



Neilsland Primary School Newsletter

October 2021



Dear Parents, Carers and Friends,

I cannot believe that we are nearly at the October break! The weeks have gone past so quickly. Our children have been an absolute credit, and have settled well into their new classes. They have enjoyed the opportunity to mix with one another again, particularly in the playground. Our P1 and P7 buddies are spending quality time together and forming good relationships.

COVID-19

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 PCR test via www.nhsinform.scot, or by calling 0800 028 2816.



You should 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. You should also book a test for yourself or your child if you have been instructed to do so by Test and Protect. This will happen if you have been identified as a close contact of someone who has tested positive.

Children will be sent home from school if they are showing symptoms of coronavirus. If your child is feeling unwell with different symptoms, you should treat those as you normally would.

Parental Engagement

Due to continuing restrictions and guidelines, our parent consultations will take place via telephone. Class teachers will phone to discuss how well your child has settled into their new class and their progress across the curriculum. You will already have received the date and time of your call(s). The call will last no longer than 7 minutes. It will come from a withheld number. If initially you don't answer the teacher will leave a message. They will try to ring you one more time after their other calls.

Breakfast Club

Our breakfast club resumed on 23rd August and is proving popular with many families.

- 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.

Outdoor Clothing

As we fast approach the winter months, the weather has started to take a turn. PE continues to take place outside once a week and each class also participates in outdoor learning sessions. The children are outside at playtime and lunchtime even in wet weather therefore jackets and suitable footwear will be needed.

Staffing

Mrs Hunt, one of our school support assistants will be leaving us on Friday to take up a new post. We will miss Mrs Hunt greatly and thank her for all that she has done during her time at Neilsland.

P4/5 and P5/6 Youth Music Initiative

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



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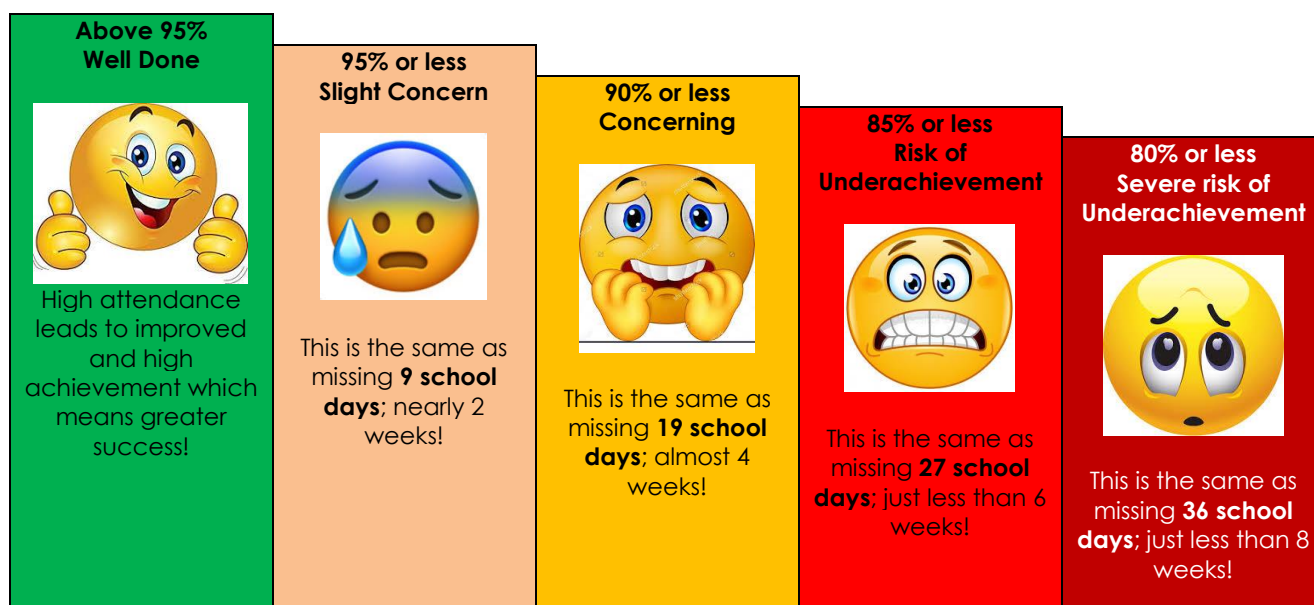
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Pupil Attendance

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.



Google Classroom

All children continue to use Google Classroom in school and for homework. Passwords to all relevant platforms have been sent home with the children. If you have any problems or are unsure of what to do, please let us know via the school office.

We carried out a survey with all of our families at the start of the session to find out who does/does not have access to an electronic device and wifi. Many thanks to those who returned the survey.



Chromebook 'Borrow and Bring Back' Service -ICT Lending Library

We are excited to share one of our new projects that we have available for children to use if they need it. We have purchased some new Chromebooks and carry bags. After the October break we will be introducing a daily Chromebook 'borrow and bring back' service for the children to complete their Google Classroom tasks. This service will be initially introduced in P4/5, P5/6 and P6/7 and will provide the children with access to a Chromebook. P4/5, P5/6 and P6/7 children will have a specific day they can use the 'borrow and bring back' service' and we would kindly ask that if your child is borrowing a Chromebook they return it the next day so that another child can use.

We are hoping to roll this service out to the younger classes at the start of November.

Any questions about this please email office@neilsland-pri.s-lanark.sch.uk



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Homework Club

We have a homework club in school which runs daily at lunchtime. This allows children access to technology and adult support to complete homework. Class teachers will direct children to the homework club if homework is not being done at home.

Dress Down Days

This year we will have 5 dress down days throughout the year.

Friday 8th October

Friday 26th November

Friday 17th December

Friday 1st April

Friday 24th 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.

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.



Halloween

Given current restrictions around events, there will be no Halloween discos this year in school. We are however going to ensure the children take part in some fun Halloween themed activities in school in their own class on Friday 29th October. Children may come to school in their fancy dress costumes. There will be no cost to the children.



Weekly Assemblies

We continue our weekly awards assemblies online. Each week assemblies are themed in line with current events, SHANARRI indicators (Safe, Healthy, Achieving, Nurtured, Active, Respected, Responsible and Included) and Reading Schools. There are many opportunities for the children to lead and share their learning, to celebrate wider achievements and to celebrate children's birthdays.

Gardening

Each class has responsibility for a garden area within the school grounds this session. The children have been very busy weeding, preparing their areas and planting. 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. We are also participating in the 'It's Good to Grow' initiative from Morrisons. It runs until 24th October 2021. For every £10 spent in Morrisons our school will receive a Grow Token for the school. Grow tokens can be exchanged for seeds, trowels and spades, watering cans and much more. All you have to do is download the app to your phone.





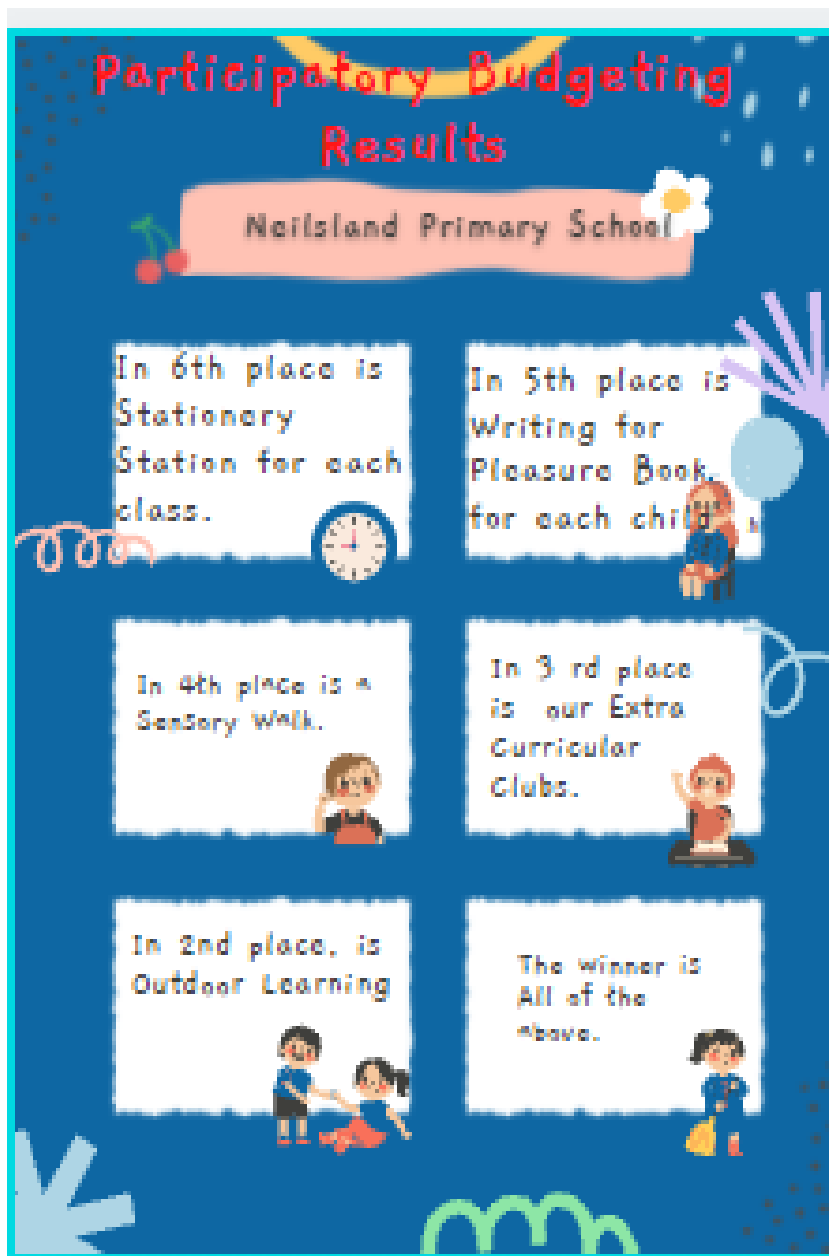
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Pupil Council

Hi it is Catherine and Aaron from the Pupil Council here! We would like to tell you a few things that we have been involved in so far. We have worked with classes to create a list of choices for the Participatory Budget, or PB for short. We sent out a google form to all pupils, parents/carers and staff and here is the results:



We are now working on creating a child friendly recovery plan. When we have finished the plan we will share it with you.

From Neilsland Primary's Pupil Council



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Reading Schools



We have begun our journey on becoming a Core Level Reading School and are all enjoying the adventure! Our Class Reading Champions have done a great job organising Reading Buddies for our P1's, P2/3's and P3/4's to read with in their **Book Buzz** class areas or **Book Nooks**. Thank you to everyone who kindly donated toy Buddies, the children love them!



Molly and Poppy, our P7 Reading Champs, have set up **Book Nooks** around the school for everyone to enjoy. These are comfy areas with cushions and blankets that pupils can go to with their books and get cozy and comfy to read.



We also have 2 **Book Barrows** that go out into the playground twice a week and the children can choose a book to read with a friend. This happens on Friendship Friday, when all children play together in the same playground, which offers a great opportunity for the older children to read with the younger ones, which they love doing.

DEAR Time (drop everything and read) takes place several times a week in each class and provides the opportunity, for adults too, to enjoy some regular reading for pleasure time.



Story Sacks for the infant classes will be sent home after October week starting in Primary 1. The sacks will contain themed books and props that parents/carers can read and enjoy with their child at home. We are hoping to roll this out in other classes soon.

We are working on developing and promoting reading for pleasure at school and at home. Please encourage your child to read a variety of books at home in their free time and remember to look at the **Book Buzz** area on Google Classroom for some reading challenges and activities set by class teachers.



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Challenge Poverty Week

This week is Challenge Poverty Week. All classes are engaging in activities which raise their awareness of finance in real life contexts and about ways to support families in the local community. They will share their learning during the weekly assembly on Friday.

Our 'rake and take' table and rail is outside the school on a weekly basis. Please help yourself to pre loved items of uniform and other clothing. We welcome all donations of uniform, clothes and jackets which are still in good condition. We know that children grow out of clothes so quickly and we are always able to find new homes for them.

As a school, we work hard to support the local Foodbank. This year, our school staff are making adult and child hampers to donate to Hamilton District Foodbank in time for Christmas.

If you, or a family you know, could use a food donation, please contact the school office. All contact will be dealt with confidentially.



Head Lice

Please be vigilant in checking your child's hair. The following link provides further information.

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/head-lice-and-nits/>

Class Hampers

As part of our Christmas activities, each class will be making a themed hamper. We will have a dress down day on Friday 26th November. Instead of making any monetary donation, children should bring in a small item for their class hamper. Items can be brought to school from Monday 22nd November. We will then hold a raffle with the FANTASTIC HAMPERS as prizes. We will reveal class themes soon.

We will sell raffle tickets for the class hampers in school until Thursday 16th December. We will have a live virtual draw for the hampers on Friday 17th December.



Christmas Shop

We are looking for donations for the 'Children's Christmas Shop' (new, unused items please – toiletries, gift sets etc). The Christmas shop will be open from Monday 6th December to Friday 10th December. The children will have the opportunity to visit the shop to see what is available to purchase on Friday 3rd December. All items range from 50p to £5. The pupils can buy small gifts for family and friends and have these gift wrapped and labelled as a surprise to take home. These gifts are excellent value for money. We keep prices as low as we can so that the children get good value for money. Donations can be sent into the office anytime.

We will also have a selection of children's gifts available this year. **Any donations of unwanted toys/books in good condition would be appreciated.**



General

Unfortunately, we are still unable to resume Credit Union collection within the school. We will let you know when the situation changes.

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 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. All queries regarding homework or children's learning should also be emailed to the office. We will then direct them to the correct member of 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.

Thank you for your continued support. Have a wonderful October week.

Take care and stay safe!

Mrs Kelly



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Diary Dates

Monday 4 th October	P1 and P4/5 Phone Consultations
Tuesday 5 th October	P3/4 and P6/7 Phone Consultations
Wednesday 6 th October	P2/3 and P4/5 Phone Consultations
Thursday 7 th October	P3/4 and P6/7 Phone Consultations
Friday 8 th October	Dress Down Day
Monday 11 th -Friday 15 th October	October week holiday
Monday 18 th October	P1 and P5/6 Phone Consultations
Tuesday 19 th October	P5/6 Phone Consultations
Wednesday 20 th October	P2/3 Phone Consultations
Thursday 21 st October	P5/6 and P6/7 Multisports Club
Monday 25 th October	P6/7 Cooking Club
Thursday 28 th October	P5/6 and P6/7 Multisports Club
Friday 29 th October	Halloween activities in class
Monday 1 st November	P6/7 Cooking Club
Monday 8 th November	P6/7 Cooking Club
Thursday 11 th November	P5/6 and P6/7 Multisports Club
Monday 15 th November	INSET day
Thursday 18 th November	P5/6 and P6/7 Multisports Club
Monday 22 nd November	P6/7 Cooking Club
Thursday 25 th November	P1/2 and P2/3 Multisports Club



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