



Livingstone Newsletter

4th September 2026

A big welcome back to all our families – we hope you have had a lovely summer. A special welcome to all the new members of the Livingstone family, in Nursery and Reception and to those in other year groups.

Star of the Week:

Even though it has been a short week, all teachers made a point of saying that everyone has made a really positive start.

Nursery: Teddy

Reception: Kyron

Year 1: Luca

Year 2: Isla

Year 3: Abbie-Leigh

Year 4: Willow

Year 5: Charlie

Year 6: Sophie

Start and finish times:

All children should arrive at school between **8.45am and 8.55am**. Children arriving at school after 8.55am will be marked as late. Children arriving after 09.30am will be marked as an unauthorised absence "U" code. The end of the school day is **3pm** for Nursery, **3.10pm** for children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 and **3.15pm** for children in Years 3-6.

Welcome to Your New Class sessions:

We are holding **welcome sessions on Wednesday 9th September**. These are for parents and carers to meet teachers, find out about routines and expectations, and about any official assessments that happen this year. Taking place in the classrooms, the sessions will be delivered at **3.30pm**. We hope as many people as possible will attend as it will provide lots of useful information. If you are not able to make it, presentations will be uploaded onto the class page on the website afterwards.

School Streets:

New parents and carers will have noticed that we have our own School Street. Every morning and evening the bottom of the road is closed for the safety of all our children. We are always looking for more volunteers – without people willing to help out the scheme will not be able to run. Can you help, even if you are only available occasionally or on one morning or one afternoon each week? There's a short training session to show you what to do, and if you need childcare Little Stones will look after your child for free for the time you are volunteering. Please let us know at school or contact the office.

Even though the last bit of the road is closed, please ensure that as a parent or carer of a child that attends our school you park legally, considerately and safely. Parking should not obstruct a junction, stop access to someone's driveway, block the pavement to pedestrians or block the road. We regularly get complaints about people leaving their cars even if just for 2 minutes in a place that blocks the road. Please consider parking much further away from school and walking the last bit. This is beneficial for both you and your child's physical and mental health and provides a positive start or end to the day with time to talk to your child. It will ensure everyone's safety and mean that the journey to and from school is more pleasant for everyone.

Nut and Sesame free school:

We are a **nut and sesame free school**. This means that children should not bring to school items for their lunch that contain nuts or sesame. This includes peanut butter or chocolate nut spread sandwiches or cake bars, cereal bars with nuts in them, seeded loaves with sesame seeds and the one that has been catching a few people out recently is hummus as this generally contains tahini which is sesame seed paste. If we see children with these items in their packed lunch we will substitute the item.

Snacks should just be fruit or vegetables. Water bottles should just contain water although other non-fizzy drinks are allowed in packed lunches. Thank you for your support.

School Spider:

School Spider is the app we use to facilitate all payments (uniform, trips, school dinners, nursery snack money), permissions for trips and visits, surveys etc. Please download it from the app store and then select Livingstone. Then you should be able to log in with your email address if we have that on the system. If you are having problems, please check that we have your email address at the office. There is a guide to using it below.

School Grid:

Please remember to order your child's meals in advance. Ordering closes at 8.55am on the day. Menus change in some holidays so we don't recommend you go beyond October half term with your orders. However, you are able to order your meals until then which means you don't have to remember each week! We recommend sitting with your child to order as we often have children whose parents order them something that they know they don't like. Once the system is established, anyone without an order will be offered a jacket potato with a choice of fillings.

Nursery Snack Money:

This is live on School Spider. There is a charge of £5 for each half term.

Free School Meals:

Free school meals allocations have now changed.

Free School Meal changes from September:

The DfE have made changes to the way in which Free School Meals are checked and who qualifies for them.

There are 2 categories of benefits-based free school meals:

- **Targeted FSM** – Which is based on the existing threshold covering pupils who are in households in receipt of Universal Credit with annual household earnings of £7,400 or less. These pupils attract pupil premium funding so they not only qualify for Free school meals but are also eligible for free educational visits, free milk and holiday activities through Active Tameside etc.
- **Expanded FSM** – a new category covering pupils who do not qualify for targeted FSM, but who are in households receiving Universal Credit. These children are only entitled to a free school meal. They will not receive other funding so will not be eligible for free educational visits, free milk etc.

Previously, once a child qualifies for FSM, this will continue until they reach the end of primary school. Now, house-holds must meet the FSM eligibility criteria from the start of the 2026 – 2027 academic year. We are required to check eligibility on an annual basis going forwards.

Universal Free School meals for all children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 will continue as previously and will not be affected by this change.

If you receive Universal Credit but do not currently receive FSM, please come to the office to collect a form so that we have your details to complete the check.

WOW scheme:

To encourage children (and parents!) to walk to school, we are continuing with our WOW badges. Children need to walk three times a week to receive a badge each month. This is either from home or, if they live too far away, there is the option to park and stride which still counts. For this to count, children need to have walked either from the Market Ground / St Joseph's or the train station / the Gillery. Walking from the road closure sign doesn't count! Please do talk to your child about where they have walked from and whether this counts as park and stride.

Uniform:

We are already getting lost and abandoned uniform and coats. Please make sure your child's name is in all pieces of uniform and if you have bought second hand uniform on School Spider, please change the names!

Stikins:

We have registered the school with Stikins which are stick in name labels that can be used on every piece of uniform and even packed lunch boxes and water bottles! They survive the wash. We would encourage parents to order as the mound of un-named lost property keeps getting ridiculous. If ordering, please use the code number 12125 to earn the school some commission. Thank you.



Avoid The Lost Property Box

Every day in school, possessions are swapped or misplaced. Stikins® make sure they are returned easily to your child.

Recommended by thousands of schools and PTAs.

Stikins® Actual Size

Fundraising Number 12125

Use this number when you order to earn 30% commission for school.

Millions of Stikins® washed every week in UK homes.

Visit www.stikins.co.uk to learn more & to order.

Perfect Name Labels Sent Out Same Day

PE kits:

All children from Reception up need a PE kit in school. This should be a t-shirt, a pair of shorts / leggings and some black pumps. Whilst we try to help where we can, this is not school's responsibility to provide. Please send your child in with a PE kit on Monday if they don't already have one in school.

Tesco Tokens:

Thank you for your support with the Tesco tokens, we won! We have been awarded £801 which the school council will start to plan how to use to Power up Our Playground!

Diary Dates

Monday 7th September: First Y5 swimming lesson

Wednesday 9th September: Welcome to Year X meeting at 3.30pm

Wednesday 23rd September: Tom Read Wilson author visit to Reception to Year 3

Thursday 1st October: Nasal Flu Vaccines

Tuesday 6th October: Y3 Spanish day at MHHS

Tuesday 13th October: TAG Rugby competition

Thursday 15th October: Individual photos

Wednesday 21st October: SEN Reviews

Thursday 22nd October: Nursery and Reception Hallowe'en Disco in the morning; Y1/2 Hallowe'en Disco 5-6pm;
KS2 Hallowe'en Disco 6-7pm

Friday 23rd October: End of half term

Monday 26th October – Friday 30th October: October half term holiday

Monday 2nd November: Children return to school

Tuesday 10th November: 3.30 – 6pm Parents' Evening

Wednesday 3.30pm – 6pm Parents' Evening

Tuesday 17th November: Open Day and Open Evening for prospective Nursery and Reception for September 2027

Wednesday 18th November: Year 6 maths challenge at MHHS

Thursday 19th November: 3.45pm Debate competition 1

Friday 20th November: Non Uniform for Christmas fair – please donate bottles / raffle prizes

Friday 27th November: Non Uniform for Christmas Fair – please donate chocolate

Saturday 28th November: Christmas Fair

Monday 7th December: KS1 Nativity performance 2pm

Tuesday 8th December: EYFS Nativity performance 9.30am; KS1 performance 2pm; KS1 performance 6pm

Thursday 10th December: EYFS Nativity performance 9.30am

Tuesday 15th December: Y1/2 Christmas party

Thursday 17th December: EYFS Christmas party; Y3/4 Christmas party

Friday 18th December: Carol Service 9.00am; Y5/6 Christmas party; End of term

Monday 21st December – Friday 1st January: Christmas holiday

Monday 4th January: INSET Day for staff

Tuesday 5th January: Children return to school.

Help us run our **SCHOOL STREET**

At Livingstone we have a **school street**. Every morning and afternoon the bottom of Old Brow to the school is **closed to vehicles**, making it safer for our children to walk, wheel or scoot to and from school and preventing **congestion** at the gates.



Our school street relies on **volunteers** – parents, grandparents and friends – who spend **30 minutes a week** helping to keep their kids and their friends **healthy and safe**.

Can you spare half an hour to help? you'll get **training**, there's **free childcare** at Littlestones if you're dropping off / picking up, and it's a great way to **get to know** the school and other parents and carers too!

Monday – Friday (term time only)
8.25 – 9.00 am
2.55 – 3.25 pm

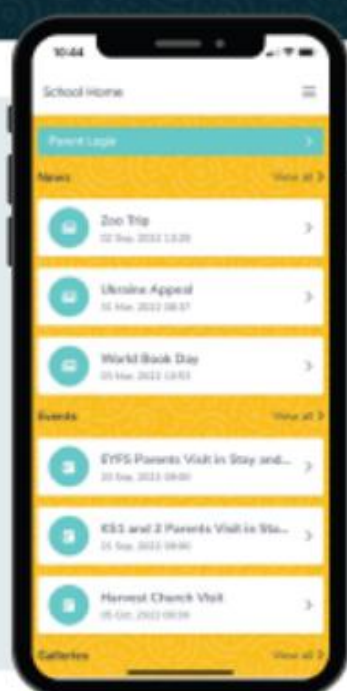
Please speak to the school office or let your child's teacher know if you can help out. Thank you!

Guide to our app for parents & carers

School Spider allows you to receive and return information directly to and from the school. Receive instant messages, complete surveys, book your parents' evenings and report absences.



Select your school to get started!



How to get started

Once you have selected the school, you will see posts from the school website. Click parent dashboard to login or create an account. Create an account by pressing "create account" and enter your email address.

You must have your email linked with the school!

Take a look around...

See all action items on your dashboard

Click to respond or book for each child



Click the envelope to see your recent messages

Click these 3 lines to:

- Switch between areas
- Edit your profile
- Logout

DOWNLOAD NOW



Dear Headteacher,

As children and young people return to school for the new academic year, I am writing to ask for your support in making sure pupils at your school have the opportunity to take part in my national survey, The Big Future. I have only heard from less than ten children at your school.

The survey can be completed here:

<https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/thebigfuture>.

I have already heard from hundreds of thousands of children and young people across England, and the majority of schools have now taken part.

It is crucial that children at your school have the chance to add their voices too, so that their experiences, views and aspirations are represented when I present the findings of the survey to Government.

I would be very grateful if you could support your pupils to fill out the survey at the start of term by:

- sharing the survey directly with pupils through your school or college email system;
- sharing it with parents and carers across your wider school community; and
- setting aside time during form, tutor periods, assemblies or lessons for pupils to complete the survey.

Many schools have found that giving children time during the school day is the most effective way to ensure as many pupils as possible can take part. To make this as easy as possible, I have created a slide pack, an introductory video and FAQs which you can find on [my website](#).

Every child's voice matters, and I want to make sure that children and young people in every school and college, in every community, have the opportunity to shape the picture of childhood that I will share with Government.

Thank you for your support in helping to make sure your pupils' voices are heard as we begin the new school year.

Yours sincerely,

Dame Rachel de Souza

Children's Commissioner for England