



Neilsland Primary School Newsletter

May 2023



Dear Parents, Carers and Friends,

I hope that you all had a lovely, relaxing time over the Spring break. We have made it to term 4. It has been a very busy year for us so far at Neilsland and we are looking forward to an action-packed Term 4! We have many events and activities planned and look forward to welcoming you over the course of the term. As always, I would like to thank all of our families for their continued support. In particular, I would like to remind families of the importance of children being in school on time each day. In the month of February 13% of pupils were late for school. This increased to 16% in the month of March. We know that family circumstances change and if we can support you with these changes, please do not hesitate in contacting the school.

Thank you.

Mrs Kelly

Reports

Our reports for all pupils will be issued week beginning 29th May. 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 7th June. Thank you.

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 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.

Currently, our overall attendance is 91%

Coronation Celebrations

Our P7 pupils have organised a whole school Coronation celebration on Friday 5th May. They have a variety of activities planned for all classes.



Parents Portal

Schools throughout the Hamilton area have recently launched a new online resource known as Parents Portal. This is a digital resource that is designed to help replace the need for us to send home paper copies of documents. Please make sure you go online and get your log in sorted. If you have any problems accessing this, please contact Mrs Fairfull in our school office and she will try her best to help. Feedback so far is very positive. Thank you.

Fayre

Our P5 class are currently organising a Summer fayre. The fayre will take place on **Friday 9th June from 1.30pm-4.00pm**. 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. More information will follow from P5 very soon! **They would also welcome any donations to our fayre which could be used as raffle prizes.**



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P5 Games

Our P5 pupils will be attending P5 Hamilton Club SL Games at Jock Stein Leisure Centre on Friday 2nd June. 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 cricket and will rotate round the sports throughout the day.

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 have a 2 day visit planned on **Tuesday 23rd May and Wednesday 24th May**. Calderside Academy has been in touch to organise a visit on **Wednesday 24th May 2023 and Thursday 25th May**. More information will follow soon.

The P7 pupils are busy making plans for their end of term assembly. The assembly will take place on **Thursday 22nd June at 1.30pm**.

We have 2 induction dates organised for our pupils coming into P1. The visits will be on **Wednesday 24th May 1.30pm-2.30pm** and **Wednesday 31st May June 11.00am-12.30pm**. Our new pupils will spend time in class with their teacher and will get to meet their P7 buddy. They will also stay for lunch on Wednesday 31st May.

Sports Day

We will be having a whole school Sports Day on **Wednesday 21st June at 1.30pm** (weather permitting). More information will follow. Parents/carers are welcome to attend.



Clubs

This term we are running various clubs such as P1-7 Dance Club, P4-7 Booktasting club, P2 Games Club, P3 Art Club, P6-7 Football Club, P1 Gymnastics club and P5-6 Podcasting 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, almost 80% of our pupils have attended at least one extra curricular club this session.

Classes

At the moment, we are looking at staffing and planning for 7 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.

Swimming

Our P4 and P5 pupils are almost halfway 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.

Scottish 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. The sessions consist of fun and progressive cycling activities in our school grounds, 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.

Parent Council

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**.



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Dress Down Days

The last dress down day this session will be;

Tuesday 27th 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.

Family Cooking with YCFL

Caroline Stewart has organised another course of family cooking sessions where parents/carers come along to cook with their child/ren, working together to make nutritious, tasty food. The smell of pizzas cooking last week was lovely. Parents/Carers are enjoying getting the opportunity to meet and chat with one another and the children look forward to their grown-ups coming into school to cook with them.



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. Thank you to those who completed the survey prior to the Easter break. We have consulted with the children, as well as staff at all levels, and will use these results to inform our targets for 2023/2024. We will email the School Improvement Plan to all parents/carers and it will also be available on our school website.

School Fund

We continually aim to reduce the cost of the school day for our pupils. We do not charge for extra curricular activities or discos and there is no cost for swimming. We have recently purchased outdoor equipment and have organised for Operation Outdoor Play to return to the school for a week in June to work with all classes. 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 TBC

P2 Amazonia **(Thursday 1st June 2023)**

P3 Kelvingrove **(Wednesday 14th June)**

P4 and P6 New Lanark **(Monday 5th June 2023)**

P5 Stirling Castle **(Thursday 20th April 2023)**

P7 Sky Academy **(Friday 28th April 2023)**

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 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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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.



Scottish Child Payment

Scottish Child Payment is a new benefit which started in February 2021. This payment is for families on certain benefits or tax credits. Eligible families will get £40 every 4 weeks for each child under the age of 6 years. To find out more about this payment and other benefits or grants to which you may be entitled, please access www.mygov.scot/benefits or call 0800 182 2222.

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 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.





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Reading Schools

We were busy enjoying lots of different reading activities last term. World Book Day in March was a great success, a big thank you to our Class Reading Champions for organising a fantastic book themed day! Primary 2 were the well-deserved winners of their 'Decorate A Door' competition, they created a fabulous 'Where the Wild Things are' themed door and were delighted to each be presented with a book to celebrate their win, well done!

As the weather improves, we are looking forward to spending more time outdoors under our listening tree to read together and having our book barrows out in the playground at playtimes and lunchtimes so we can read with our friends. Our Primary 6 pupils are looking forward to a visit from some of the nursery pupils from Woodlands to our library to read some stories together. The Primary 6's have chosen some books they think their visitors will enjoy and are practising using funny voices and actions to tell their stories!

Some of our P6 and 7 pupils are running the Reading Owls lunchtime club where classes can drop into the library to read and enjoy reading based activities they have planned.

Our Primary 5 pupils will soon have the opportunity to 'apply' for a librarian position in our Neilsland School Library. The successful candidates will visit Fairhill Library to find out how it is run and the skills they will need to run our school library and how they can encourage pupils to visit it. The Primary 3's and 6's have recently enjoyed visits to Fairhill Library. They were taught by Kathleen how to locate books in the library using the Subject Index and learned to tell the much-loved story 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt' by Michael Rosen using Makaton sign language. The P3 pupils presented Kathleen with a book containing some Read and Recommend posters that all pupils created in school. We hope that other children visiting the library will have a look and it will help them choose a book they would like to read too. Some of the posters will be displayed on the library walls, look out for them on your next Fairhill Library visit!



We will be submitting our Reading Schools evidence soon and are hoping Neilsland becomes a Gold Reading School by the end of the session. Our Gold Reading School Targets are displayed in our Reading Forests and have also been posted on Google Classroom in each classes Book Buzz Area for you to look at.

You may have noticed some writing on the pavements outside the school recently, Primary 3 and 7 wanted to share their love of reading with the local community and went outside to write some of their favourite quotes from books they have read on the pavement in chalk, they had great fun!

Please remember to have a look at our 'Borrow a Book' selection of fiction and non-fiction books for kids and grown-ups, you can find it in the bubble at the main entrance. Simply choose a book, sign it out, return it when you've read it and then choose another one! Thank you to all Parents/Carers who have managed to join us for reading sessions, we love having you in school to read with us and hope to have you in again soon to read outdoors in the fresh air.





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Diary Dates

Monday 8 th May	HOL
Tuesday 9 th May	Swimming P4 and P5 (6) P6 and P7 Football Club
Thursday 11 th May	P4-7 Booktasting Club (2) P5/P6 Podcast Club (2) Family Cooking (3)
Friday 12 th May	Scottish Cycling P4-6 (SELECTED CHILDREN ONLY) P3 Assembly
Tuesday 16 th May	Swimming P4 and P5 (7) P6 and P7 Football Club
Thursday 18 th May	P4-7 Booktasting Club (3) P5/P6 Podcast Club (3) Family Cooking (4)
Friday 19 th May	Scottish Cycling P4-6 (SELECTED CHILDREN ONLY) P1 Assembly
Monday 22 nd May	P1/P7 Dental Inspection
Tuesday 23 rd May	Swimming P4 and P5 (8) P6 and P7 Football Club P7 visit to Hamilton Grammar
Wednesday 24 th May	P7 visit to Hamilton Grammar Parent Info Evening – Hamilton Grammar P7 visit to Calderside Academy P1 Induction 1.30pm
Thursday 25 th May	P7 visit Calderside Academy P4-7 Booktasting Club (4) P5/P6 Podcast Club (4)
Friday 26th May	HOL
Monday 29th May	HOL
Tuesday 30 th May	Swimming P4 and P5 (9) P6 and P7 Football Club
Wednesday 31 st May	P1 Induction 11.00am
Thursday 1 st June	P2 Trip - Amazonia
Friday 2 nd June	P5 Games Reports to parents/carers
Monday 5 th June	P4/P6 Trip – New Lanark
Tuesday 6 th June	Swimming P4 and P5 (10) Parent Info Evening – Calderside Academy P6 and P7 Football Club
Friday 9 th June	Summer Fayre
Tuesday 13 th June	Swimming P4 and P5 (11) P6 and P7 Football Club
Wednesday 14 th June	P3 Trip - Kelvingrove
Tuesday 20 th June	Swimming P4 and P5 (12) Shorts and Shades Party for winning house (1.30pm) P6 and P7 Football Club
Wednesday 21 st June	Sports Day (1.30pm) - parents/carers invited
Thursday 22 nd June	P7 Assembly 1.30pm – P7 parents/carers invited
Friday 23 rd June	Outdoor Learning Day – all classes
Monday 26 th June	Nature trail challenges – all classes
Tuesday 27 th June	Dress Down Day School Closes 1.00pm



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