



Neil Island Primary School Newsletter

March 2022



Dear Parents, Carers and Friends,

It has been lovely to welcome some brighter, sunnier weather over the past few weeks – a sure sign that Spring is on its way!

There has also been a very welcome easing of restrictions in school to allow mixing between class groupings. This has resulted in us being able to resume some activities such as mixed group after school clubs, paired reading and shared learning experiences.

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.

Eco

We are absolutely thrilled to announce that we have been awarded our **7th Green flag** for our ongoing commitment to Eco work. The Eco Committee is very successfully led by Mrs Gilroy and Miss Henry and is enthusiastically and regularly attended by a number of children from each class. The Eco Committee organise and lead a range of initiatives throughout the school. Their most recent venture has been to encourage the use of reusable water bottles instead of single use plastic water bottles. The Eco committee ran an enterprise initiative, selling personalised stainless steel water bottles. The response was overwhelming. Thank you so much for your ongoing support.

We have also been selected as one of four primary schools across South Lanarkshire to have an orchard planted. A selection of apple and plum trees were planted last week in our outdoor learning garden. We look forward to taking care of them and using the fruits in the future as part of our work on food and nutrition in school.





Neilsland Primary School Newsletter

March 2022



Parent/Carer Consultations

Our parent/carers consultations are scheduled to take place over the next few weeks. 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:

Monday 21st March	P5/6 and P6/7
Tuesday 22nd March	P5/6 and P6/7
Wednesday 23rd March	P2/3
Monday 28th March	P1 and P4/5
Tuesday 29th March	P3/4 and P4/5
Wednesday 30th March	P2/3 and P3/4
Thursday 31st March	P1



Your child/ren will come home with your allocated date and time this week. Please look out for this in your child's schoolbag.

Parent Council

Our Parent Council meetings are once again able to take place face to face. The next planned meeting is on **Monday 21st March at 1.30pm**. We 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.

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.

Eat Them to Defeat Them

The whole school is currently taking part in South Lanarkshire Council's 'Eat Them to Defeat Them', campaign, the purpose of which is to encourage children to eat more vegetables. The project runs for a period of 5 weeks, with a focus on a different vegetable each week (carrots, peppers, broccoli, tomatoes and peas). P3/4 are leading the project across the school. Each day, the children will be offered different recipes using one of the vegetables as the main ingredient. Children will then be encouraged to come and try some of them, if they wish. A pack explaining more about this campaign was sent home with every child, so please look this in your child's schoolbag.

Virtual Classroom Visits

We hope that you enjoyed the virtual class visits which were posted on Google Classroom last week. They will remain on the class stream and can viewed anytime.

Fun Friday

Our house captains and vice captains are going to be running a 'Fun Friday' session for each class on **1st April**. They are organising and running a series of activities over the course of the day for all classes. They are remaining tight lipped about their plans – but I'm pretty sure that they will include an Easter egg hunt!



Neilsland Primary School Newsletter

March 2022



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.



Swimming

Our P5 and P6 pupils have started their 12 week block of swimming lessons at Hamilton Water Palace. This is a fantastic opportunity for them to develop water confidence and an essential life skill.

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.

'Spring Clean'

It may seem a strange thing to be asking at this time of year, however, if you are planning a spring clean, we are always looking for donations of unwanted Christmas presents and items that we can use in the Christmas shop. These can be brought into school anytime and would be much appreciated.

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



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.

Donation

Last week we received a substantial donation of packets of felt tip pens from a member of our extended school community. There was enough for several packets per class. The children were absolutely delighted. We are very grateful. Thank you.





Neilsland Primary School Newsletter

March 2022



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.

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.

Transition

Our P7 pupils visited Calderside Academy last week. They worked with the Art and Technical departments. Despite some initial nerves, they had a fantastic time and cannot wait to return.

As we approach our summer term we know there will be lots of questions about our usual timeline of events. We have to be honest and say our plans for P1 induction, and P7 end of term assembly are dependent on Scottish Government and SLC guidelines. We will hopefully know more as we return after Easter and will update you all in our usual ways. We desperately want to run as close to normal as possible but will need to operate within Covid-19 parameters.

School Fund

Our school fund is used to purchase various resources and fund activities within the school. Recently we have purchased the online panto for all classes at Christmas time, Christmas gifts for P1-3 children, party treats and prizes for all classes, nativity costumes, gardening equipment and plants for all classes, books for new children coming in to P1, reading schools texts, Active Literacy boards for P1 pupils and we are currently planning to buy a shed to house our 'rake and take' rail and canopies for the infant playground.

General

We would advise all children coming to school on a bike or a scooter to wear a helmet.

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.

As we head into our Spring break, we hope for plenty of sunshine and opportunities to spend time outdoors. Please ensure that you keep following the guidelines and rules laid out by the Scottish Government. It continues to be challenging times for everyone, however, we could not be prouder of our school community.

Thank you for your continued support.
Take care and stay safe!
Mrs Kelly



Neil Island Primary School Newsletter

March 2022



Reading Schools Update

Our journey towards becoming a Reading School is continuing well. We all enjoyed a wonderful World Book Day last week. It was great to see the children excited, dressed up as book characters and sharing books they had brought in from home. Our Reading Champions took on the responsibility of planning fun activities for everyone. We had competitions, a whole school Reading River and we even wrote an exciting whole school story, written and illustrated exclusively by the children. Our next step is to publish and launch our story for everyone to enjoy, we will keep you posted on when this will happen. Each class shared some of the World Book Day reading activities they participated in at our assembly last week. We all enjoyed seeing how each class had spent their day.



Our Literacy Quality Lead Officer Anne Jessimer visited the school this week to discuss our Literacy curriculum. We shared our Reading School action plan and all the experiences we offer our children to encourage engagement with books and reading for pleasure. She enjoyed talking to pupils about their reading experiences and how we work as a school to promote reading. As always, the children were keen to share what they do! We were proud to show off our fabulous Reading Forests, Book Nooks and school library.

Our afterschool Torchlight Book Club continues to be a great success and pupils love reading at this cosy meeting time with friends. The Book Tasting Club is providing a great opportunity to introduce and encourage children to read books from a selection of genres that they might not usually choose from.

Pupils were very excited this week to receive a delivery of fiction and non-fiction books, many of which pupils had suggested. We are looking forward to sharing the books with all pupils and putting them in our reading areas for everyone to enjoy.

Staff and pupils are busy organising our school library to ensure all pupils have the opportunity to choose from a selection of fiction and non-fiction books to read for pleasure and to source information. We appreciate your continued support in helping us promote reading for pleasure in school and at home.





Neil Island Primary School Newsletter

March 2022



Equity Update

It has been a very busy term with lots of new developments being introduced. Last term we asked for your support in choosing the best ideas to spend our Participatory Budget. The votes were counted and the decision was made by our school community to spend the money on a range of initiatives and resources.

- ✓ Sensory Walks
- ✓ Stationery Stations for each class
- ✓ Writing for Pleasure jotters to write in at playtime and lunchtime
- ✓ Afterschool clubs
- ✓ Outdoor learning resources

Sensory Resources

The sensory room has been created and the room is timetabled for the children to use. It is a fantastic area for children to relax, chill and self-regulate. We are awaiting the artwork for our sensory walks. Sensory walks will be established throughout the school to provide the children with further resources to help them to self-regulate.



Stationery Station and Writing for Pleasure Jotters

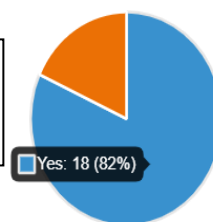
The Stationery Stations have been introduced in each class and they are proving to be a great success. The Pupil Council wanted to find out the impact of the stationery stations and the writing for pleasure jotters so they created a pupil survey. They surveyed a number of pupils from Primary 1 to Primary 7 and they collated the results and here are their findings.

They asked

Have you used the stationery station? 82% of the children surveyed are using the stationery stations and find them useful.
Do you find it useful?

The children's responses were:

82% of the children surveyed are using the stationery stations and find them useful.

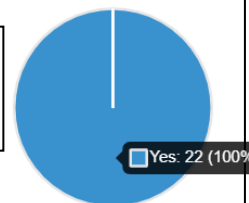


They asked

Would you like a Stationery Station in your class next year?

The children's responses were:

100% of children surveyed want a stationery station in their class next session.

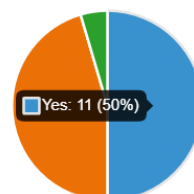


They asked

Have you used your writing for pleasure jotter?

The children's responses were:

Yes	11
No	10
Sometimes	1





Neil Island Primary School Newsletter

March 2022



Clubs

This term we have run various clubs such as P4-7 Rugby, P1-4 Breakfast Book Club, P3 and P5 Torchlight Book Club, P5-7 Literacy Club, P1-3 Dance Club, P4-5 Dance/Gymnastics Club, P5-6 Jigsaw Club and P6/7 Cooking Club.

All clubs are free of any charges. We are hoping to offer a guitar club to our Primary 6 pupils after the Easter holiday and we will use a portion of our Participatory Budget to fund this club. We are excited to get this club up and running and we will keep you updated. Watch this space!



Outdoor Learning and Resources

Mrs Marnie has successfully completed Fire and Tools Skill Training and will be working with small groups of children to develop their skills. We will be using some of our Participatory Budget to purchase resources to deliver this area of the curriculum.



Punctuality

South Lanarkshire Council monitor pupil punctuality and absences in all schools. At Neil Island, we track the punctuality of our children and Mrs Marnie reports on this on a monthly basis. In the month of January 4.7% of pupils were late for school. This reduced to 3% in the month February. We know that family circumstances change and if we can support you with these changes please do not hesitate in contacting the school.

ICT Lending Library/Supported Study

The classes in the upper school have been enjoying taking a Chromebook home to complete their homework via Google Classroom. Mrs Marnie has organised the use of iPads for the lower school classes to take home to complete their homework via Google Classroom. If you wish to use an iPad for homework, please contact Mrs Marnie.

South Lanarkshire Council has introduced Supported Study classes for P5-7 children via Google Classroom. Each week your child's teacher will post the classes on offer for the week with the Google Classroom codes. Some of our children have been enjoying learning Makaton, Spanish and Technology. Chromebooks and iPads are available for our children to use in order to access the classes.

South Lanarkshire Community Wellbeing Hotline

As household bills increase, we would bring to your attention the support that is offered by the Community Wellbeing Team. The team can provide support with wellbeing, benefits and money. You can contact the team direct on 0303 123 1009 or contact the school and we can complete a referral form on your behalf and send it to the team. All information is confidential and advice given is impartial.

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.





Neil Island Primary School Newsletter

March 2022



Preloved School Uniforms and 'Rake-n-Take'

We are an Eco School and our 'Rake-n-Take' rail is available daily at the front door. Preloved school uniforms are welcomed at all times and we would especially welcome boy's trousers aged 8 and upwards as we are running a low of these at the moment.

We have a selection of non-perishable food items and toiletries available from the front entrance each day. This is freely available to our families. We replenish the stock available regularly. If you are clearing out any cupboards, we are always happy to receive any donations.

Period Positive South Lanarkshire:

South Lanarkshire Council has been consulting young people on the use of free Period Products in schools. Sanitary Products Sanitary products are freely accessible to all who need them. Our older girls know where they can be accessed in the school without causing any unnecessary embarrassment. Out-with schools, residents of South Lanarkshire have been able to order Period Products online which are then delivered to their homes. Products are also available in various locations throughout South Lanarkshire.



Diary Dates

Monday 21 st March	P5/6 and P6/7 Parent/Carer calls Parent Council meeting 1.30pm
Tuesday 22 nd March	P5/6 and P6/7 Parent/Carer calls Dance teacher from Calderside working with P6/7 (3) P3 Torchlight book club
Wednesday 23 rd March	P2/3 Parent/Carer calls
Thursday 24 th March	Swimming P5 and P6 (3)
Monday 28 th March	P1 and P4/5 Parent/Carer calls
Tuesday 29 th March	P3/4 and P4/5 Parent/Carer calls Dance teacher from Calderside working with P6/7 (4)
Wednesday 30 th March	P2/3 and P3/4 Parent/Carer calls
Thursday 31 st March	P1 Parent/Carer calls Swimming P5 and P6 (4)
Friday 1 st April	House Captains Whole School Fun Day Dress Down Day School Closes 2.30pm
Tuesday 19 th April	School reopen 9.00am Lunchtime Gymnastics club P1-3 (1)
Thursday 21 st April	Swimming P5 and P6 (5)
Tuesday 26 th April	Lunchtime Gymnastics club P1-3 (2)
Thursday 28 st April	Swimming P5 and P6 (6)
Monday 2 nd May	HOL
Tuesday 3 rd May	Lunchtime Gymnastics club P1-3 (3)
Thursday 5 th May	INSET



Neilsland Primary School Newsletter
March 2022

