



Neilsland Primary School Newsletter

May 2022



Dear Parents, Carers and Friends,

It has been lovely to welcome more easing of restrictions in school. This has resulted in us being able to resume activities such as full school assemblies and to invite parents/carers back into school events. Life certainly is beginning to feel more normal.

Reports

Our reports for all pupils will be issued week beginning 23rd May 2022. 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 Wednesday 1st June 2022. Thank you.

Parent Council

Our Parent Council meetings are once again able to take place face to face. 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.

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.



School Improvement

May and June are always very busy months within the academic session. We reflect on our achievements and developments over the course of the session and make plans for the next academic session. Your feedback is very important to us. A survey was emailed to all parents/carers last week to gather your thoughts. We ask that as many families respond as possible. Here is the link to the survey.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfb-L9tuMW8NtfmXWLiBpfgaZMQx99bcOIGce7MN0M9v29V3A/viewform?usp=sf_link

Thank you to those who have filled in the survey already. We will also consult with the children, as well as staff at all levels, and use these results to inform our targets for 2022/2023. We will email the School Improvement Plan to all parents/carers and it will also be available on our school website.

School Fund

We have recently purchased a shed to house our 'rake and take' rail and food trolley and canopies to provide cover and shade in the infant playground. Our school fund will also be used to subsidise the transport cost for all trips taking place before the end of the session. This will help to ensure that costs to families are kept to a minimum.

P1 Calderglen Country Park (**Wednesday 15th June 2022**)
P2/3 and P3/4 Calderglen Country Park (**Wednesday 22nd June 2022**)
P4/5, P5/6 and P6 from P6/7 Glasgow Science Centre (**Wednesday 1st June 2022**)
P7 Sky Academy (**Wednesday 1st June 2022**)





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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.



Swimming

Our P5 and P6 pupils are more than half way through 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. The children are making great progress and are an absolute credit to the school.

Transitions

We are currently working in partnership with Calderside Academy and Hamilton Grammar to ensure the smooth transition of all of our P7 pupils. The P7 pupils who will attend Hamilton Grammar School attended a 2 day visit on Tuesday 17th May and Wednesday 18th May. They had a fantastic time and cannot wait to start in August. Calderside Academy has been in touch to organise a visit on **Wednesday 15th June 2022**. More information will follow soon.

We are delighted that our P7 end of term assembly will be able to go ahead as planned, with parents/carers allowed into the school to attend. The P7 pupils are already busy making plans. The assembly will take place on **Tuesday 21st June at 1.30pm**.

We have 2 induction dates organised for our pupils coming into P1. The visits will be on **Wednesday 25th May 1.30pm-2.30pm** and **Wednesday 1st June 11.00am-12.30pm**. Our new pupils will spend time in class with their teacher, Miss Cassidy, and will get to meet their P7 buddy. They will also stay for lunch on Wednesday 1st June.



'Spring/Summer 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 continue to notice 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.

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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Dress Down Day

The last dress down day this session will be;

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.



Punctuality

South Lanarkshire Council monitor pupil punctuality and absences in all schools. At Neilsland, 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, 2% in March and returned to 3% in April. We know that family circumstances change and if we can support you with these changes please do not hesitate in contacting the school.

P5 Games

Our P5 pupils will be attending P5 Hamilton Club SL Games at Jock Stein Leisure Centre on Wednesday 25th May. The event offers Primary 5 pupils from Hamilton, Blantyre, Larkhall & Uddingston the opportunity to experience and be inspired by the wide range of sports available within the South Lanarkshire area. They will experience judo, football, tennis and hockey and will rotate round the sports throughout the day.



Reading Schools

We are busy this term putting together all our exciting Reading Schools evidence for submission to The Scottish Book Trust team to get our accreditation so that Neilsland becomes a Silver Level Reading School. As we have been gathering evidence in the form of photographs, quotes and writing from our school community, we have realised that we now have enough evidence to become a Silver level Reading school, not Core Level as we had planned!

As the weather improves we hope to take our reading outdoors more often. Our new Listening Tree is in use and Mr Mark from AMW Conservation Company donated some fabulous wooden toadstools, which we can sit on underneath the tree and enjoy reading together. We all recently took part in 'Keep the Heid and Read', which encourages reading every day for at least 6 minutes to promote our Health and Wellbeing, we will continue to do this regularly as the children love the opportunity to read and relax! P4/5 had a great trip up to Fairhill Library recently where they met Kathleen, the new education link. We are looking forward to future library visits to give the pupils further access to fiction and non-fiction books that they will enjoy.



Clubs

This term we are running various clubs such as P4-7 Dance Club, P6/7 Torchlight Book Club, P3/4 Cheerleading Club, P3/4 Art and Mindfulness Club, P4/5 Art Club, P1-P3/4 Gymnastics Club and P4-7 Football Club.

All clubs are free of any charges. Many of the clubs are led by our pupils. We are very proud of the enthusiasm shown by our pupils in taking responsibility to develop their leadership skills.

All clubs within the school are well attended. To date, 76.2% of our pupils have attended at least one extra curricular club this session.

Mobile Phones

We strongly discourage children from bringing their mobile phones to school as we cannot be held responsible if they are damaged or stolen. If your child does bring his/her mobile phone to school, it must be switched off at all times whilst in the building and in the playground. Any messages that you need to get to your child during the school day should be delivered via the staff in our school office.



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Classes

At the moment, we are looking at staffing and planning for 7 straight classes next session. Class composition and staffing are both subject to change, however, it is our intention to tell the children which class they will be in next session before we break for the Summer holidays.

Eco

Our Eco Committee continue to be very actively involved in whole school initiatives. Currently they are targeting engine idling outside the school gates. They will be monitoring the situation on an ongoing basis. We ask that you support us in reducing the number of harmful gasses caused by exhaust fumes.



Fayre

Our P5/6 class are currently organising a Summer fayre. The fayre will take place over the course of the day on **Tuesday 31st May 2022**. There will be lots of fun, games and activities, as well as raffles, stalls, a café and much more. Parents/carers will be invited to attend. There will also be a special Jubilee Street Party themed lunch menu for pupils that day. More information will follow from P5/6 very soon! They would also any donations to our fayre which could be used as raffle prizes.

Forest Schools

We currently have two Primary 6 pupils taking part in the Forest Schools programme on a weekly basis alongside pupils from other South Lanarkshire primaries. They are involved in a range of activities such as building shelters, making tree swings, cutting and chopping wood, fire building and cooking on a fire. These hands-on learning experiences help to develop communication and practical skills, as well as a greater understanding of the environment.



Scottish Cycling 'Rock Up & Ride' Cycling Sessions

We are delighted to be involved in this pilot programme delivered by Scottish Cycling and funded by Transport Scotland, - aimed at providing an opportunity for coached cycling sessions from Clydesdale Colts cycling club coaches, at Chatelherault Country Park. The sessions consist of fun and progressive cycling activities in a safe, off-road environment, to help each rider to become more confident in riding a bike and to develop a love of cycling. Each rider is also shown how to carry out safety checks of their bikes and helmets and how to carry out simple bike repairs.



Sports Day

We will be having a whole school Sports Day on Monday 20th June at 1.30pm (weather permitting). More information will follow. Parents/carers are welcome to attend.



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.

False Nails

Some of our children are coming to school with false nail extensions. Please note that we do not encourage this in school as they restrict the things that the child can do in class and they could cause injury to either the child or someone else if they inadvertently bump into them.



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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.

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.



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.

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 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.



General

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

We will continue to post updates and information regularly on Twitter [@neilslandps](#) and the school website www.neilsland-pri.s-lanark.sch.uk.

Thank you for your continued support.

Mrs Kelly



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Diary Dates

Thursday 19 th May	Swimming P5 and P6 (9) P4-7 Dance Club Lockerbie Manor Meeting 3.00pm Rock Up and Ride P5 and P6
Friday 20 th May	Lunchtime Cheerleading Club P3/4
Monday 23 rd May	Lunchtime Gymnastics club P2/3
Tuesday 24 th May	P5 Games (All day)
Wednesday 25 th May	Lunchtime Football P4-7 P1 Induction 1.30pm
Thursday 26 th May	Swimming P5 and P6 (10) Lunchtime Dance Club P4-7 Reports to parents/carers
Friday 27th May	HOL
Tuesday 31 st May	Summer Fayre with Jubilee lunch - adults invited from 1pm
Wednesday 1 st June	P7 trip to Sky Academy P4/5, P5/6 and P6 from P6/7 trip to Glasgow Science Centre P1 Induction 11.00am
Thursday 2nd June	HOL
Friday 3rd June	HOL
Tuesday 7 th June	Lunchtime Gymnastics club P3/4 Calderside Academy School of Rock P7
Wednesday 8 th June	Lunchtime Football P4-7
Thursday 9 th June	Swimming P5 and P6 (11) Lunchtime Dance Club P4-7
Friday 10 th June	Rock Up and Ride P5 and P6
Monday 13 th June	P7 Parents Information Evening Calderside Academy
Tuesday 14 th June	Lunchtime Gymnastics club P3/4
Wednesday 15 th June	P7 pupils transition visit to Calderside Academy P1 trip to Calderglen Country Park Lunchtime Football P4-7
Thursday 16 th June	Swimming P5 and P6 (12) Lunchtime Dance Club P4-7
Friday 17 th June	Rock Up and Ride P5 and P6
Monday 20 th June	Sports Day 1.30pm – parents/carers invited
Tuesday 21 st June	P7 Assembly 1.30pm – P7 parents/carers invited
Wednesday 22 nd June	P2/3 and P3/4 trip to Calderglen Country Park Lunchtime Football P4-7
Thursday 23 rd June	Shorts and Shades Party for winning house (1.30pm) Lunchtime Dance P4-7
Friday 24 th June	Dress Down Day School Closes 1.00pm



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