



# Neilsland Primary School Newsletter

## September 2022



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** 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-P7** come into the playground as normal in the morning. 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.

### Uniform

It has been a pleasure to see all children in school uniform since the start of term. 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.

**Please label all children's clothing clearly.**



### Breakfast Club

- 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.

### House Captains

Our P7 House Captains and Vice Captains have now been elected. They are as follows:-

**Red House – Jayden Courtney (C), Kacie Davidson (VC)**

**Blue House – Aiden Walsh (C), Callum Kemp (VC) Olivia Law (VC)**

**Yellow House – Kay Dickinson (C) , Kayci Lynn (C), Collette Morgan (VC)**

**Green House – Sophie McPhee (C), Tiaa Millar (VC)**

Primary 1 pupils have now all been allocated their house too. Children are rewarded for good behaviour, for displaying the school values and for helping round the school. Our captaincy team are in the process of organising a whole school fun day on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> September. Children should wear their P.E. kit to school.



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### **Weekly Assemblies**

Our weekly whole school assemblies take place on a Friday. Each assembly is themed eg Reading Schools, Children's Rights, Action Poverty. We present to children from each class awards based on our school values, we celebrate birthdays and someone is presented with a Golden Positivity Balloon.

Over the course of the session each class will also showcase their learning during a Friday assembly. Parents/carers are welcome the class assemblies. They take place at 1.15 on the following dates;

14.10.22	Primary 5
4.11.22	Primary 2
11.11.22	Primary 7
10.2.23	Primary 4
24.3.23	Primary 6
12.5.23	Primary 3
19.5.23	Primary 1

### **Open Session**

We are delighted to be able to welcome our parents/carers to an open session in the school on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> October at 9.15am. You will get the chance to visit your child/ren's class and join them in their class based activities. Our pupils love the opportunity to share their learning experiences. We look forward to seeing as many people as possible.

### **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 Improvement Plan 2022-2023**

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 – To raise attainment in Literacy
- \* Improvement Priority 2 – To raise attainment in Numeracy
- \* Improvement Priority 3 – To raise attainment in Literacy and Numeracy through play based learning
- \* Improvement Priority 4 - To promote the positive health and wellbeing of children, parents, carers and staff

The full plan will be available on the school website. A summary of the plan is included with this newsletter.

A copy of our Standards and Quality report for session 2021-2022 will also be available on the school website.

### **School Admin**

Could I please 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.

Please remember to return the forms issued in the brown envelopes at the start of term ASAP. This will allow us to update our records.

### **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. If absence falls **below 95%**, attendance procedures will be followed in line with SLC policy and guidelines. 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.



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### **Parent Council**

It was incredible to see so many new parents coming along to our first Parent Council meeting of the year. Thank you so much for giving up your time to come along and support the work of our school. The next meeting will take place on Monday 10th October at 1.30pm in the school. Everyone is welcome. 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 [neilslandparentcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:neilslandparentcouncil@gmail.com)

The Parent Council are organising a Film Club for P1-P7 for the next 3 Wednesdays. All children are welcome. The cost is £1.50 per session (3.00pm-4.45pm). The children will be provided with a soft drink and a snack.

Each class will take responsibility for a garden area within the school grounds over the course of the session. They have already been weeding and preparing their areas. Our Parent Council are also working with pupil representatives from each class to develop the school grounds. 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.

Our Parent Council will be running Halloween discos for all pupils on Monday 31<sup>st</sup> October. The P1-P3 disco will take place from 1.15pm-2.30pm and the P4-P7 disco from 2.45pm-4.00pm.

### **P5 FUNDamentals of Music**

Our P5 pupils are enjoying a block of music lessons delivered by a specialist music teacher. These lessons will take place weekly for 20 weeks.



### **Clubs**

We are currently running an after school art club for P1-3 children. This club has proved to be very popular and will run in 2 groups. All children have been allocated a place. Group 2 dates start on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> November.

P4-7 are enjoying an after school dance club on a Friday. This will also be offered to our younger pupils from November.

P6 and P7 torchlight book club begins on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> September.

Our pupils will also run a series of clubs over the course of the session. More information will follow soon.

### **Yoga Tasters**

We have organised for a yoga teacher to come into school and do taster sessions on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> September. All classes will have the opportunity to take part.



### **Youth, Family and Community Learning**

We are delighted to welcome Youth, Family and Community Learning Officer Caroline Stewart to Neilsland Primary School. She will work with the staff team and support parents/carers and families in a range of ways. This could include: phone calls, informal drop-in sessions, workshops, building confidence/positive relationships with children and practical tips on helping our children succeed. All sessions will be relaxed, provide suggestions on given topics and will give parents/carers time to meet others, share experiences and ideas. Caroline has already worked with some of our P1-3 families and is looking forward to getting to know our whole school community and working together to ensure our children are happy, confident and achieving.

Caroline is running a series of Parent Wellbeing sessions starting on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> October. The sessions will be led by Caroline Swinburne who was a member of our teaching staff at Neilsland for over 20 years. A flier is attached with more information and details about how to sign up.



# Neil Island Primary School Newsletter

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### Forest Schools

We currently have four 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.

### 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.**

**We have David Harkness from Money Matters joining us in school for an information session on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> October at 9.15am. All parents/carers are welcome.**



### Punctuality

We continue to have a number of children arriving to school late and coming in via the main entrance. 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.

### Dress Down Days

The dress down days this session will be;

Friday 14<sup>th</sup> October  
Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> December  
Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March  
Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> June



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.

### 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 staff in our school office.





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### **Parent/Carer Consultations**

Our parent/carers consultations are scheduled to take place over the next few weeks. We are delighted to invite parents/carers into school for 'in-person' appointments. These meetings will take place on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> October.

Your child/ren will come home with available timeslots over the next couple of weeks. Please look out for this in your child's schoolbag.

### **Rookie Rockstars**

Rookie Rockstars will be coming in to work with all classes from 8<sup>th</sup> November – 10<sup>th</sup> November. The Rookie Rockstars Primary Schools Programme is an initiative that was created to give children the opportunity to work with professional musicians and singers to learn original songs, record a CD and perform in a concert. The concert will take place on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> November at 6.30pm. More details will follow soon.

### **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 bottles can be refilled over the course of the day if required.



### **Reading Schools**

We achieved our Silver Reading Schools award in June and are now working towards our Gold award. We have lots of exciting activities planned this session. Each class now has 3 Reading Champions who will help plan activities, share information and be reading role models for the rest of the children in their class. We had a lovely afternoon with residents from Lornebank Care Centre when they came to Read and Relax with us on Monday afternoon - we hope to continue meeting for a read and a chat! On Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> September at 1.15-2.45pm you are invited to join us for our Silver Reading School celebration. Pupils can dress up as a favourite book character, bring in an object relating to a book or dress down and bring a cushion to make themselves comfy! Hope to see you all then.

## **Equity Newsletter**

### **September 2022**

### **Chromebook and Ipad 'Borrow and Bring Back' Service - ICT Lending Library**

Once again this session, we are offering the using of Chromebooks and iPads for the children to complete homework tasks. Each class will have a night that they can borrow a Chromebook or iPad to complete homework tasks and activities. P4 to P7 will have use of Chromebooks and P1-3 can borrow an iPad.

The 'Borrow and Bring Back' service is there for everyone to use at any time. We would kindly ask that if your child is borrowing a Chromebook or iPad 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](mailto:office@neilsland-pri.s-lanark.sch.uk)

### **Rake and Take Rail**

Our 'Rake and Take' rails are continuing to work well for our school community. I know Halloween and Christmas is a little time away, but it is never too early to prepare. If you have preloved Halloween costumes or Christmas clothes, we will welcome and reuse on our 'Rake and Take' rail. Thank you in advance.



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### **Participatory Budget**

Last year, your help in deciding how our Participatory Budget was spent resulted in the provision of valuable resources i.e. sensory walks around the school, a sensory room, stationery stations within each class, outdoor learning resources and writing for pleasure jotters for play times and lunch times.

This session we are looking for your input again as to how our Participatory Budget should be spent. We have a total of £3,430 to spend on initiatives that benefit both families and the children.

We would like to create a Participatory Budgeting group consisting of parents/carers and pupils who will meet to decide on 3-5 suggestions about how this money should be spent. The group of parents/carers and pupil members would meet during the school day. The date for the meeting is Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> September at 10 am. If you can come to the meeting, please can you email the office at [office@neilsland-pri.s-lanark.sch.uk](mailto:office@neilsland-pri.s-lanark.sch.uk)

### **Foodbank**

We replenish the school's mini foodbank on a weekly basis, and it is there to support our school community. We are all aware of the continuing impact of the 'Cost of Living' crisis on family budgets and if you need support with food, please contact Mrs Marnie.

### **'Autumn Clean'**

If you are planning an Autumn 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.

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](http://www.neilsland-pri.s-lanark.sch.uk).

Thank you for your continued support.

Take care and stay safe!

Mrs Kelly

### **Diary Dates**

#### **Monday 19<sup>th</sup> September**

HOLIDAY

#### **Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> September and Monday 26<sup>th</sup> September**

HOLIDAYS

#### **Monday 17<sup>th</sup> October-Friday 21<sup>st</sup> October**

HOLIDAYS

#### **Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> September**

Reading Schools Silver Level Celebration

Film Club (1)

#### **Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> September**

House Captain led fun day

#### **Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> September**

Yoga Taster sessions P1-7

Film Club (2)



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### **Friday 30<sup>th</sup> September**

P4-P7 Dance Club (3)

### **Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> October**

P1-P3 Art Club (2)

### **Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> October**

Open Session (Literacy)

### **Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> October**

Film Club (3)

### **Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> October**

P6 & P7 Torchlight Book Club (2)

### **Friday 7<sup>th</sup> October**

P4-P7 Dance Club (4)

### **Monday 10<sup>th</sup> October**

Parent Council Meeting 1.30pm

P1-P3 Art Club (3)

### **Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> October**

Money Matters session 9.15am

Parent Consultations 3.15pm-8.15pm

### **Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> October**

P6 & P7 Torchlight Book Club (3)

### **Friday 14<sup>th</sup> October**

P5 Assembly 1.15pm

P4-P7 Dance Club (5)

### **Monday 24<sup>th</sup> October**

P1-P3 Art Club (4)

Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> October

P6 & P7 Torchlight Book Club (4)

### **Friday 28<sup>th</sup> October**

P4-P7 Dance Club (6)

### **Monday 31<sup>st</sup> October**

Flu Immunisation

Halloween Disco P1-P3 pupils 1.15pm-2.30pm

Halloween Disco P4-P4 pupils 2.45pm-4.00pm

### **Friday 4<sup>th</sup> November**

P2 Assembly 1.15pm