



Neilsland Primary School Newsletter

January 2022



Dear Parents, Carers and Friends,

Happy New Year and welcome to the first newsletter of 2022. I hope that you all had a lovely time over the festive period in spite of the ongoing pandemic and restrictions. It was lovely to welcome the children back on Wednesday the 5th January. They were full of excitement and chatter about what they had been doing during the Christmas break!

COVID-19

Covid-19 Please remember that if your child has any of the coronavirus symptoms listed below, he/she, 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.

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.

In line with the new guidelines, children can return to school if someone in their household or one of their close contacts receives a positive PCR test. However, they should take daily lateral flow tests (LFTs) for a period of 7 days and must test negative every day. If a child has a positive LFT and develops symptoms, he/she should then arrange a PCR test. If a child tests positive on a LFT but has no symptoms, there is no longer a requirement to book a PCR test to confirm the LFT result, but your child should still self-isolate for a period of 10 days. You can, however, end the isolation before the end of the 10 days provided your child has returned 2 consecutive LFTs taken at least 24 hours apart, with the first test being completed no earlier than Day 6. Even if both these tests are negative, your child should still not return if he/she has a fever. For further guidance on self-isolation, please look at the NHS Inform website.

LFTs can be collected from a local pharmacy, local collection points, as well as from regional and local test sites. They can also be ordered online for home delivery.

Please keep us updated on a daily basis regarding any absence and the results of any tests as this affects the absence code that is recorded for your child.

Breakfast Club

Our breakfast club continues to run as normal. There is no need to register interest. Children can attend the breakfast club as and when suits.



- 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.

Staffing

We are delighted to welcome Mrs Lamont to our support staff team.



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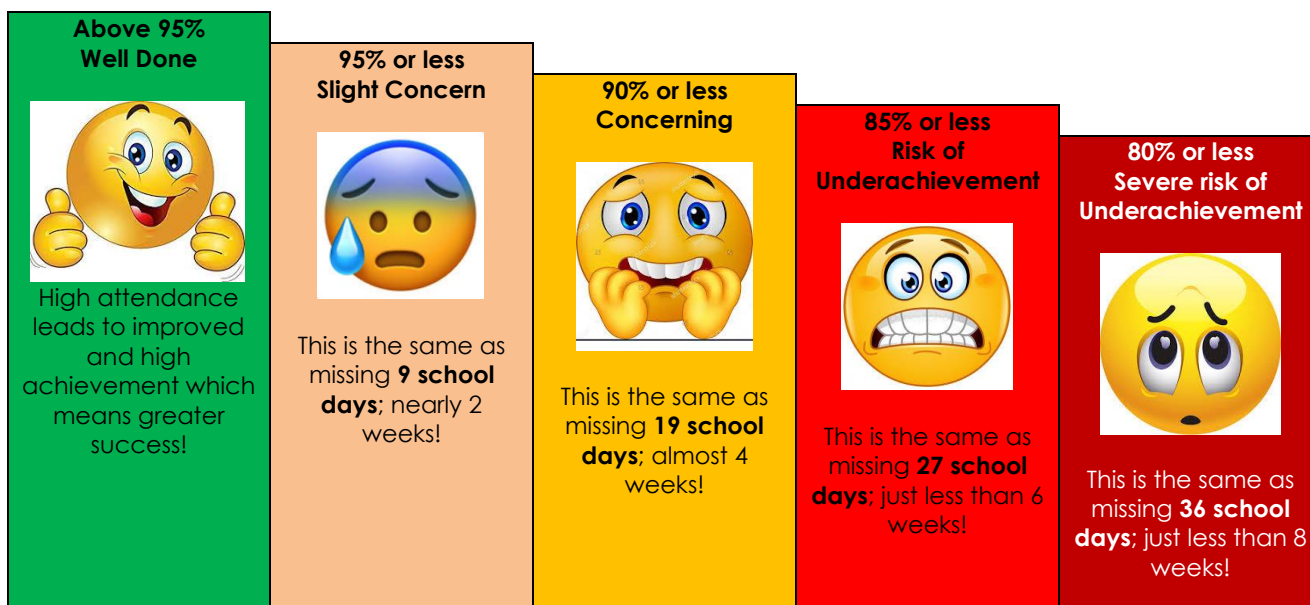
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Pupil Attendance

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.

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

We have now introduced a daily Chromebook 'borrow and bring back' service for children to complete their Google Classroom tasks. This service is currently being offered to P4/5, P5/6 and P6/7 and provides 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.

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



Baby News

Mrs Cullie welcomed a healthy baby boy, Peter Robert Cullie at the end of November. Both Mum and baby are doing well. Huge congratulations.



Virtual Classroom Visits

We are still unable to invite parents/carers into the school, however we will be inviting you once again to share in your child/ren's learning via our virtual classroom visits. More information will follow soon.



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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

The last 2 dress down days this session will be;

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.



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.

Uniform

We have noticed that a number of children are not wearing school uniform. 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.

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



Whilst mitigations remain in school, children should come dressed in appropriate clothing on their allocated P.E. 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.



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P1 Enrolment

P1 Enrolment Infant enrolment week for session 2022/2023 is from Monday 17 January 2022 to Friday 21 January 2022. Given the current restrictions that are in place, all P1 enrolments for children starting school in August 2022 should be done online via South Lanarkshire Council's website (www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk). This website will also let you know your child's catchment school if you type in your postcode. You will have to enrol your child at their catchment school. To complete this, you will need to scan in a copy of your child's full birth certificate, along with 2 proofs of residency (e.g. Council Tax letter, electricity bill, etc). Normally, children attend the school that serves the area where they live. However, there are times when parents want their children to go to another school. If your child is starting Primary 1 in August and you do not want them to attend their catchment school, you still need to register him/her at their catchment primary school, before also then completing a placing request form. This is available on SLC's website.

If you are unable to complete an online registration for due to technology issues, or if your property is not listed on SLC's mapping system, please contact your child's catchment school so that this can be completed over the phone. The parent must, however, still provide the full birth certificate and necessary proofs of residence by email, post or in person.

If your child has not had their 5th birthday before they are due to start primary school in August 2022, you may decide to make an application to defer your child's entry to primary school by a year. Your child will automatically get an extra year of early learning and childcare funding if their 4th birthday is in the period 1 January 2022 to the end of February 2022 (inclusive). You can also request an extra year of early learning and childcare funding if your child's 5th birthday is in the period 1 August to 31 December (inclusive). This will be decided as part of an admission scrutiny process involving staff based at SLC's HQ as an extra year of nursery funding will not automatically be provided for children in this category if it is felt that they are developmentally ready to come to school.

If you intend to defer the start of your child's primary education, you should still apply to register your child in the appropriate catchment primary school and indicate your intention to defer entry. You should discuss the deferred application with your child's current nursery establishment and they will provide and return the appropriate paperwork when completed to the Early Years Service for processing. If your child's deferred entry is approved, you will receive a letter and you should confirm that you are accepting the deferral. Once HQ have received your confirmation, your child's place will be removed from their catchment primary

Clubs

This term we are currently running P4/5 Rugby, P5/6 and P6/7 Rugby, P2/3, P1 and P3/4 Breakfast Book Club and P5 Torchlight Book Club. We will continue to organise more clubs as restrictions allow. Watch this space!



Burns Supper

All classes are currently learning about Scotland. As part of this, we will celebrate Burns Day on Tuesday 25th January by holding a Burns Supper. The children will have the opportunity to taste haggis, neeps, tatties and Irn Bru. We will take all dietary requirements into account. Please inform the office if you do not wish your child/ren to take part.



Fun Friday

Our house captains and vice captains are going to be running a 'Fun Friday' session for each class on **Friday 11th February**.

Free School Meals P5 Pupils

All P5 children are now entitled to a free school meal from January 2022. Please remember that although P1-5 children do not need to pay for a school lunch, they still need to pay 20p every day if they wish a carton of milk, unless they qualify for a free school meal.

Indoor Shoes

Can all pupils please bring a set of shoes for indoor use only eg. gym shoes, hard soled slippers. If you don't have a pair of shoes which could be provided for this purpose, please email me directly and I will be able to help - gw14neilslandht@glow.sch.uk.



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We continue on our **Reading Schools** journey at Neilsland. It is wonderful to see so many of our children reading for pleasure in the classrooms, outside and in our Reading Forests and Book Nooks. The Book Barrows are a great success and continue to go outside into the playground on Wednesdays and Fridays at playtime and lunchtime for everyone to enjoy.

Our Primary 7 Reading Champions, Molly and Poppy, have created a book display area in the school library, they will regularly change the theme to encourage all pupils to engage with a selection of fiction and non-fiction books. Their first theme is Animals and Molly and Poppy have created a wonderful area with a variety of books for everyone to look at and read. The Reading Champions are planning playtime drop-in library visits where children can read quietly themselves, with others or listen to a story being read to them.



Recently the children and teachers enjoyed a teacher class swap when a member of staff from another class visited to read them a story and talk about books. This was a great success with everyone and another session is planned soon.

'Ask me what I'm reading' lanyards have been a huge hit, the children wear them proudly and have enjoyed telling each other and adults all about the book they are reading in class or at home. It provides opportunities to develop the children's communication skills, develops their vocabulary knowledge and encourages others to pick up a book to enjoy. Our Reading Champions from each class will be getting together to think about and plan some exciting activities for World Book Day on March 3rd.

We are currently waiting on the delivery of some new furniture for the school library and Reading Forests and we will Tweet some pictures when everything is in place. Please encourage your child to check the Book Buzz area on their Google classroom where they will find book activities and challenges. We love to see what pupils are getting up to out of school so please post any book related pictures that we can share with the rest of the class, sharing these pictures very often inspires others to read.





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Participatory Budget Update

Our hardworking members of the Pupil Council have been very busy setting up the Stationery Stations ready for use in each class. Each class will have a box containing water bottles, snacks, pencils, sharpeners, rubbers and coloured pencils and this will further support all of our children as they learn in Neilsland Primary School. The Stationery Stations were one of the choices voted by members of our school community using money from the Participatory Budget.

Another choice voted for by our school community was the 'Writing for Pleasure' jotters. These have been introduced in all classes to give our children opportunities of writing freely during playtimes and playtimes. We look forward to sharing on Twitter and website photographs of the children enjoying writing. Look out J.K. Rowling, as we have lots of budding writers in Neilsland Primary School.

Lastly, we are setting up our own sensory room in Neilsland Primary school. The equipment has now been delivered to the school and we hope to have our sensory room up and running after the February holiday.

Peer Mediators

Some of our current Primary 6 children have taken on leadership roles as peer mediators. The children have participated in training and last week they present a whole school assembly on how peer mediation will work in Neilsland Primary School.



General

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.
Take care and stay safe!
Mrs Kelly



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Diary Dates

Monday 24 th January	P1 Eye Tests
Tuesday 25 th January	Burns Supper (Whole School), P4/5 Rugby, P5 Torchlight Book Club
Friday 28 th January	P2/3 Breakfast Book Club
Tuesday 1 st February	P4/5 Rugby, P5 Torchlight Bookclub
Friday 4 th February	P1 Breakfast Book Club
Tuesday 8 th February	P5/6 and P6/7 Rugby, P5 Torchlight Bookclub
Friday 11 th February	House Captains Whole School Fun Day, P1 Breakfast Book Club
Monday 14 th February	HOL
Tuesday 15 th February	HOL
Wednesday 15 th February	INSET Day
Friday 18 th February	P1 Breakfast Book Club
Tuesday 22 nd February	P5/6 and P6/7 Rugby
Tuesday 1 st March	P5/6 and P6/7 Rugby
Friday 4 th March	P3/4 Breakfast Book Club



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