



# Neil Island Primary School Newsletter

## June 2021



Dear Parents, Carers and Friends,

I can hardly believe that we are almost at the end of another school year. The weeks have gone past so quickly! It has been a very unusual session once again. On a personal level, I would like to thank you for your continued support, patience and understanding throughout this very difficult time – a time where there have been many challenges. We appreciate the difficulties faced in managing periods of home learning, family circumstances, work commitments as well as great uncertainty. However, your support for our school community has been unwavering, and is very much appreciated by us all. We are immensely proud of our children – as ever, their capacity to cope with new routines, home learning and 'bubbles', to name but a few has been outstanding. Their strength and resilience has been an inspiration to us all. I must also thank our wonderful teaching staff, support staff and facilities team for their commitment to new routines, ensuring safety within the school and for their tireless efforts to ensure that our children have the best learning experiences possible. Thank you all.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a relaxing and enjoyable Summer holiday when it comes. We look forward to seeing everyone in August.

Take care,  
P Kelly

### Classes

At the moment, we are looking at staffing and planning for 6 classes next session. Presently we will have;

P1 Miss Cassidy  
P2/3 Mr Connor  
P3/4 Mrs Mark  
P4/5 Mrs Gilroy  
P5/6 Mrs Marnie  
P6/7 Mrs Kennedy



It is our intention to tell the children which class they will be in after the Summer holidays although the current composition and staffing could be subject to change.

### Staffing

I am delighted to announce that Mrs Marnie is now our Acting PT for Equity. She will be consulting with pupils, parents and carers early next session regarding our Pupil Equity funding.

### 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
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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.



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### Reports

Our reports for all pupils were sent home on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> June. The format of the report has changed according to SLC guidelines, and we emailed a brief PowerPoint to explain some of the changes. Please remember to complete the parent/child response sheet at the back of your child's report and return this to your child's class teacher by Monday, 14<sup>th</sup> June. Thank you.

### Parental Engagement

Our parent/carer consultations took place between 4<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> May 2021. We hope that you found them informative and useful. They provided an excellent way for us to discuss the progress of our pupils and overall we spoke to 97% of our parents/carers.

### Sports Week

Due to current guidelines, we have been unable to have our usual sports day. However, each class are to host their own sports day during week beginning 7<sup>th</sup> June. Unfortunately, we aren't able to welcome parents/carers into the school grounds to watch the sporting activities - but we are posting plenty of pictures on Twitter.



### Breakfast Club

The breakfast club resumed on **Monday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2021**. It has been very well attended. It will continue after the summer break for all pupils.

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



### P7 Transition

Our P7 pupils all had the opportunity to visit their new high school last week. This gave them the opportunity to see their new school building. They have also engaged in a range of online virtual sessions.

I would like to wish our P7 pupils the very best of luck as they leave Neilsland to embark on the next stage of their educational journey and thank them for the positive contributions that they have made during their time at Neilsland. We will be sad to see them go, but know that they are ready for the new experiences and challenges of secondary school.

Unfortunately, we are still unable to have parents/carers in our school at present so are unable to have our traditional Leavers' Assembly. We will, however, still have a Leavers' event for those children moving on to secondary school. This events will be videoed and posted on your child's Google Classroom for you to see.

Our P7s will be celebrating the end of term with a fun week next week beginning 14<sup>th</sup> June. There will be a variety of activities on each day including orienteering, a treasure hunt and den building. We have also arranged for Active Schools to visit the children for two sessions in the week.

On Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> June, we will be holding our Leavers' Ceremony. The children will perform this in front of myself and Mrs Brock and the event will be recorded for the rest of the school and will be posted on Google Classroom for parents/carers to view. During the ceremony, the children will be presented with their ties for high school.



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### P1 Inductions

Thank you to all our parents/carers who recently attended our online P1 Induction session. We hope to be able to meet you in person very soon. In the meantime, please continue to check the P1 transition blog on our school website for any new information regarding your child starting with us in August.

### Uniform – Rake and Take

As part of our commitment to recycling and to reducing the cost of the school day for families, we will be setting up a uniform table outside from Monday 21<sup>st</sup> June. We are aware that many uniforms were not used to their full advantage this year so we are collecting new or nearly new socks, polo tops, shirts, jumpers, cardigans, trousers, jackets, blazers, shorts and shoes. The tables will be outside daily for you to help yourself.

### 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, fizzy 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 P.E. days if they wish.



### Gifts

As we approach the end of the session, we are aware that many families wish to share their gratitude with staff in the form of gifts and treats. Whilst we welcome the kindness and thought that goes into this and are lucky to work with families that appreciate us, we feel that this year in particular, that appreciation can be shown in other ways and ask that NO gifts are given. Should you wish to thank a particular member of staff then we ask that children complete a drawing or write a small card. We are very conscious of the 'Cost of the School Day' and the fact that family budgets are tight at this time of year, some even more so due to COVID-19 and we do not want families feeling under pressure to purchase gifts. Please remember you give us the best gift everyday by sending your children to school for us to teach.

### A wee reminder.....

Just a reminder that children should not bring toys into school. We have a range of toys and resources that the children can use. We do not want to cause unnecessary upset should anything happen to their toy.

### 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](mailto:neilsland.ps.pc@gmail.com).



### Punctuality

We continue to have a number of children arriving to school late and coming in via the main entrance. In line with Scottish Government and SLC guidelines, this is a restricted area which should only be used by prior consent. Children should enter the playground through the three available gates. **All late comings are marked on the attendance register.** If there is an unforeseen emergency which is going to result in children arriving late to school, the school should be notified of this prior to 8.50am. This will allow us to ensure safe working systems within the school.



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### Reading Schools

We are looking forward to starting our Reading Schools journey next session and further developing our whole school reading culture. We will all be working hard towards gaining our Core Level accreditation and Neil Island becoming a Reading School. Many thanks to the pupils/parents/carers who have already donated soft toys to use as 'reading buddies' and some child and adult books that we can all enjoy next session, it is very much appreciated. If you have any books or soft toys you or your child would like to donate please send them into school.

### 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.**



### 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](http://www.mygov.scot/benefits) or call 0800 182 2222.

### Sanitary Products

Sanitary products are available for our girls in school and over the holiday period. Please contact the office to arrange collection.

### Dress Down Days

The final dress down day for this session is **Friday 18<sup>th</sup> 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.



### Summer Holidays

School closes on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> June at 1.00pm. Pupils return to school on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> August. We are unsure, as yet, about potential restrictions in August, however, please keep checking the school website, Twitter and your email for updates.

### Weekly Assemblies

We continue 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](mailto: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](http://www.neilsland-pri.s-lanark.sch.uk).



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### **Standards and Quality**

Each year at this time we produce a school 'Standards and Quality' report. This document highlights our achievements over the course of the session. Below is a sample of some of our successes. We will email the full document later to all parents/carers and it will also be available on the school website.

- 2 members of teaching staff passed the Level 1 Google Certified Trainer and Educator Award.
- Our P5/6 class achieved the Discovery Level of the John Muir Award.
- Staff at all levels have increased skills in using digital technologies to support learning. This was reflected in the high quality remote learning offer which comprised of 3 live Google Meets, a live weekly assembly and live sessions in Literacy and Numeracy.
- Weekly contact was made with every family during the period of remote learning from January.
- All school support assistants led live, targeted interventions across Literacy, Numeracy and Health and Wellbeing for identified pupils.
- Our PEF teacher created a series of Maths Recovery videos which were shared authority wide.
- Our school features as an example of good practice in Ensuring Equity in the CQIS Remote Learning Standards and Quality report.
- Our P7 class took part in South Lanarkshire Council's Children's Rights Consultation.
- 2 P7 pupils have been involved in creating an animation to support the new Children's Services Plan.
- 90% of the parents/carers surveyed were happy with the home learning provision offered.

### **School Improvement Plan**

Thank you to everyone who completed our online Google Form linked to our school improvement priorities for next session. We have also consulted with the children, as well as staff at all levels, and have used these results to inform our targets for 2021/2022. We will email the School Improvement Plan to all parents/carers and it will also be available on our school website.