



Neilsland Primary School Newsletter

August/September 2021



Dear Parents, Carers and Friends,

A very warm welcome to all of our new Primary 1 pupils and their families and welcome back to all of our returning pupils. Primary 1 children have enjoyed meeting their Primary 7 buddies who have been helping them settle in to school routines. Their interactions have been so positive and their learning conversations animated. Some children may still be a little anxious which is understandable, however please let us know as we are here to help and support you.

Entering/Exiting the School

A reminder of the timings are below:

P1 and **P2/3** can come straight into the school building from 8.50am. They must sanitise their hands as they enter the building then go straight to their class.

At 2.55pm they will be dismissed from school. Can you please ensure that your child knows which gate they have to leave from. Our colour coded the gates make this easier for the children to remember.

Yellow Gate **Car Park Gate**
Red Gate **Bike Shed Gate**
Blue Gate **Top Gate**

P3/4, P4/5, P5/6 and P6/7 come into the playground as normal in the morning. At the 9.00am bell, P3/4 and P4/5 should line up at the ICT doors and P5/6 and P6/7 should line up at the bottom of the path, as they have always done.

They will be dismissed at 3.00pm and may leave from any gate.

Staff are at the gates at 2:50pm to ensure that children leave safely at the end of the day.

Lunchtime

There is no requirement for pupils to socially distance, but we continue to have two sittings in the lunch hall. The times are set out below:

12.15-1.00 P4/5, P5/6 and P6/7

12.30 – 1.15 P1, P2/3 and P3/4

Pupils are allocated to tables according to their classroom.

We know that different lunch sittings may be difficult for parents who would like their children to come home for lunch but again, we are committed to keeping pupils and staff safe. If children are going home for lunch we would ask that they stay at home for the full 45 minutes.

Please ensure the children do not have too many items in their packed lunches. Two or three items and a drink is enough for most children. Also, it is best to send items the children are able to open independently.

Uniform

We ask that all children wear school uniform and bring indoor shoes to change into each day.

- Grey black or navy – trousers, skirt/ pinafore
- White polo shirt
- White shirt and school tie
- Navy sweatshirt – crew or V necked
- Navy cardigan or jumper



Please label all children's clothing clearly.

We ask all parents/carers to support the school by encouraging your child/ren to adhere to the agreed dress code and the wearing of school uniform. The wearing of a school uniform promotes the identity of the school in the local community and helps create an ethos of sharing and pride in the school.



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In line with current Covid-19 guidance, PE can now take place indoors or outdoors. Whilst mitigations remain in school, children should come dressed in appropriate clothing on their allocated days as our changing rooms will remain closed. This includes trainers, jogging trousers/leggings, a school/plain polo shirt, as well as a waterproof jacket in case your child's class goes outside. Please remember that, in line with South Lanarkshire Council policy, no football colours can be worn. Crop tops are also unsuitable for wearing to school.

Learning and Teaching

Pupils have been provided with all stationery and resources that they will require for use in the classroom. Our number one priority is the safety and wellbeing of all of our pupils.

School Recovery Plan 2021/2022

Every session we write a school improvement plan. This helps us to continue to move forward in a strategic and focused way. The key outcome is to ensure we are providing the best possible learning experiences and opportunities for our children. Our priorities this year are:

- * Improvement Priority 1 - Continuity of Learning
- * Improvement Priority 2 – Promote the positive health and wellbeing of children, parents/carers and staff
- * Improvement Priority 3 – Planning for Equity

The full plan is available on the school website.

A copy of our Standards and Quality report for session 2020-2021 is also available on the school website.

Staffing

We are delighted to welcome Miss Hendry as our P5/6 teacher.

School Admin

We have issued the children with a big brown envelope with a number of forms to complete, as we do at the start of each session. Thank you to everyone who has returned these documents. Please complete as soon as you can if you have not already done so. It is important we have your most up to date contact details and your child's medical information. Could I also remind you that if you change your phone number, or emergency contact details change, please make sure that you inform the school office and give them a note of your new number. It is also important that we have an up to date email address as the majority of our communications with parents and carers are via email.

Pupil Absence

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.

COVID-19

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

Gardening

Each class will take responsibility for a garden area within the school grounds over the course of the session. The children are currently weeding and preparing their areas in preparation for sowing seeds. If you have any gardening equipment in good condition that you no longer use or seeds that you can spare, we would very much appreciate any donations.



P4/5 and P5/6 Youth Music Initiative

Our P4/5 and P5/6 classes are enjoying a block of virtual music lessons delivered by a specialist music teacher. These lessons will take place weekly for 20 weeks.



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Breakfast Club

The breakfast club resumed on **Monday 23rd August 2021**.



- Breakfast club is **free** for everyone who attends.
- It runs daily from **8.25am** until **8.45am**.
- Children are not be allowed entry to the school building prior to 8.25am.
- Children attending breakfast club enter the school via 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 directed to their designated playground areas.

Multisports Club

An after school multisports club for our P3/4 and P4/5 pupils begins this Thursday. It will be run by Lesley Scanlan, our Active Schools Co-ordinator and will be supported by some of our senior pupil play leaders. Multisports clubs for the other stages will run before Christmas. More information will follow.

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.**



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.



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.

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 support staff refill bottles over the course of the day if required.





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Homework Support

We have a timetable of homework support for each class during lunchtimes over the course of the week. Children who do not complete their homework at home will be advised by their class teacher to attend the lunchtime club. It is very important that children complete the allocated homework as it helps to consolidate what they have been learning in class.

Participatory Budgeting

We value the support of parents/carers in the ongoing work of the school. Mrs Marnie has contacted all parents and carers about joining a Participatory Budgeting Committee. This session, we have over £3000 (5% of our Pupil Equity Fund) to support children and their families and to find ways to improve the learning and wellbeing of the children within Neilsland Primary School. The Participatory Budgeting group consisting of parents/carers and pupils will come up with 3-5 suggestions on how the money can be spent. Once the suggestion list has been created, the whole school community including all parents, staff and pupils will have the opportunity to vote for their preferred choice of spend.

If you should like the opportunity to be part of this group could you please email the school office - office@neilsland-pri.s-lanark.sch.uk.

Reading Schools

All children are involved in a variety of reading activities in school as part of the Reading Schools - Scottish Book Trust initiative. We are actively encouraging children and adults to read for pleasure both in school and at home. Tasks will be posted on Google Classroom for you and your child to work on together. More information will follow.



General

- Unfortunately, we are 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 would advise all children coming to school on a bike or a scooter to wear a helmet.
- The windows in the school must remain open at all times to ensure adequate ventilation. We ask that the children have a cardigan or a jumper to ensure that they won't be cold in the classroom.

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.

Thank you for your continued support.

Take care and stay safe!

Mrs Kelly

Diary Dates

Friday 24th September and Monday 27th September
HOLIDAYS

Tuesday 28th September
Flu Immunisation (whole school)

Monday 11th October-Friday 15th October
HOLIDAYS