



# Neilsland Primary School Newsletter

## November 2022



Dear Parents, Carers and Friends,

I cannot believe that we are fast approaching Christmas! The weeks have gone past so quickly. All of our classes are practising hard for our Nativity and Christmas Concert and preparations are well underway for the Christmas Fayre.

### **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**

We welcome Mrs Hare to our staff on a temporary basis to fill in for Mrs Sommerville. Mrs Cullie will also return from her maternity leave soon. We look forward to welcoming her back.

### **Parent Council**

Our Parent Council meetings continue to take place termly 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](mailto:neilsland.ps.pc@gmail.com).

Our Parent Council ran very successful Halloween parties this year in school. The children had a wonderful time.

### **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 25<sup>th</sup> 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 21<sup>st</sup> November. We will then hold a raffle with the FANTASTIC HAMPERS as prizes.

We will sell raffle tickets for the class hampers in school until Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> December. We will draw the hampers on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> December and will do a live virtual feed. We hope you will help us in our fundraising efforts and thank you for your support.



### **Hamper Themes**

- P1 Santa's Arts and Crafts
- P2 White Christmas
- P3 A Cosy Christmas
- P4 Movie Night
- P5 Pamper Hamper
- P6 Red Christmas
- P7 Sweet Christmas



### **Gifts**

As we approach Christmas 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 in to 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 also the fact that family budgets are tight at this time of year, 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.



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### Christmas Cards

Thank you to everyone who ordered a pack of their child's individualised Christmas cards. All money raised through this initiative will be used to fund many fun activities and resources for the children in the school.



### Fun Day

We are going to have a Christmas 'fun' day for all classes on **Wednesday 7th December**. The children will take part in a range of Christmas themed activities such as a Christmas movie, Christmas crafts, and games. We have also booked Gary Dunn, a children's entertainer to come to the school in the morning. He will deliver an interactive magic show to the infant children and then to the senior pupils. The children can wear casual clothes to school. There will be no cost for the children.

### Christmas Lunch

Our Christmas lunch will take place on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December. Christmas lunch menus and order forms have already been sent out.



### 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 5<sup>th</sup> December to Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December. All items range from 50p to £5. The pupils can buy small gifts for family, friends and pets 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.**



### Christmas Fayre

Our Christmas Fayre this year will take place on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> December. P6 are organising the fayre and all parents, carers, family and friends are welcome to attend from 2pm – 4pm. Each class will make something that can be sold at the Christmas Fayre. All items made to sell will all be priced at 50p. We have decided not to 'personalise' the items and try to make them all look the same. This will hopefully give them a better chance of selling everything.

There will be a 'child friendly' tombola stall at the fayre. **P6 are looking for any donations of 'child friendly' bottles to make up the stall** - eg. juice, shower gel, bubble bath etc. We will also have a preloved books and toys stall so if you are clearing out in time for Christmas, **we would be very grateful for donations of books and toys in good condition.**

Each class is making a Neil Island Poetry Book that can be printed and sold at the fayre. The books will be sold round the classes too.

They are also approaching local businesses to donate raffle prizes.

As well as the above, children will be able to buy personalised baubles, get glitter tattoos, have their face painted and purchase a selection of food and drinks.

We are mindful that this is a very busy and expensive time of the year so have organised a range of **free** activities, games and crafts as part of the day.

We cannot thank you enough for your ongoing support. **All funds raised from the fayre and the shop are spent on the children** eg. games/resources for the classroom, outdoor learning equipment, play equipment for P1, part payment for P6/7 residential, treats for parties, gifts for P1-3 children, gardening equipment, funding extra-curricular clubs, Active Literacy magnetic boards and letters for home for all P1 pupils, Rookie Rockstars, Gary Dunn.



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### **Equity Update**

#### **Punctuality**

Punctuality is monitored every month in Neilsland Primary School and during the month of September there was an increased number of children being late for school. Being on time for school is important to your child's learning. Being 10 minutes late daily means your child is losing 50 minutes of learning each week and over four weeks this amounts to 3 hours 20 minutes. This is almost a whole day of learning lost each month. The school offers a breakfast club from 8.25 am every day and this allows the children to have a chat with their friends and to have their breakfast.

#### **Period Products**

A gentle reminder that we offer free period products to those pupils requiring them. The products can be accessed from the toilets within the school. If extra products are required during school holidays, please contact the school office.

#### **Rookie Rockstars**

We were delighted to welcome Rookie Rockstars into the school to work with the children on themes of self-esteem and anti-bullying. The children learned songs during class time and on the 15<sup>th</sup> November held their Rookie Rockstar concert in front of parents/carers. The Rookie Rockstar experience provided a real-life context for our children to develop skills in performing and becoming confident individuals. Rookie Rockstars come into school free of charge and use the ticket money sales from the concerts to fund their service. We as a school wanted to provide this opportunity to our pupils and subsidised each ticket sale by £2.50 of the £5 ticket cost.

#### **Foodbank and Family Wellbeing Assistant**

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. If you need support with food, please contact Mrs Marnie.

Gemma McGregor, Family Wellbeing Assistant, is based at Calderside Academy. Gemma comes with experience of working at South Lanarkshire Council's Q&A department and she is now working within our Learning Community to support families who may need financial support or advice. Gemma's email address is [gemma.mcgregor@southlanarkshire.gov.uk](mailto:gemma.mcgregor@southlanarkshire.gov.uk) or if you prefer to speak to Mrs Marnie, please contact her at Neilsland Primary School and she will complete a referral form on your behalf.

#### **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.**

#### **Challenge Poverty Week**

All classes took part in Challenge Poverty Week, engaging in activities to raise their awareness of finance in real life contexts and about ways to support families in the local community. They shared their learning during the weekly Friday assembly.

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.



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### Neilsland Primary **Reading Schools**

We enjoyed a visit to Lornebank Care Centre in Hamilton this week. Some of our Reading Champions went along to read their favourite books with the residents. It was lovely afternoon and everyone enjoyed meeting and chatting to one another. We are looking forward to visiting again soon and singing some Christmas songs together.

We recently celebrated Scottish Book Week in school from 14th -18th November. The Reading Champions set some fun reading challenges for each class and pupils all enjoyed competing to see who could complete the most - check out some of the challenges on Twitter! We will let everyone know which class wins the treat for completing most challenges!

Mrs Kennedy and some of our P5, 6 and 7's have started up a lunchtime club called the Reading Owls. They are organising our school library ready for everyone to use to enjoy some of the new books we have recently bought.

Please remember to encourage your child to take part in our November Reading Challenge by reading for at least 6 minutes every day, recording it on their 'Keep the Heid and Read' bookmark and recording as many animal theme reading activities on their worksheet. Happy Reading!

### Diary Dates

Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> November	P7 Parents Evening Calderside Academy
Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> November	P1-P3 Dance Club Dress Down Day
Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> November	P1-P3 Art Club P4-P7 Football Club
Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> December	Christmas Fayre (2pm-4pm)
Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas shop opens P1-P3 Art Club P4-P7 Football Club
Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> December	P1 and P2 Childsmile
Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Fun Day
Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> December	P1-P3 Dance Club
Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> December	P4-P7 Football Club
Tuesday 13 <sup>th</sup> December	Nativity and P4-7 Christmas Concert 1.30pm P1 and P7 dental checks
Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Lunch
Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup> December	Nativity and P4-7 Christmas Concert 6.30pm
Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> December	P1-P3 Dance Club
Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> December	P4-P7 Football Club
Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup> December	P4-P7 Party 1.15pm
Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> December	P1-P3 Party 11.00am (Special Visitor 12.00pm – Parents/Carers welcome) School Closes 2.30pm





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