



Neilsland Primary School Newsletter

April 2021



Dear Parents, Carers and Friends,

I cannot believe that we have arrived at Spring break! The weeks have gone past so quickly! Our children have been an absolute credit, returning to school after such a long time away. They have adjusted again to school routines safely and effectively. We hope that you have all had the opportunity to see our back to school celebration dance. If not, here is the link. So far, it has been viewed over 1200 times!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qql-y7CTygl>

Parental Engagement

Our parent/carer consultations are scheduled to take place between 4th and 13th May 2021. As we are unable to invite parents/carers into school for 'in-person' appointments at the moment, these meetings will take place over the phone. Appointments will take place on different days/times for each class as follows:

Tuesday 4th May	P5/6 and P7
Wednesday 5th May	P5/6 and P7
Monday 10th May	P1/2 and P4/5
Tuesday 11th May	P1/2 and P4/5
Wednesday 12th May	P2/3 and P3/4
Thursday 13th May	P2/3 and P3/4

We will provide further information about your date and time after the Easter break.

Staffing

We will be delighted to welcome Miss Louise Paterson, a teaching student, to P1/2 after the Spring break.

COVID-19

Pupils, staff and parents must not come into the school building if they exhibit any of the symptoms of Covid-19.

The symptoms are:

- a fever or high temperature
- a new, continuous cough
- a loss or change to sense of smell or taste



Should your child become unwell at school then they will be isolated within a designated safe space in school until the arrival of an adult to collect them.

We appreciate your understanding in keeping the school as safe as possible. If a pupil or member of staff test positive for Covid-19 we will liaise with South Lanarkshire Council and Public Health Lanarkshire. Anyone who tests positive will be automatically notified to Trace and Protect. T&P will support the Head Teacher and other local authority partners in undertaking a risk assessment as set out in national guidance and local procedures.

Beat the Street

It has been fantastic to see so many of our families taking part in Beat the Street! So far, we have 20, 620 points. We would love to climb higher up the leader board and are encouraging the children to take part during the Easter break as the competition runs until the 28th of April. Please continue to enjoy and play Beat the Street in a fun and safe way. Remember we have some spare fobs if yours needs replaced or if another family member would like one. Just contact the office.





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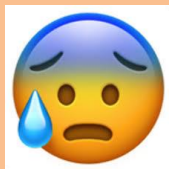


**Above
95%
Well Done**



High attendance leads to improved and high achievement which means greater success!

**95% or
less
Slight Concern**



This is the same as missing **9 school days**; nearly 2 weeks!

**90% or
less
Concerning**



This is the same as missing **19 school days**; almost 4 weeks!

**85% or
less
Risk of
Underachievement**



This is the same as missing **27 school days**; just less than 6 weeks!

**80% or
less
Severe risk of
Underachievement**



This is the same as missing **36 school days**; just less than 8 weeks!

Pupil Attendance

If your child is going to be absent from school, please contact the school before 9.00am. There is an answering machine for this purpose. Unexpected absences will be followed up by school staff, in line with SLC policy. Parents who have to take their child out of school during the day for an appointment, should send in a note in advance and collect their child from the School Office.

We appreciate what a worrying time this is for everyone but if your child is well and able then they should attend school every day. Regular school attendance is essential for all of our children to make good progress, achieve their academic potential and consequently have better chances in life. Our whole school attendance target is 95%. It is the responsibility of parents/carers and the school to achieve this. There are 190 school days across the school year, leaving 175 days to book holidays and attend non urgent appointments. We appreciate that children are unwell from time to time and that there can be exceptional circumstances for absences, but we ask that you think carefully about keeping your child out of school. There is a strong connection between attendance and achievement at school. Absence is proven to have a significant negative impact upon a child's educational attainment.

Breakfast Club

The breakfast club will resume from **Monday 19th April 2021**. The breakfast club will run daily from **8.25am** until **8.45am**.

- Breakfast club is **free** for everyone who attends.
- It will run daily from **8.25am** until **8.45am**.
- Children will not be allowed entry to the school building prior to 8.25am.
- Children attending breakfast club will enter the school via the dining hall door.
- A socially distanced waiting area is marked outside the dining hall door.
- The cook will prepare breakfast items which will then be served to children at their table by Mrs Edwards, SSA.
- A limited menu will be provided – cereal, toast or fruit with milk or water.
- Children will remain seated in the dining hall until 8.45am. They will then be directed to their designated playground areas.





Neilsland Primary School Newsletter

April 2021



Dress Down Days

The final dress down day for this session is **Friday 18th June**.

All children can come to school in their casual clothes and if you are able your child can make a small donation and 'chuck it in the bucket'. This is totally optional. Thank you in advance for your support with this.

Birthday Cakes

We love to share special celebrations with the children at school. A number of children have come into school with birthday cakes recently. As per letter dated 18th February, we are no longer allowed to take in birthday cakes/sweets for any child on their birthday to share with their class. Please do not send these in.

Parent Council

Our Parent Council meetings continue to run virtually for the time being and we are always keen to welcome new members. If you would like to find out more about the work of the Parent Council, have any questions or queries you would like taken forward by the Parent Council or if you would like to join, please contact the chairperson Lindsay Backer on **neilsland.ps.pc@gmail.com**.

Money Matters

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.



Weekly Assemblies

We are currently unable to gather our whole school together in the hall. We have continued our weekly virtual assemblies, focusing on our school values. These assemblies follow a similar format to our usual assemblies, with opportunities for the children to share their learning, celebrate wider achievements and celebrate children's birthdays.

We are still unable to have parents and visitors in the school. Please phone the school 01698 286405 or email the office at office@neilsland-pri.s-lanark.sch.uk if you need to speak with school staff.

We will continue to post updates and information regularly on Twitter [@neilslandps](https://twitter.com/neilslandps) and the school website www.neilsland-pri.s-lanark.sch.uk.

Have a lovely Spring break everyone!





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Dates for Your Diary

Thursday 1st April

School Closes
2.25pm P1/2 and P2/3
2.30pm P3/4, P4/5, P5/6 and P7

Monday 19th April

School reopens

Monday 3rd May

Holiday

Thursday 6th May

INSET – school closed to pupils

Friday 28th May

Holiday

Monday 31st May

Holiday



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