in our school. Please remember that our school uniform consists of the following:

- Black trousers/skirt
- Light blue shirt/blouse
- Royal blue polo shirt
- Royal blue or black sweatshirt or cardigan
- DLMPS school tie

Jeans, patterned hoodies and tartan pinafores are not part of our school uniform and any proposed changes to our school uniform has to go through a consultation process involving all stakeholders. 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. We currently have a lot of unclaimed sweatshirts, cardigans and jackets sitting outside Nancy's office. Please remember that our recycling rail containing many new and almost new items of school uniform is always available outside the school office, so please help yourself to anything that your child needs. There is no charge for any of these items.

Please could we remind all parents/carers to log on regularly to Parentsportal. This is our sole means of communication and is the way in which we send letters home, as well as permission forms to attend school events, including class trips. It is also how you should book an appointment for our upcoming Parent/Carer Consultations which will take place on **Thursday, 8th October**. In addition, Parentsportal allows you to access and update details on your child at any time, including emergency contact information, so please ensure that this is kept up-to-date. Please contact staff in the school office if you require assistance with logging on.

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.

Linda Callender
Head Teacher



Care and Welfare

At the start of session, we issued you with a number of different electronic permission forms, along with your child's Annual Data Check which provides a copy of the details that we hold on file for your child. We are still waiting on a number of these forms being completed. 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. Thank you.

Parent/Carer Consultations



As you know, our first set of Parent/Carer Consultations will take place in the school on **Thursday, 8th October**. 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. There will also be the opportunity for you to pick up a pre-loved Halloween costume for your child(ren). Any donations for this rail will be gratefully received.



House Captains

We recently held elections for our House and Vice Captains, with many of our P7 children putting themselves forward for these important positions. All prospective candidates delivered a speech to their peers, with fellow House members getting to vote for who they thought was the best candidate. Results for these elections were as follows:

Balmoral = Pippa (Captain); Munro (Vice Captain)
Bothwell = Milly (Captain); Finn (Vice Captain)
Edinburgh = Jay (Captain); Kodi (Vice Captain)
Stirling = Leila (Captain); Erin (Vice Captain)

Congratulations to everyone who took part. We are so proud of you!

Instagram

Our 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. If you wish to follow us, please contact Miss Lattimer, one of our DHTs, (gw07lattimerjennifer@glow.sch.uk). Thank you.



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 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.

Health Week



Due to circumstances outwith our control, we are having to move our whole school and nursery Health Week from just before the October Week to week beginning 2nd November. We will be sending home letters very soon inviting parents/carers to support us with activities, so please look out for this.



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.

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/tracksuits, should be worn at any time in school. Please also remember that crop tops and very short shorts are unsuitable for PE and should not be worn at any time.

Children are advised not 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.



Participatory Budget Consultation

Following a consultation with children, staff at all levels and parents/carers, it was decided that 12% of our Pupil Equity Funding (PEF) for this session (£7516.80) will be used to support school trips so that they are cheaper for everyone, as well as to buy in coaches to run extra-curricular clubs and providing the correct kit to allow all children to join in. Thank you to everyone who shared their views.

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 out of 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.



Breakfast Club

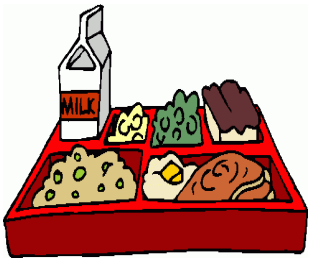
Our Breakfast Club is proving popular with many families. There is no charge for this and children are offered the choice of Weetabix/toast/fresh fruit and a cup of water/milk. Children coming to Breakfast Club should enter the school via the main door **between 8.15am and 8.35am**. Unfortunately, we 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.

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. Water is also served at lunchtime and children may also bring in a second bottle of water on PE days if they wish.



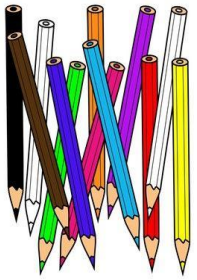
Free School Meals/Clothing Grants

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 33p every day if they want a cup 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.

Pupil Absence

Please remember 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.





Homework

Following consultation with all stakeholders, homework consists of a termly grid for all classes (apart from P1 and P2), with children being able to choose which activities they wish to do. All of these activities are designed to be active and to allow you to consolidate learning at home. Staff have also listed a number of different websites that you can use to support your children's learning at home, along with Sumdog for P4-7 which the children love! If you require any resources to support your child to complete their homework (e.g. pencils, rubber, sharpener, paper, etc), please contact the school and we will issue these to 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.





Holidays During Term-Time

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, as far as possible, 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.

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.





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.



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.

If you have not yet registered with ParentPay, please could you contact Miss Grant in our school office to find out how to do this as soon as possible. Please can we encourage all parents/carers to check regularly that they have sufficient funds in their child's ParentPay account to pay for things like school lunches and milk. Should your child order wither of these and there be insufficient funds, this will then show as a debt. If debts remain unpaid, we are obliged to contact SLC who will start debt recovery proceedings through a formal process.

Nut Allergy



One of our pupils and a member of our staff have a severe nut 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.



School Gates

Please remember that from **Tuesday, 29th September**, all parents/carers are 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.

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.***

moneymatters Advice Service

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.



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 many be of interest to you, please visit the following website for more information: www.familyfund.org.uk

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.



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

Parent Club



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.

School Committees

This session, all of our children are part of a committee to promote increased pupil voice in our school. Committee meetings take place once a month. Our committees for this session are as follows:

- P1-7 Pupil Council (led by Mrs Callender)
- P1-7 Rights Committee (led by Mrs McGeehan)
- P1-7 Cost of the School Day Committee (led by Miss Lattimer)
- P1-3 Eco/Sustainability Committee (led by Mrs Herity)
- P1-7 Play Committee (led by Miss Martin)
- P1-7 Charities Committee (led by Miss Petrie)
- P1-7 Health Committee (led by Mrs Crawford)
- P4-7 Eco/Sustainability Committee (led by Miss Sharkey)
- P1-7 Junior Road Safety Committee (led by Miss Black)
- P1-7 Fairtrade Committee (led by Miss Marshall)
- P1-7 Reading Champions (led by Mr Burns)
- P1-7 Equalities Committee (led by Mrs Bannatyne)
- P1-7 Digital Schools Committee (led by Mrs Stevenson)

If any parent/carer would be interested in supporting the work of one of these committees, please contact the school office to let us know (gw14dlmpsoffice@glow.sch.uk).

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.



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 93.7%. Our weekly attendance rates per stage have been as follows:

Date	P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	P6	P7
9th – 15th August	98.48%	100%	96.05%	96.00%	98.61%	100%	97.14%
16th – 22nd August	98.79%	99.44%	96.84%	96.00%	97.22%	98.38%	97.14%
23rd – 29th August	91.52%	94.17%	95.79%	99.20%	97.78%	97.30%	96.29%
30th Aug – 5th Sept	96.36%	96.11%	96.05%	95.60%	94.44%	94.86%	98.29%
6th – 12th September	95.15%	92.22%	95.14%	99.17%	93.89%	96.76%	96.57%
13th – 19th September	94.24%	97.22%	91.08%	91.67%	91.94%	98.65%	92.00%
20th – 26th September	87.12%	95.14%	93.24%	84.38%	88.19%	91.89%	86.43%
Average	94.52%	96.33%	94.88%	94.57%	94.58%	96.83%	94.84%

Please support us in trying to increase our attendance to within national expectations. Thank you.

Did you know…..?

- ***96% attendance = 7-8 days lost learning***
- ***95% attendance = 2 weeks lost learning***
- ***93% attendance = 3 weeks lost learning***
- ***90% attendance = 1 month lost learning***
- ***80% attendance = 2 months 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 please support your child to be on time every day. Thank you.



Did you know ….?

- **Children who are 15 minutes late every day will have lost 50 hours of schooling over a year**



Parent Council Meeting

Our next Parent Council meeting will take place via Zoom on **Thursday, 12th November** starting at 6.30pm and all parent/carers are welcome to attend. If you would like to participate in this meeting, please email the Parent Council (dlmpsparentcouncil@gmail.com) so that you can be sent the log-in details.

School Closures

Please remember that the school will be closed from **Monday, 12th October until Friday, 16th October** for the October Week holiday. School will re-start again on **Monday, 19th October at 8.55am**. We hope that you all have a relaxing break.



David Livingstone Memorial Primary School and Nursery Class

Dates For Your Diary

Date	Event and Persons Involved
Tuesday, 29th September	P7 drumming
Tuesday, 29th September	P6 Dodgeball (12.45pm – 1.15pm)
Tuesday, 29th September	P6/7 Football (3.00pm – 4.00pm)
Thursday, 1st October	P5 FUNdamentals of Music
Thursday, 1st October	P7 Netball (12.45pm – 1.15pm)
Monday, 5th October	Challenge Poverty Week and Health Week – all children
Monday, 5th October	Start of Black History Month – all children
Monday, 5th October	School committees – all children
Tuesday, 6th October	P6 Dodgeball (12.45pm – 1.15pm)
Tuesday, 6th October	P6/7 Football (3.00pm – 4.00pm)
Wednesday, 7th October	Calderside Academy staff visiting P7
Thursday, 8th October	P5 FUNdamentals of Music
Thursday, 8th October	P7 Netball (12.45pm – 1.15pm)
Thursday, 8th October	Parent/Carer Consultations – all children
Friday, 9th October	**School closes at 3.00pm for October Week holiday**
Monday, 19th October	**School re-opens at 8.55am**
Monday, 19th October	P4/5 Dance (12.45pm – 1.15pm)
Tuesday, 20th October	P7 drumming
Tuesday, 20th October	P6 Dodgeball (12.45pm – 1.15pm) – final week
Tuesday, 20th October	P6/7 Football (3.00pm – 4.00pm)
Wednesday, 21st October	Fun 5Z Netball and Mixed Football Festival – selected children
Thursday, 22nd October	P5 FUNdamentals of Music
Thursday, 22nd October	P7 Netball (12.45pm – 1.15pm)
Thursday, 22nd October	P3/4 class showcase (1.30pm) – details to follow
Monday, 26th October	P4/5 Dance (12.45pm – 1.15pm)
Tuesday, 27th October	P7 drumming
Tuesday, 27th October	P3 class showcase (1.45pm) – details to follow
Tuesday, 27th October	Parent/Carer information session on ASD (9.15am – 10.30am) – TBC
Tuesday, 27th October	P6/7 Football (3.00pm – 4.00pm)
Wednesday, 28th October	P1-P4 fluoride varnishing
Thursday, 29th October	P1-P3 Halloween Party (pm)
Thursday, 29th October	P7 Netball (12.45pm – 1.15pm)
Thursday, 29th October	P4-P7 Halloween Party (6.30pm – 8.00pm)
Monday, 2nd November	Health Week – all children
Monday, 2nd November	School committees – all children

Monday, 2nd November	P4/5 Dance (12.45pm – 1.15pm)
Tuesday, 3rd November	P7 drumming
Tuesday, 3rd November	Parent/Carer information session on ADHD (9.15am – 10.30am) – TBC
Tuesday, 3rd November	P6/7 Football (3.00pm – 4.00pm)
Thursday, 5th November	P7 Netball (12.45pm – 1.15pm)
Thursday, 5th November	P5 FUNdamentals of Music
Monday, 9th November	**In-Service Day – school/nursery closed to all children**
Tuesday, 10th November	P6/7 drumming
Tuesday, 10th November	Parent/Carer information session on Dyslexia (9.15am – 10.30am) – TBC
Tuesday, 10th November	P6/7 Football (3.00pm – 4.00pm)
Thursday, 12th November	P5 FUNdamentals of Music
Thursday, 12th November	P7 Netball (12.45pm – 1.15pm)
Thursday, 12th November	Parent Council Meeting (6.30pm start) – all welcome
Friday, 13th November	Children in Need – all pupils (details to follow)
Monday, 16th November	P1 enrolment – details to follows
Monday, 16th November	Anti-Bullying Week – all children
Monday, 16th November	Book Week Scotland – all P1-3 children
Monday, 16th November	P4/5 Dance (12.45pm – 1.15pm)
Tuesday, 17th November	Nursery 'Stay and Play' (9.00am – 9.45am)
Tuesday, 17th November	P6/7 drumming
Tuesday, 17th November	P6/7 Football (3.00pm – 4.00pm)
Wednesday, 18th November	Fun 5Z Netball and Mixed Football Festival – selected children
Wednesday, 18th November	Parent/Carer information session on Sleep (1.30pm – 2.45pm) – TBC
Thursday, 19th November	P5 FUNdamentals of Music
Thursday, 19th November	P7 Netball (12.45pm – 1.15pm)
Monday, 23rd November	P4/5 Dance (12.45pm – 1.15pm) – final week
Tuesday, 24th November	Whole school and nursery pantomime (am)
Tuesday, 24th November	P6/7 Football (3.00pm – 4.00pm)
Thursday, 26th November	P5 FUNdamentals of Music
Thursday, 26th November	P7 Netball (12.45pm – 1.15pm)
Monday, 30th November	School committees – all children

