



# Neil Island Primary School Newsletter

## January 2024

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! Our classes have all updated their blogs. Please remember to check them, our feed on X and the school website for lots of up to date information about school events and pupil's learning experiences at Neil Island.

### 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.

### 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 5th 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](mailto:neilsland.ps.pc@gmail.com).



Our Parent Council contribute enthusiastically to many aspects of school life. They supported our very successful Christmas Fayre before the break and also ran a well-attended film club. They have Valentine's discos organised on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> February. P1-3 disco will take place from 1.30pm-3.00pm and P4-7 disco from 6.00pm-7.30pm. There is no cost to attend.

### Punctuality and Attendance

Scottish Government and South Lanarkshire Council monitor school attendance and punctuality closely. At Neil Island we monitor attendance and punctuality on a daily, weekly and monthly basis. The following table shows the number of children who have been late for school on a monthly basis this session.

No of children late August	0
No of children late September	19
No of children late October	10
No of children late November	24
No of children late December	24



We also count the number of times each child is late within a month and we keep a running total of this. From August 23 to December 23 the school recorded **269 lates**. This information is passed onto South Lanarkshire Council.

Attendance is a key focus for us as a school and the school analyses this robustly. In the month of December there was a sharp decrease in attendance. Our current attendance as a school is: 93.5% If a child's attendance falls under 90%, letters will be sent home and follow-up phone calls will be made. Over the next month, the school will be looking again at sending further letters home if your

child's attendance has fallen below 90% or if there has been limited improvement in attendance. If there has not been an improvement in a child's attendance the school will implement the next stage of South Lanarkshire Council's attendance procedures.

### Open Session

We will be holding an open session on **Tuesday 27th February**. You will be able to come along at 1.45 - 2.45pm to join in with your child/ren's class based 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 **Thursday 28th 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.

### P4 and P5 Swimming

Swimming starts for our P4 pupils on **Thursday 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.

### Confident Individuals – Self-Evaluation for School Improvement

Ariana Hardman (P5), Kali Davidson (P6), Isabella Shaw (P7) and Chad McInnes (P7) represented the school last week at a conference for all primary head teachers in South Lanarkshire at the Banqueting Hall. They delivered a 15 minute presentation along with Mrs Marnie about the role of pupils in self-evaluation for school improvement. They talked about the different leadership responsibilities that they have within the school and about the ways in which their views are taken forward. They received outstanding feedback and were such a credit to both their parents/carers and the school. Everyone was so impressed!

### Talent Show/Danceathon

'Neilsland's Got Talent' will take place on **Friday 9th February**. The Primary 6/7 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!



P6/7 are also organising a Danceathon to tie in with Comic Relief on **Friday 15th March**.

### Parking

Thank you to everyone for working with us to try and improve the congestion issues at the end of the school day and for helping to ensure the safety of our young people. Traffic has been flowing more freely since the nursery staff started using the school parking area. This has allowed more spaces for collection at the end of the day which has in turn almost stopped the double parking. We recognise that there are still some issues out on the street, with both sides of the pavement being used for parking. This has been taken forward with South Lanarkshire Council and discussions are ongoing with St Peter's Primary.

### Extra Curricular Clubs

- The Reading Owls lunchtime club is run on Mondays by some of our P6 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
- Our pupils are in the process of arranging some clubs this term. At the moment they are planning a lunchtime gymnastics club and dance club.
- Dance club is on a Friday with Caitlin, it's great fun and is currently open to P5-7 pupils.
- A dodgeball club will start for P5-7 pupils on **Friday 26th January** at 8.30am in the gym hall, please have indoor shoes.

### **Primary 7 Pioneer Award**

Hazel Kelly, a Youth Family and Community Learning worker is in 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.

### **YCFL - Family Cooking, Read and Relax and Family Fun with Maths**

Caroline Stewart will run Read and Relax sessions for children and adults to enjoy reading together after school on Wednesdays from **Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> January – Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> February**. She will then run family cooking sessions where parents/carers came along to cook with their child/ren, working together to make nutritious, tasty food.



These sessions will take place after school on Wednesdays from **Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> February - Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> March**. Read and Relax and family cooking sessions are open to all pupils and places will be balloted.

P1 parents are invited into a 6-week Family Fun with Maths programme. Parents/carers will explore maths with their child in a fun, interactive way and will have the opportunity to take a maths bag home each week to enjoy the games and challenges and then return it the following week. The programme will take place on the following dates and times.

**Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> January 1.45-2.45 pm**  
**Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> February 1.45-2.45 pm**  
**Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> February 1.45-2.45 pm**  
**Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> February 1.45-2.45 pm**  
**Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March 1.45-2.45pm**  
**Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March 1.45-2.45pm**

### **Burns Supper**

We will enjoy haggis, neeps and tatties washed down with one of Scotland's favourite drinks, Irn Bru, at our Burns Supper on the 26<sup>th</sup> January!

### **Young Leaders of Learning**

Four of our Primary 5 children will be taking part in training as part of the Young Leaders of Learning programme. The children will travel to South Lanarkshire Council Head Quarters on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2024 to take part in training with other schools in South Lanarkshire. Adam, Rhea, Noah and Bella are delighted to be part of this exciting programme.



After their training, the pupils will work with High Blantyre Primary School and Muiredge Primary School, by visiting the schools to look at learning from a child's point of view.

### **Online Safety**

An email was sent out to all parents/carers regarding last week online safety

*In the interest of pupil online safety, I would ask you to have an "MOT" of your young person's online presence, if they have one, as soon as you can possibly do so.(WhatsApp, Instagram, Snapchat, Tik Tok)*

*It has come to our attention that several of our pupils have been engaging in an inappropriate and offensive manner online.*

*At the same time I would also ask you to have a serious discussion with them about making sure any posts they make are both legally and morally responsible.*

**This continues to be an issue. I urge all parents/carers to check their child's phone/technology.**

### **Indoor Shoes**

Can all pupils please bring a set of shoes for indoor use only eg. gym shoes, hard soled slippers. If you don't have a pair of shoes which could be provided for this purpose, please email me directly and I will be able to help - [gw14neilslandht@glow.sch.uk](mailto:gw14neilslandht@glow.sch.uk). Whilst we recognise the comfort and ease that footwear like crocs can provide, we must stress that these shoes are not suitable for any form of PE either indoor or out. They have no grip for the varying surfaces we have PE on, and provide no foot/ankle support to the wearer.

## **Equity Update**

### **Foodbank**

We have fortnightly collections from the Foodbank. We house a range of food in the 'Shed' at the front of the school and the whole school community is welcome to use. As a school, we understand that budgets are tight and more so in the winter time with increased heating costs. We can make up individual food bags for families and if you need us to do this, please contact Mrs Kelly or Mrs Marnie. All phone calls are confidential.

### **ICT Lending Library**

We have a Chromebook lending library. If your child needs to borrow a Chromebook to support their learning, please contact the school.

### **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.**

### **Preloved Uniforms**

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

### **Christmas School Shop**

The children love visiting our Christmas Shop. We provide a range of gifts and gift wrap them for the children to give to their special people. We are always collecting items for the Christmas Shop and if you have any of the following, please can you hand in to the school office and we will keep for the Christmas Shop in December:

Books

Toys

Candles and scented items e.g. bath bombs

Scarves, gloves etc



We are all excited about **World Book Day on Thursday 7th of March**. Mrs Brock will be meeting with the Reading Champions soon to plan events. More information will follow.

