



# Neilsland Primary School Newsletter

## September 2023



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 8.55am.

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 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 and Mrs Nisbet 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 pupils have renamed our houses to align with our motto '**let's grow together**'. Our P7 House Captains (C) and Vice Captains (VC) have now been elected. They are as follows:-

Rowan House – **Chloe Martin (C)** and **Chad McInnes (VC)**  
Silver Birch House – **Scott Dougal (C)** and **Macy Morrison (VC)**  
Willow House – **Isabella Shaw (C)** and **Abeera Saroor (VC)**  
Pine House – **Connor Backer (C)** and **Lola Young (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 21st September. Children should wear their P.E. kit to school.



# Neilsland Primary School Newsletter

## September 2023



### **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 to the class assemblies. They take place at 1.15 on the following dates;

3.11.23	Primary 6/7
23.11.23	Primary 4/5
9.2.24	Primary 5/6
23.2.24	Primary 2/3
26.4.24	Primary 3/4
10.5.24	Primary 1
31.5.24	Primary 1/2

### **Open Session**

We are delighted to be able to welcome our parents/carers to an open session in the school on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> October at 9.30am. 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.

### **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 provide a rich and stimulating curriculum that helps raise standards in literacy and numeracy by developing a new curriculum rationale and map which will be relevant, coherent and progressive, outlining the 6 entitlements and focussing on positive experiences for all learners.

#### **\* Improvement Priority 2**

- To support children and young people to develop their skills for learning, life and work through the introduction of skills-based learning across all stages.

#### **\* Improvement Priority 3**

- To raise attainment in literacy and numeracy and support children and young people to develop their skills for learning life and work by further developing the use of outdoor learning across the school in order to positively impact on the wellbeing of all, children's engagement and enthusiasm for learning across the curriculum.

The plan is available on the school website.

A copy of our Standards and Quality report for session 2022-2023 is also 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.

### **Homework Survey**

We are in the process of reviewing our current homework provision and would welcome your views. Here is a link to the survey that we sent out earlier in the week. Thank you to those who have already completed it. The survey is open until Friday 15<sup>th</sup> September.

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeW7eEPweyF8WelcDwNt31aL25I6lzVmz\\_pN1xkp1AoGU2V0g/viewform?usp=sf\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeW7eEPweyF8WelcDwNt31aL25I6lzVmz_pN1xkp1AoGU2V0g/viewform?usp=sf_link)



# Neilsland Primary School Newsletter

## September 2023



### **Parent Council**

Our Parent Council organised a fantastic Family Fun Night on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> August. It was lovely to see so many of our friends and families attend. We welcomed almost 300 people into the event. The feedback on the night was extremely positive. Our Parent Council are very keen to hear your views about the night to help them in their planning of future events.

Here is the link to a very short feedback form.

<https://forms.gle/GNLfm2PrGqrVnmuE9>

Everyone is welcome to attend Parent Council meetings. 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)

Members of the Parent Council and some parent helpers have been doing work in our extensive garden area. This is an ongoing project. If you can help in any way, please contact Lindsay Backer at [neilslandparentcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:neilslandparentcouncil@gmail.com)

Our Parent Council will be organising Halloween events for all pupils on Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> October and discos for all pupils on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> November. More information will follow.

The next 'Brew and Blether' session will take place on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> November at 9.00am. All parents/carers welcome.

### **P5 FUNdamentals of Music**

Our P4/5 pupils are enjoying a block of music lessons delivered by a specialist music teacher. These lessons will take place weekly for 20 weeks.



### **Clubs**

Our Parent Council are currently running an after school youth club for our P6 and P7 pupils. P1 and P2 pupils will be able to enjoy an after school dance club on a Friday, starting 15<sup>th</sup> September. This will also be offered to P3-4 pupils from October.

Our Reading Owls lunchtime club runs on a Monday and is offered to all classes on a rotational basis over the course of the session. This is run by our P6/7 Reading Champions.

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

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

We are delighted to welcome Youth, Family and Community Learning Officer Caroline Stewart back to Neilsland Primary School this session. She will continue to 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 is currently running Family Fun sessions on a Wednesday afternoon and has a Read and Relax programme starting on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> September for 4 weeks, from 3pm-4pm. There are still spaces available. If you would like to sign up, please contact the school office.





# Neilsland Primary School Newsletter September 2023



## **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.**



## **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.

## **Dogs at School Gates**

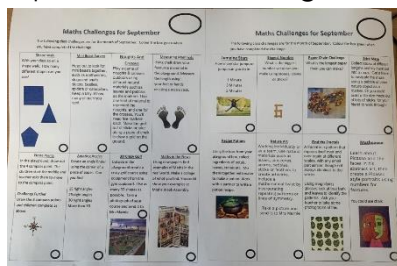
We are delighted that many of our children walk to school and are accompanied by their dog. Can we please ask that dogs are kept a safe distance away from school gates to ensure that all children can access gates freely without coming into contact with any dogs. We have a number of children with allergies and some who are scared of dogs. Thank you for your support.

## **Disabled Parking**

We have had a number of complaints about our disabled parking bays being used by non-blue badge holders. This has resulted in people who are genuinely entitled to use the disabled spaces being unable to do so. Our Junior Road Safety officers will be monitoring the situation and will be doing regular spot checks.

## **Scottish Maths Week**

Maths Week Scotland 2023 promotes maths for children and families throughout Scotland. This year Maths Week Scotland is happening from 25<sup>th</sup> September to 1<sup>st</sup> October. In school the children will be engaged in a range of challenges with the winning class receiving a special reward week beginning 2<sup>nd</sup> October. Here is a peek of the challenges the children will be involved in:



Throughout Scotland there are a range of free in person and online events organised to make maths fun for families. Please click on the link below to view when and where these events are taking place in Scotland.

<https://www.mathsweek.scot/news/math-week-scotland-2023-whats-on-for-families>



# Neilsland Primary School Newsletter

## September 2023



### **Parent/Carer Consultations**

Our parent/carer consultations are scheduled to take place over the next few weeks. These meetings will take place on Thursday 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.

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



### **Safety Awareness Online**

It has come to our attention that a number of our pupils are watching You Tube shorts. We want to draw your attention to the fact that there can be very inappropriate content within the short clips.



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### **Reading Schools**

We were delighted to receive our Gold Reading Schools award at the end of June. Many pupils completed application forms to become their class Reading Champions for this session. It was a very difficult decision as so many of our pupils love reading and would be fantastic reading role models for our school. Congratulations to our new class Reading Champions for this session! We are looking forward to sharing ideas and planning lots of fun reading activities and events that we can all enjoy together, families and friends included! We celebrated our Gold Reading Schools award up under our Listening Tree recently. The sun was shining, the Listening Tree and dens provided shade where we all enjoyed lots of reading and book chat with friends and family. Thank you to all who managed to join us in our celebration, we are so proud to be GOLD!

## **Equity Newsletter**

### **September 2023**

### **Attendance and Punctuality**

Last session the school participated in a pilot project to improve attendance across the local authority, and we will continue to be involved in this initiative again this year. The project identified different strategies and resources to support families with improving their children's school attendance. In Neilsland, our attendance overall percentage improved and this year we are aiming for 95% total attendance, and we continue to ask for your support to achieve this. If you would like any support or further information about the project, please contact Mrs Marnie.

Punctuality continues to be monitored on a daily basis in school. Being late 10 minutes per day is 50 minutes of lost learning time and over four weeks this equates to 3 hours and 20 minutes of lost learning. We understand that sometimes children can find the transition from home to school difficult and we ask that families contact the school so that we can put supports in place.



# Neilsland Primary School Newsletter

## September 2023



### **Participatory Budget**

We will be looking for your support again this year with participatory budgeting. Participatory budgeting is when the whole school community makes decisions about how to spend money to help and support children and families in our school community. The spending should help to reduce the poverty related attainment gap. 5% of our Pupil Equity fund (£3,430) has been allocated to participatory budgeting. We have started the process of asking pupils, staff and families for ideas on how they think this money should be spent. The Pupil Council is helping to organise this and in the next week or so, they will be send out a Google Form for you to vote for your preferred choice of how this money could be spent.



### **Foodbank**

We continue to receive donations from the Foodbank on a fortnightly basis. We understand that family circumstances can change suddenly and if the school can support you with this, please do not hesitate to contact us for help and support. Alternatively, we replenish the food stock outside in our equity shed daily and this is open to both families and community to use during school hours.

### **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)

### **'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.

### **Uniforms and Halloween Outfits**

We have a range of free uniforms on our 'Rake and Take' rail and we ask parents/carers to please help themselves to anything their children may need. Halloween is fast approaching, and we have also put out a range of Halloween outfits on our rails. We are an Eco school, and if you have any Halloween outfits that could be reused, please hand in at the office and we will add them to our 'Rake and Take' rails.

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.

Mrs Kelly



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