



Neilsland Primary School Newsletter

February 2023



Dear Parents, Carers and Friends,

We are all well settled into Term 3. Our pupils have been working hard and we have lots of new learning experiences planned. It's a very busy term! It is lovely to see a little sunshine and the flowers starting to grow, Spring is in the air! Please remember to check our twitter feed, school website and class blogs for lots of up to date information about school events and pupil's learning experiences at Neilsland.

Outdoor Clothing

As we move from the winter months into Spring, the weather remains cold and wet. 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 have welcomed Mrs Cullie back and Miss Stewart has been working with us in Primary 1.

Parent Council

Our Parent Council meetings continue to take place termly and we are always keen to welcome new members. The next meeting is on **Monday 27th of February at 9am**. 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**.



Attendance/Late Coming

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 give advance notice and collect their child from the school office.



We continue to have a number of children arriving to school late and coming in via the main entrance. Children are expected to enter the playground through the three available gates before 9.00am. 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.

Open Session

We will be holding an open session on **Monday 27th February**. You will be able to come along at 1.45 - 2.45pm to join in with your child/ren's numeracy activities. It is a great opportunity to work alongside our pupils and see the resources and teaching methods used in the classroom. Our pupils love the opportunity to share their learning experiences. We look forward to seeing as many people as possible.

Easter Fun Day

We are going to have an Easter fun day for all classes on **Friday 31st March**. This will be organised and run by our Primary 7 House Captains. There will be lots of fun activities planned and the children can wear casual clothes to school.

World Book Day Lunch

A World Book Day Themed lunch will take place on **Thursday 2nd March**. Menus have already

been emailed. Cheese and tuna sandwiches will also be available.

The Clydesdale Colts

Our Active Schools coordinator, Lesley Scanlan, has arranged for two members of the Clydesdale Colts Cycling Club to come into school to work with some of our children and staff for four weeks on bike skills and safety. A member of staff will then continue with follow up sessions to provide pupils with opportunities to use their bike skills safely. The sessions will begin after the Easter break. More details will follow.



Bounce Back

Support workers from the Bouncing Back Programme (Action for Children) came into school to work with P4 and P5 pupils to deliver two sessions on equipping young people with the skills and tools they need to manage their emotional wellbeing and build resilience.

P4 and P5 Swimming

Swimming starts for our P4 and P5 pupils on **Tuesday 14th March** at the Hamilton Water Palace. Pupils should bring a towel, swimming trunks/costume and £1 (returnable) coin for a locker. The school has a supply of towels and swimwear for use if required. There is no cost to the pupils.



Talent Show

'Neilsland's Got Talent' will take place on **Friday 3rd March**. The Primary 7 class have organised and will present the show. Pupils have been working hard on their performances and we are looking forward to showcasing all their talent!



Extra Curricular Clubs

- Mrs Hare has started a football club for P5-7's on Tuesdays after school. Some children recently took part in a Football Festival at the Jock Stein Centre where they had a great time playing with other school teams in the local area. There will be future festivals to attend.
- The Reading Owls lunchtime club is run on Mondays by some of our P5, 6 and 7's with Mrs. Kennedy and is going well. Each class is enjoying their drop-in sessions where they can enjoy our library books or take part in a book related activity. Isabella ran a fantastic book quiz accompanied by a brilliant PowerPoint presentation she had created herself; it was great fun!
- Our pupils love to plan and lead clubs and are currently running a games club at lunchtimes for P1 pupils.
- Get your dancing shoes on and come along to our parent/carer/child dance club on a Friday with Caitlin, it's great fun and is open to all pupils and their parents/carers!
- A fun fitness club will start for P1-3 pupils on **Friday 3rd March** at 8.25am in the gym hall, please have indoor shoes.
- P3 pupils are enjoying their torchlight bookclub and getting cozy with a good book and a biscuit!

Primary 7 Pioneer Award

Hazel Kelly, a Youth Family and Community Learning worker has been delivering the 'Pioneer Award' programme to our P7's and will continue to do so until June. The sessions focus on discussions and activities based on different themes like teamwork and friendship to support transition to high school.

EOLAS-Outdoor Learning

Mrs Marnie and Mrs Gilroy have taken part in EOLAS Outdoor Learning training recently in the local area and are looking forward to sharing their expertise with staff and pupils to promote outdoor education. EOLAS trainers came into school recently to work with the P4's and Mrs Gilroy up in the Nature Trail. We are lucky to have such a fabulous resource right next to the school to promote outdoor learning.



Family Cooking with YCFL

Caroline Stewart organised family cooking sessions where parents/carers came along to cook with their child/ren, working together to make nutritious, tasty food. The smell of pancakes and fajitas cooking was lovely and everyone enjoyed making cheesecake together. Parents/Carers enjoyed getting the opportunity to meet and chat with one another and the children looked forward to their grown ups coming into school to cook with them. These sessions were very popular and plans are already in place to run them again in the summer term.



OPO-Operation Play Outdoors

OPO visited Neilsland to work with pupils on outdoor STEM activities during the last week of January. All pupils had the opportunity to be creative and build outdoors using large loose parts.



Lockerbie Manor/Neilsland Activity Week

The Primary 6 and 7 pupils who went to Lockerbie Manor in January had a fantastic time. They were excited to be staying in the pod village and enjoyed lots of challenging, team building, muddy activities! As usual, they were a credit to Neilsland, being brave, mannerly, enthusiastic and kind. They all arrived home happy but exhausted, staff included!

The pupils who stayed at home also enjoyed an activity week here at Neilsland. Operation Play Outdoors delivered daily outdoor STEM sessions which were fun, challenging and involved lots of new learning experiences. Our pupils also made raspberry ruffles (delicious!), had an art and craft session, a movie afternoon and a takeaway lunch order. Daily karaoke performances were also great fun!

Burns Supper

We enjoyed haggis, neeps and tatties washed down with the one of Scotland's favourite drinks, Irn Bru, at our Burns Supper on the 25th January!

Equity Update

Participatory Budgeting Update

The Pupil Council group has been working very hard this term. They have ordered and distributed new colouring pens for each class for art activities. This was one of the participatory budgeting options voted for by pupils, parents and staff. Another participatory option that was successfully voted for was outdoor learning resources. The Pupil Council group has ordered outdoor learning equipment from Operation Play Outdoors. Each class will use the equipment at lunchtime to develop problem-solving and teamwork skills. We are looking forward to our delivery.



Primary 6 and 7 pupils had a fantastic time at Lockerbie Manor earlier in the term. To help reduce the cost of the trip, £1,000 of the Participatory Budget was used towards the travel costs.

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. They are also available from our 'Rake and Take' shed. If extra products are required during school holidays, please contact the school office.

Foodbank and Family Wellbeing Assistant

We are aware that family budgets are tight at the moment. To support our community, we receive a fortnightly delivery from the Foodbank. The school is delighted to be able to offer this support and if you wish further help and information about using this support, please

contact Mrs Marnie or Mrs Kelly. All information is treated confidentially.

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 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.

EBSS Prepayment Vouchers

Just a gentle reminder to check.



Preloved Uniforms

We have a range of preloved uniforms casual clothes on our 'Rake and Take' rails. If you need anything, please help yourself.

Punctuality

The school tracks punctuality and if children are continually late, parents/cares are contacted and invited to a meeting. 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.

Rights Respecting School Award

Many of our assemblies focus on children's rights. Each month, Mrs Marnie discusses a right with our pupils. Here are some of rights the children have been learning about:

Article 4 (implementation of the Convention)

Governments must do all they can to make sure every child can enjoy their rights by creating systems and passing laws that promote and protect children's rights.

Article 29

Education must develop every child's personality, talents and abilities to the full. It must encourage the child's respect for human rights, as well as respect for their parents, their own and other cultures, and the environment.

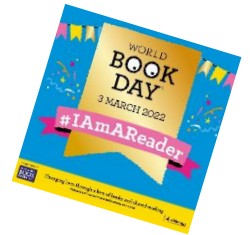
Article 18

Both parents share responsibility for bringing up their child and should always consider what is best for the child. Governments must support parents by creating support services for children and giving parents the help they need to raise their children.

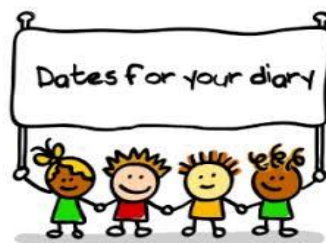


The new rights that the children will be learning about are articles 17 and 19.

There is an award that schools can apply for. The award is called the 'Rights Respecting Schools' award. We will be applying for this award and hopefully we will achieve bronze level. The Pupil Council will be working with the whole school community to achieve this.



We are all excited about **World Book Day on Thursday 2nd of March**. Pupils can come to school dressed as their favourite book character. They can bring in the book representing their character to share with classmates or bring in an item relating to a favourite book to show and tell. The Reading Champions have been busy planning activities to ensure that we all have a fun, action packed, happy reading day! Parents will be invited into school for a 'Read and Relax' session with their child/ren in the library, see dates below. We recently welcomed a delivery of many new books. We ordered a great selection of books for our pupils to enjoy, including graphic novels, wordless picture books for all ages where children can create their own stories with beautiful illustrations for inspiration, adventure stories where they choose their own destinies and lots of adventure stories they can learn from, relate to or escape into! We recently welcomed Chris Duke, the author of Lucy's Blue Day, into school to read to the children and talk with them about where he finds his inspiration for writing books. His story promotes the importance of health and wellbeing and about sharing feelings. The children had a great time and had many thoughtful questions for Chris. We purchased some copies of his book for class BookBuzz Areas and are looking forward to reading his new book when it is released. The children all had a comfy taster session in the hall with our new books before they were distributed to class Book Buzz Areas for all to enjoy. It was lovely to see our pupils so excited about the new books and chatting about them with their friends. We are continuing on our Gold Reading Schools journey and have plans for involving our school community in lots of exciting activities to promote reading for pleasure within the school and beyond. We will keep you posted on events, look out for invites!



Monday 27th February

Parent Council Meeting 9.00am
Open Session Numeracy 1.45pm
(All parents/carers welcome)
P3-5 Multisports Club

Tuesday 28th February

Potential Strike Day
P5-7 Football Club 3.00pm

Wednesday 1st March

Potential Strike Day

Thursday 2nd March

World Book Day

Friday 3rd March	World Book Day Themed Lunch P1-3 Fun Fitness 8.25am Talent Show
Monday 6th March	Adult/Child Dance Club 3.00pm Read and Relax – P1 1.30pm-2.10pm, P2 2.15pm-2.55pm (Parents/Carers welcome) P3-5 Multisports 3.00pm
Tuesday 7th March	P3 Torchlight Bookclub 3.00pm P5-7 Football Club 3.00pm
Wednesday 8th March	Read and Relax – P3 1.30pm-2.10pm, P4 2.15pm-2.55pm (Parents/Carers welcome)
Thursday 9th March	Read and Relax – P7 9.15am-10.00am, P5 1.30pm-2.10pm, P6 2.15pm-2.55pm (Parents/Carers welcome)
Friday 10th March	P1-3 Fun Fitness 8.25am Adult/Child Dance Club 3.00pm
Tuesday 14th March	P4 and P5 Swimming P5-7 Football Club 3.00pm
Friday 17th March	P1-3 Fun Fitness 8.25am Red Nose Day Danceathon – Wear Red (more info to follow) Adult/Child Dance Club 3.00pm
Tuesday 21st March	P4 and P5 Swimming P5-7 Football Club 3.00pm
Friday 24th March	P1-3 Fun Fitness 8.25am P6 Assembly (All parents/carers welcome) 1.15pm Adult/Child Dance Club 3.00pm
Tuesday 28th March	P4 and P5 Swimming P5-7 Football Festival P5-7 Football Club 3.00pm
Wednesday 29th March	P6 and P7 Football Tournament with St Peter's PS
Thursday 30th March	Parent Consultations 3.00pm – 8.00pm
Friday 31st March	Easter Fun Day organised by P7 School Closes 2.30pm
Monday 17th April	School Returns 9.00am
Tuesday 18th April	P4 and P5 Swimming