



David Livingstone Memorial Primary School and Nursery Class

March 2021
Tel: 01698 823680

SOUTH
LANARKSHIRE
COUNCIL

Our Vision *'We aim to provide an inclusive and nurturing environment where everyone can thrive and achieve.'*

Our Values *Respectful Responsible Caring Confident Honest Successful*

"I am prepared to go anywhere, provided it be forward." (Dr. David Livingstone)

Dear Parents/Carers

It is wonderful to see all of our nursery and P1-3 children back in school. They have all done so well settling back into routines. Hopefully it will not be too long until our P4-7s are back and our whole school community can be together again. This will be such a positive day when it does arrive as all the staff and myself have missed everyone so much.

Once again, thank you to all our families for everything that you are doing to support the children with online learning if they are still working at home. The quality and quantity of work that we have seen posted up on Google Classroom has been absolutely outstanding! This is a real credit to each and every one of you as we understand that remote learning is not easy, especially if you are trying to work from home, too, or if you have more than one child/other caring responsibilities at home. Please remember that you and your child should only do what you can manage given your individual family circumstances, but please try to ensure that your child logs on and uploads up at least some work on to Google Classroom every day. If you cannot do all the activities that have been posted, please prioritise the Literacy and Numeracy tasks if you can. Remember, too, that children need to have regular breaks and the opportunity to play during the day, too. There is no expectation that any of our children should be sitting at a screen or even at a table for lengthy periods each day.

Please also remember that the school is open even if your child is still expected to learn at home and we are here to support you in whatever way we can. 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

*Linda Callender
Head Teacher*

Covid-19

Please remember that if your child has any of the coronavirus symptoms listed below, he/she, along with everyone else in the household, including siblings, should isolate straight away. You should book a test for the child with symptoms via www.nhsinform.scot, if you cannot get online, by calling 0800 028 2816.

You should only book a test through Test and Protect if you or your child has:

- A new, continuous cough (coughing for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours)
- Fever/high temperature (37.8°C or greater)
- Loss of, or change in, sense of smell or taste



Children will be sent home from school/nursery if they are showing symptoms of coronavirus. If your child is feeling unwell with different symptoms, you should treat those as you normally would. This may mean that your child will have to be absent from school/nursery for a few days. Please remember that a test should only be arranged if one of the recognised Covid-19 symptoms is present or a contact tracer asks you to.

If your child is asked to self-isolate, everyone in the household should continue to isolate until the test results come through. If the test result for your child is negative, and your child is not already isolating as a 'close contact' of a confirmed case, he/she can end isolation and return to school/nursery when they are well enough and have not had a fever for 48 hours. If the test is positive, your symptomatic child should remain in isolation 10 days from when the symptoms started, or longer if they still have a fever. The rest of the household should remain in isolation for 14 days from when the person who tested positive showed symptoms, even if they do not have symptoms themselves. Please also keep us updated on a daily basis regarding any absence and the results of any tests.

In line with Scottish Government guidelines, all adults (unless exempt) should wear a face covering when they are dropping off or collecting children, even if you are standing at the school gate. Please also respect the 2m social distancing rule between one another and remember to keep a clear pathway for people walking with children at the start and end of the day.

P1- P7 Online Learning

I am delighted to say that we now have 100% of our P1-P7 children logged on to Google Classroom. During week beginning 15th February, 85% of children had uploaded examples of their learning, too. We continue to contact the parents/carers of children who have not yet uploaded anything to see if there is anything that we can do to help with this.

If you have any problems accessing Google Classroom from home, please email Miss Lattimer (Acting Depute Head Teacher) and she will do her best to help (gw07lattimerjennifer@glow.sch.uk). A helpsheet explaining how to access Google Classroom has also been added to our school website. In addition, we still have a few devices that we are able to loan out to families to support them with learning at home. Please either phone or email Miss Lattimer if this something that you require.



Google Classroom

Thank you, too, to all our parents/carers who responded to the Google form that we issued on 22nd January. Whilst some children continue to learn at home, we will work our way through the suggestions for improvement that were made and, hopefully, make our remote learning experience as positive as we can for everyone. In the meantime, we have now actioned the following:

You said	We did ...
Allow children to type and submit work online to avoid the need for having to print everything	Many staff are now posting up work in the form of Google Docs. This means that children can type their answers directly on to the screen before uploading their work for the teacher to see,
More Google Meets with work included	During the month of February, all classes had 2 Google Meets scheduled for them and this is continuing for the children who are still at home. Staff use these Google Meets as an opportunity to teach something new to the children.
Some recorded/live input	During the month of February, all staff delivered at least one recorded lesson and 2 live lessons each week as part of a Google Meet. Where relevant, staff are also making use of videos that have been recorded by staff from across Scotland to support the children's learning. This is continuing for the children who are still at home,

We would also like to thank all of the children who responded to a recent survey asking for their thoughts on our online learning provision. As a result of these responses, we have completed the following:

You said	We did ...
Do more on the Google Meets	Staff are now using Google Meets to teach something new to their class. Some staff are also asking children to bring something to the meeting to encourage increased dialogue during these sessions.
Have some fun quizzes	As part of World Book Day (Thursday, 4 th March), there will be a quiz for P1-3 and a separate one for P4-7.
Do more artwork	We organised an art gallery as one of our whole school weekly challenges. We will also be posting up special artwork activities as part of special days (including World Book Day) and special focus weeks.

Nursery Learning Journals

During lockdown, our Early Years staff posted up learning activities on the children's online Learning Journals and we will continue to use this resource as a way of communicating information with you. Please also use your child's Learning Journal to share any achievements or successes throughout the day. Like the rest of the school, staff will comment on anything that is posted up.



Monthly Reading Challenges

Well done to our P6 class and Miss Smith who organised another successful monthly reading challenge in February, with many children reading a recipe then actually making the dish before posting up a picture of this on their Google Classroom. The purpose of these challenges is to promote increased reading for enjoyment since research has shown that if children read more, their own literacy skills tend to improve. Our reading challenge for the month of March will be posted up shortly, so please look out for this on our online platform.

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. This includes children who are currently attending our hub. Your support with this is greatly appreciated.



Nursery Staffing

We are delighted to welcome a new member of staff to our nursery team. Her name is Mrs Gilmartin and she is a newly appointed Early Years Support Worker. We hope that Mrs Gilmartin will be very happy in our establishment. She has already made a great impression on all the boys and girls, who have been so welcoming and friendly towards her.

Primary School App

We have our own app in order to make communication with parents/carers more effective and we would like to thank our Parent Council for agreeing to fund this on behalf of the school. To access this app, all you need to do is download the free app called 'School App for Parents'. By doing so we will be able to notify you about school events, news and important diary dates. If you have any difficulties downloading this app, please contact the school and we will do our best to help.



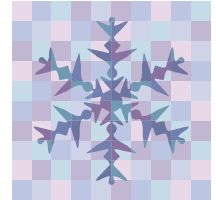


Twitter

The school has a Twitter account and we use it to post information and photos from events within the school. The Twitter address is @dlivvies. Please note that this is a one-way communication tool and we will not respond to any comments. Our account is also protected so only people who are accepted as followers will be able to see the tweets. As a result, only followers who can be recognised as having a connection with the school will be accepted.

Inclement Weather

Parents/carers of children who are still attending school during lockdown 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), on Twitter, our school app and, if possible, 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.



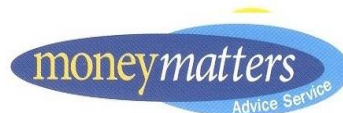
As a school, we also have an Adverse Weather Plan in place. This means that should we experience adverse weather conditions, the janitor will prioritise the clearing of snow and ice in a pathway leading from the main gates at the front of the school to the main entrance. There will also be one route cleared from the car park to the main entrance, but both parents and staff enter the car park at their own risk.

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.***



Scottish Child Payment

Scottish Child Payment is a new benefit which will start 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.

Sanitary Products

A wide range of sanitary products are available for our girls should any of them require this during lockdown. Please simply contact the school office and we will make these available for collection.



Stationery and Other Resources

If your child requires any resources to support them with their online learning (e.g. jotters, pencils, etc), please contact the school office and staff will advise you on when these can be collected. 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.

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



Wider Achievements

Although our weekly assemblies have now moved online, we are still 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 us know via their Google Classroom or by sending an email to their class teacher. Thank you.



ParentPay

We still have a few families who have not registered with ParentPay. This resource is used for anyone to pay for school lunches and milk, as well as to collect in any money that is needed in order for your child to be able to participate in 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 Cockburn in our school office to find out how to do this as soon as possible. Thank you.

Parent Council Meeting

Our next Parent Council meeting will take place via Zoom on **Thursday, 11th March** starting at 6.30pm and all parent/carers are welcome to attend. Further details regarding how you can log on to this meeting shall be sent home shortly.



Spring Break

Please remember that the school will be closed for the Spring Break from Thursday, 1st April at 2.30pm until Monday, 19th April. We hope that you all enjoy a relaxing holiday and that the weather is kind to all of us.

Useful Apps

Sumdog *	Primary School App
Oxford Owl	Top Marks
Doorway Online	Teach Your Monster To Read

* Please contact your child's class teacher if they cannot remember their log-in details.