



# Neilsland Primary School Newsletter

## May 2024



Dear Parents, Carers and Friends,

We have made it to term 4. It has been a very busy year for us at Neilsland and so far, term 4 has been action-packed! We have many events and activities planned over the remaining few weeks and look forward to welcoming you over the last part of the term. As always, I would like to thank all of our families for their continued support.

Mrs Kelly

### **Reports**

Our reports for all pupils will be issued week beginning 3<sup>rd</sup> June. 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 Monday 10<sup>th</sup> 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. We continue to monitor both punctuality and attendance on a monthly basis. In the month of April the number of children being late for school increased by 0.5%. The two reasons for children not attending school are due to illness and holidays. Friday continues to be the most frequent day children are ill.

**Currently, our overall attendance is 92.94%**

### **Fayre**

Our P5/6 class are currently organising a Summer fayre. The fayre will take place on **Friday 7<sup>th</sup> June from 1.30pm-4.00pm**. There will be lots of fun, games and activities such as beat the goalie, soak the teacher, lucky pound, hook-a-duck, bottle stall and much more. Everyone is invited to attend. **They would also welcome any donations to our fayre which could be used as raffle prizes.** We look forward to seeing you there.

### **Lockerbie Manor**

We have booked a residential for our P6 and P7 pupils to Lockerbie Manor next session. The trip will take place at the end of January. We have managed to subsidise the cost of the trip substantially and are already looking forward to the exciting outdoor experiences and activities such as kayaking, abseiling and archery.

### **Calderside Music Tour**

On Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> May, we will welcome pupils from Calderside Academy music department to perform to the whole school as part of their music tour. Some familiar faces (previous pupils) will be performing and if last year's performance is anything to go by, we are going to be in for a real treat!

### **Dance Festival**

15 pupils from P4-6 took part in South Lanarkshire Councils dance festival on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> May in Hamilton Townhouse. They were coached by Caitlin Hutchison, our dance teacher who runs our dance clubs after school every Friday. She choreographed their routine. The troupe were absolutely outstanding, and we could not have been prouder of their performance.



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### **P5 Games**

Our P5 pupils will be attending P5 Hamilton Club SL Games at Jock Stein Leisure Centre on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> May. 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 basketball, Taekwondo, tennis and shinty and will rotate round the sports throughout the day.

### **Transitions**

Our P7 pupils have all enjoyed very successful 2 day visits to Calderside Academy and Hamilton Grammar School. They have been engaging in a wide variety of transition activities in school too involving visits from various departments from Calderside Academy and from the new headteacher, Mrs Julie Calder.

The P7 pupils are busy making plans for their end of term assembly. The assembly will take place on **Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> June at 1.30pm.**

We have already had one of our P1 induction visits on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> May. The next visit will take place on **Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> May 11.00am-12.30pm.** Our new pupils will stay for lunch on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> May.

### **Sports Day**

We will be having a whole school Sports Day on **Monday 17<sup>th</sup> 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 Dodgeball, Gymnastics, Reading Owls, Fun Fitness and Yoga.

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, over 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 pupils are almost finished 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 have been involved in a programme delivered by Scottish Cycling and funded by Transport Scotland, - providing coached cycling sessions from Clydesdale Colts cycling club coaches. The sessions consisted 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 was 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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## May 2024



### **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.



### **Family Fun With Maths**

Our P1 'Fun with Maths' programme has continued this term with families getting the chance to explore different maths concepts in a fun, interactive way using maths sacks. Each maths sack contains a different variety of activities, games and resources. Maths sacks are taken home to use over the week and then swapped over at the next session. Feedback is very positive with pupils and their families enjoying learning together.

### **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. Please find a link to a short survey where you will have the opportunity to contribute to our School Improvement Plan for 2024/25.

<https://forms.gle/vSix89u4z8MBNkRV8>

We have consulted with the children, as well as staff at all levels, and will use these results to inform our targets for 2024/2025. 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. The next discos will take place on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> June at 3,00pm for P1-3 children and 6.00pm for P4-7 children.

We have recently purchased gardening resources and will welcome 'Gies a Break' back to the school with their production of Wizard of Oz on the morning of Friday 14<sup>th</sup> June.

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 Museum of Country Life (**Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> June 2024**)

P1/2 Riverside Museum (**Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> June 2024**)

P2/3 Kelvingrove (**Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> June 2024**)

P3/4 David Livingstone Centre (**Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> March**)

P4/5 Kelvingrove (**Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> June 2024**)

P5/6 and P6 from P6/7 Riverside Museum (**Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> June 2024**)

P7 Sky Academy (**Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2024**)



### **Young Leaders of Learning**

A group of our Primary 5 pupils have started their visits to other schools as part of the Young Leaders of Learning Programme. They visited Muiredge Primary School on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> of May and will visit High Blantyre Primary on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> June. The focus of the visits is to look at the relationship between pupils and adults. Our Primary 5 pupils were thrilled with the Trim Trail and sandpit they saw at Muiredge and they were delighted with how friendly everyone was on the visit.



# Neil Island Primary School Newsletter

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### PB Area Committee

Mrs Marnie recently presented to South Lanarkshire Council's Area Committee in recognition of the school's good practice in participatory budgeting.

### Reading Schools



Three of our Reading Champions have come up with some great ideas for Summer Reading Challenges in June. We held a Reading Champion meeting for them to share their ideas and the RC's then all worked together to create a list of fun indoor and outdoor activities the whole school can enjoy! We are keeping our fingers crossed for some good weather so we can read and relax outdoors! Thank you to all the Reading Champions this session for your enthusiasm, hard work and commitment to encouraging reading for pleasure at Neil Island, you have been a great team!



### 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](http://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:

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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### **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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